Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Board of Ethics

Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 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 1:06 p.m. with the following members present:

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

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 – April 8, 2026

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the April 8, 2026 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Kraft and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Kraft, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the April 8, 2026 Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on Ethics Office activities for April 2026. She reported that ethics training was provided to 13 employees as part of new employee orientation.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 29 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was Disclosure Statements. She explained that the increase in this category is related to the rollout of the new financial disclosure application. She noted that due to the questions being more prominent in the new system, some employees expressed unease with information required to be reported.

CY 2025 Ethics Program Annual Report Update

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the annual report. She referred to the final report, transmittals to county leadership, and bi-county certification showing WSSC's compliance with state law requirements for conflicts of interest (COI), financial disclosures, and lobbyist registration. She added that the report was published on April 17, 2026.

Annual Disclosure Filings – Update

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the annual disclosures. Ms. Dorsey White stated that of the approximately 1,900 submissions, 54 percent reported no conflicts and 41.7 percent are awaiting her review. Lastly, she shared that 67 employees (3.4 percent) are delinquent in filing.

The Board inquired about outside employment patterns and the procedure for addressing non-compliance with filing requirements. Ms. Dorsey White stated that most secondary employment occurs in retail and real estate. To date, there have been no indications of conflicts with those jobs and WSSC work. She added that disclosures flagged with outside employment responses trigger the form to ask if the outside employment form has been submitted. Non-compliance with filing the additional form can lead to the Board filing a complaint.

Closed Session Approval

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

At 1:42 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 April 8, 2026, Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 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 two 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 General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding an Advisory Opinion request, an Waiver Request, confidential Preliminary Inquiries, and Complaints.

Attendees: Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman; Member Michael Kraft; and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter. Staff present: Ethics Officer

Angelique Dorsey White; Legal Counsel to the Board Lisa Arnquist (virtual); Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; Associate General Counsel for Ethics Denesha James; and Retained Legal Counsel to the Board Elissa Levan (virtual).

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – April 8, 2026

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the April 8, 2026 meeting. The Board noted one typographical error.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Kraft, three members of the Board (Hausman, Kraft, and Pruden) voted to approve the April 8, 2026 Closed Session Minutes as amended.

Advisory Opinion A-26-01

Staff provided an update on this matter.

Waiver Request W-26-01

Staff provided an update on this request.

Preliminary Inquiry PI-2026-03

Staff provided an update on this matter.

Ms. Arnquist left the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Preliminary Inquiry PI-2026-04

Retained Legal Counsel to the Board Elissa Levan joined the meeting virtually at 3:07 p.m.

Associate General Counsel for Ethics Denesha James joined the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Staff provided an update on this matter.

On motion of Mr. Kraft and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Kraft, Hausman, and Pruden) voted, for good cause shown, to vacate its decision to file a complaint related to this matter.

Complaint C-26-02

Staff provided an update on this case.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Kraft, three members of the Board (Hausman, Kraft, and Pruden) voted, for good cause shown, to extend the time for conducting the investigation and filing the preliminary report to August 5, 2026.

Complaint C-26-03

Staff provided an update on this case.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Kraft, three members of the Board (Hausman, Kraft, and Pruden) voted, for good cause shown, to extend the time for conducting the investigation and filing the preliminary report to August 5, 2026.

Ms. James left the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Personnel Matters

The Board reviewed the personnel matter.

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 4:51 p.m.

Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer