



State of Nevada  
**Board of Environmental Health Specialists**

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## MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

**January 18, 2024**

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Members Present: Brian Northam, Drew Skeen, James Barnes, Teresa Hayes, Amber English  
Members Absent: None  
Staff Present: Loretta Ponton, Executive Director  
Zi Zheng Deputy Attorney General  
Public Present: Giavonna Bethea; Betssy Torres; Kendra Lett

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Pursuant to the requirements of AB 219, Ms. Ponton stated the procedure for the public to make public comments by telephone or through remote access.

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Chair Northam called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A voice roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

**Public Comment:** There were no comments.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Chair Northam asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes.

Hearing no comments, Chair Northam called for a motion.

Jim Barnes made the motion to approve the minutes of October 29, 2023; Teresa Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Hearing – Application for Registration, Betssy Torres** – Chair Northam noted Ms. Torres was present for questions. Ms. Ponton summarized the circumstances requiring Board consideration of Ms. Torres' application. The applicant did not disclose prior criminal history from 2005 on the application and did not respond to requests from the Board for explanation. Ms. Ponton reported the legal action was not related to environmental health or the health and safety of the public.

Ms. Torres responded to questions from the members; the Board was in consensus that the circumstances of the violation were not of a nature to warrant denial of the application or conditions to be placed on the registration. Ms. Torres was reminded of the importance of responding to the Board when contacted and the responsibility to ensure the accuracy of documentation and information pertaining to the profession.

Chair Northam called for a motion. Teresa Hayes made the motion, seconded by Jim Barnes, to approve the application for provisional registration of Bettsy Torres. The motion passed.

**Public Workshop Proposed Regulation revisions** – Chair Northam directed Ms. Ponton to facilitate.

Ms. Ponton summarized the purpose of the workshop to solicit comments from interested persons on proposed regulations identified in Governor’s Executive Order EO 2023-003, to streamline, clarify, reduce or otherwise improve regulations for the general welfare of the State without unnecessarily inhibiting economic growth. The two sections proposed to be rescinded are NAC 625A.010: Board defined and NAC 625A.120 Witness Fees and Reimbursement.

The workshop was opened for public comments. There were no public comments. The workshop was closed.

**Consideration of Public Comments** – Chair Northam asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Ponton provided additional information on the impact of rescinding authority to pay witness fees and mileage reimbursements stating NRS 233B.121 requires a regulation to authorize these types of payments if the Board wished to pay witnesses. Ms. Ponton also informed the Board that the Legislative Counsel Bureau charges fees for drafting regulations which would have a fiscal impact on the Board.

After discussion, the Board was in consensus that the proposed regulation revisions would not benefit the practitioners or streamline, clarify, reduce or improve the Board regulations.

Chair Northam called for a motion. Teresa Hayes made the motion, seconded by Jim Barnes, to take no further action on the proposed regulation. The motion passed unanimously.

**Request for Approval of Prior Work Experience** – Chair Northam asked if Alyssa Hall was present to answer questions. Ms. Hall was not present.

Chair Northam asked if there were any questions on the request from Alyssa Hall for 13 months credit for prior work experience with the University of Nevada Las Vegas, School of Public Health. Members discussed the applicability of the work to general overall environmental health functions with consensus that the work was limited in scope.

Chair Northam called for a motion.

Teresa Hayes made the motion, seconded by Amber English to approve six (6) months for credit toward the 2-year training requirement. The motion passed.

**Ratification of Registrations Issued by Staff** – Chair Northam called for a motion.

Brian Northam made the motion, seconded by Jim Barnes, to approve the registrations as listed. The motion passed.

**Executive Director’s Report** – Chair Northam called upon Ms. Ponton.

Loretta Ponton directed the members to the written report.

Registration Statistics - Ms. Ponton reported on registration statistics as of December 31, 2023, noting an increase from the prior year; renewals total 147 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. There were four new applications pending and thirteen (13) pending applications for REHS status authorized to take the REHS examination.

FY 2024 Financial Reports - Ms. Ponton summarized the 2nd Quarter FY 2024 financial statements reporting net income of \$12,342.79. Revenue was 79.58% of the budget due to the increase in renewal fees in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. New applications and conversion to REHS are over budget and continue to increase. Expenses were on budget at 49.09%. Cash assets totaled \$65,146.11.

Office Activities - Ms. Ponton reported on the status of the B & I Office of Boards, Commissions and Councils oversight transition including hiring of a new Director and recruitment for the Deputy Director position.

Ms. Ponton provided an update on the Joint Interim Committee on Commerce and Labor which was meeting at the same time and the scheduled meeting of the Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Committee which will be meeting January 26, 2024.

Ms. Ponton reported that state reporting requirements for the quarter have been completed and submitted.

Chair Northam called for a motion.

Teresa Hayes made the motion, seconded by Barnes, to approve the Executive Director report and financial statements. The motion passed.

**Report from Deputy Attorney General** – Ms. Zheng stated she had no report.

**Reports from Chair and Board Members** – There were no reports from the Board. The 2024 Meeting Schedule was referenced, with the next meeting to be held April 18, 2024. Chair Northam stated he will not be able to attend; Amber English will Chair the April meeting.

**Public Comment:** Chair Northam asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.

**Adjournment:** Chair Northam adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.