



**STATE BOARD OF STATIONARY ENGINEERS
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: September 19, 2023

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 1100 N. Eutaw Street 5th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Brian Wodka, Chairman, Industry Member
Lance Brown, Vice-Chairman, Industry Member
Steven Noonan, Ex-Officio Member, Chief Boiler Inspector
Gary Brown, Consumer

MEMBERS

ABSENT: John Arizaga, Industry Member

STAFF

PRESENT: John Bull, Executive Director
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General
LaKissha Thornton, Administrative Officer I
Johnston Brown, Administrative Specialist III

STAFF

ABSENT: None

GUESTS

PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Brian Wodka, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Stationary Engineers to order at 10:07 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the business meeting minutes held on July 18, 2023.

Upon Mr. Lance Brown’s Motion, and Mr. Gary Brown’s second, the Board unanimously voted to approve the July 18, 2023, minutes without amendment or correction.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

No report was offered as the Committee did not meet.

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Application Review Committee is currently working on two pending applications; the Board will await Mr. Arizaga’s attendance at a meeting for a report.

REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summary for July 2023:

	Candidates Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Stationary Engineer Grade 1	14	3	11	21%
Stationary Engineer Grade 2	3	1	2	33%
Stationary Engineer Grade 3	2	0	2	0%
Stationary Engineer Grade 4	9	6	3	67%
Stationary Engineer Grade 5	5	0	5	0%
TOTAL	33	10	23	30%

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summary for August 2023:

Stationary Engineer Grade 1	19	7	12	37%
Stationary Engineer Grade 2	4	1	3	25%
Stationary Engineer Grade 3	8	4	4	50%
Stationary Engineer Grade 4	8	6	2	75%
Stationary Engineer Grade 5	11	3	8	27%
TOTAL	50	21	29	42%

Cumulative results for 2023, 266 candidates have been tested, with 94 candidates having passed and 172 candidates failing, for a pass rate of 35%. Since the inception of the test 7,942 candidates have been tested, with 2,650 having passed and 4,842 having failed, for a pass rate of 35%.

Mr. Lance Brown moved to accept the report, Mr. Gary Brown offered a second to the motion, which passed unanimously by a vote of the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Ronald McLaughlin

Mr. Brown presented an email from first grade engineer, Ronald McLaughlin, to the Board seeking approval of a training program. He is considering initiating a training program for boiler operation, along with basic instruction on boiler safety. He asked what would be required to start a program that is recognized by the State Board of Stationary Engineers.

Counsel, Sloane Fried Kinstler, advised that the Board should ask Mr. McLaughlin to identify whether he is interested in offering examination preparation for prospective licensees, or whether he wishes to offer apprenticeship training, for which he should be referred to the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council. Mr. Wodka agreed that the Board should ask Mr. McLaughlin for clarification before being able to respond to his request.

Mr. Bull stated that the Board will form a response to Mr. McLaughlin with the information.

Federal Requirements

Mr. Arizaga wanted to discuss the possibility of creating a law or requirement for the federal government contractors to provide licensed trades for working the job. Mr. Wodka responded that Maryland cannot create a law that supersedes federal law or requirements; however, the Board is free to make recommendations to the federal government regarding issues over which the State has regulatory oversight.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director Bull discussed issues with PSI Examination Services, Inc., and that he was encouraging PSI to respond more promptly to communications from the Board, but regarding all mechanical boards.

NEW BUSINESS

Joint Chairs meeting

Mr. Bull reported that a meeting was held for the chairs and vice chairs of the mechanical boards on September 8, 2023, and that those in attendance that future meetings could be productive but should occur when a particular topic arises that could impact multiple boards and should involve only those boards with an interest in the matter.

Proposed Fee Increase-COMAR 09.17.01.03

Mr. Bull explained that the Board's fees have not been raised in more than 12 years, though operational costs have risen 23%. Mr. Bull reviewed information he provided to the Board members prior to the meeting, pertaining to the Board's costs and revenue.

Mr. Bull explained further that due to the Board’s operating deficit, it has routinely had to rely on the Joint Mechanical Boards Fund to cover operational deficits. The increases are necessary to contribute to a more efficient licensing database that will benefit both the Board and its licensees and prospective licensees and allow the Board to hire necessary staff to manage the Board’s duties.

Mr. Bull referred the Board to the regulation text drafted by Counsel, Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General, reflecting the amount of each fee and the proposed 12.5% increase for 2024 and 2025.

Lance Brown moved to accept the new fee schedule; the motion was seconded by Gary Brown. The Board unanimously voted to approve proposed action to amend COMAR 09.17.01.03 to increase fees by 12.5% in 2024 and 2025.

Gary Brown had to leave the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was automatically adjourned due to the loss of a quorum present.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

None offered.

COUNSEL’S REPORT

None offered.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

None offered.

CHIEF BOILER INSPECTOR REPORT

Mr. Noonan did not offer a report, as the meeting had adjourned, but he will share with those still present an informational update about the licensing data to be collected by a new data system that the Division of Labor and Industry expects to be operational soon. He will provide an official report at the next meeting of the Board.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board did not convene in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board automatically adjourned when the quorum was lost at 10:30 a.m.

Signature on File

11/14/2023

John Bull
Executive Director

Date