

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
Commissioner's Conference Room  
and  
Teams Platform  
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics ("Board") met in person and virtually to conduct an Open Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Open Meetings Act, § 3-305(b)(13).

Chair Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. with the following members present:

George Pruden II, Chair  
Steven Hausman, Member  
Michael Kraft, Member  
Chandria Slaughter, Alternate Member (virtual).

Also present:

Angelique Dorsey White, Ethics Officer  
Lisa Arnquist, Legal Counsel to the Board (virtual)  
Denesha James, Associate General Counsel for Ethics  
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant  
Tamika Taylor, Office of Inspector General Associate General Counsel (virtual).

**Open Session**

**Approval of Open Session Minutes – March 11, 2026**

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the March 11, 2026, meeting.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Kraft, three members of the Board (Hausman, Kraft, and Pruden) voted to approve the March 11, 2026, Open Session Minutes as amended.

**Matters of Discussion**

**Ethics Program Monthly Report**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on Ethics Office activities for March 2026. She reported that ethics training was provided to 11 employees as part of new employee orientation.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 16 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was Soliciting or Acceptance of Gifts. She explained that the increase in this category was due to employees attending conferences with vendors hosting social activities for clients

**Draft CY 2025 Ethics Program Annual Report**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the annual report. She referred to the draft and stated that the final report will be available for the Board at the May meeting. She asked the Board to review the draft and provide edits by April 9, 2026. She also shared the presentation that she and Chair Pruden will give at the April 15, 2026, Commission meeting.

Mr. Kraft recommended inclusion of the following in next year's annual report: 1) tracking data that shows the average cycle time for resolving a complaint or request from filing date to closure; and 2) capturing additional office activity, such as those items received from the NAVEX Hotline. Ms. Dorsey White responded that cases have not been tracked because timelines vary depending on the investigator. She

added that responses to most informal guidance requests can be resolved in 10 - 20 minutes, making tracking difficult.

The Board asked about the gap in ethics training statistics from 2024 to 2025 and the consequences for non-compliance. Ms. Dorsey White explained that employees working in the community often have more difficulty completing training because they are not seated at workstations. Their managers must schedule time for them to take the training. She noted that the only consequence for non-compliance within the Board's purview would be to file a complaint. Because training is given within the Learning Management System, which is managed by Talent Development, she does not receive alerts about employees with overdue training. The Board encouraged Ms. Dorsey White to establish a method to communicate and implement consequences for training non-compliance and provide recommendations on how this can be tracked in the future.

#### **Annual Disclosure Project Update**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the annual disclosure project. As of April 7, 2026, approximately 1,000 employees had submitted their disclosure. She remarked on an interesting trend: because disclosure data did not carry over from the old system and the new system's layout is more visually straight-forward, employees have been reading the questions more carefully. This has led to an increase in inquiries from long-term employees regarding the novelty of certain questions (like reporting of stock ownership). She assured them that the questions request the same information as in previous years.

**Closed Session Approval**

Chair Pruden stated that he reviewed and approved the closing statement.

At 1:59 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Kraft, three members of the Board (Hausman, Kraft, and Pruden) voted to conduct a Closed Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Open Meetings Act, § 3-305(b)(13) to approve March 11, 2026, Closed Session Minutes; § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.65.030(b)(2) to address one Advisory Opinion request, one Waiver Request, confidential Preliminary Inquiries, and three Complaints; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1)(ii) to discuss a personnel matter for a specific individual over whom the Board of Ethics has jurisdiction; and § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding Advisory Opinion request, Waiver Request, confidential Preliminary Inquiries, and Complaints.

**Attendees:** Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman; Member Michael Kraft; and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter (virtual). Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; Legal Counsel to the Board Lisa Arnquist (virtual); Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; and Retained Legal Counsel to the Board Elissa Levan.

**Closed Session**

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes – March 11, 2026**

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the March 11, 2026, meeting.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Kraft, three members of the Board (Hausman, Kraft, and Pruden) voted to approve the March 11, 2026, Closed Session Minutes.

**Advisory Opinion A-26-01**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

**Preliminary Inquiry PI-2026-05**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

Ms. Arnquist left the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

**Preliminary Inquiry PI-2026-04**

Retained Legal Counsel to the Board Elissa Levan joined the meeting at 2:34 p.m

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

**Complaint C-26-01**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

**Complaint C-26-04**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Kraft, three members of the Board (Hausman, Kraft, and Pruden) voted to suspend further activity on this complaint pending further preliminary inquiry.

**Complaint C-26-02**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.


Ms. Levan left the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

**Personnel Matters**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Kraft, three members of the Board (Hausman, Kraft, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

  
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Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.  
Ethics Officer