



**TENNESSEE BOARD OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**  
Davy Crockett Tower, Conference Room 1A  
500 James Robertson Parkway  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

**Summary of Action on Agenda Items of the  
January 15, 2026 at 9:00am, Central Time  
Meeting of the Tennessee Board of Groundwater Management**

**Members Present at Davy Crockett Tower:**

Britton Dotson Ex Officio  
Brian Ham Ex Officio  
James Watson, Middle Tennessee Member  
William B.J. Burks, West Tennessee Member  
Chris Wilson, East Tennessee Member

**Members Present Virtually**

None

**Chair:** Britton Dotson

**Technical Secretary:** Brian Ham

A full recording of this meeting is available on the Board of Groundwater Management's [website](#). All votes were manually recorded by the assistant to the Technical Secretary. All documentation is available on the Board's website.

**Welcome**

- Chairman Dotson began the meeting with welcoming new Board members and emphasizing the importance of transparency in all board proceedings.

**Conflict of Interest**

- Chairman Dotson reviewed the Conflict of Interest documents and indicated that because this is the beginning of the new year that it must be completed.

**Public Comment**

- The floor was opened for public comments.
  - o No in-person public comments were received during the comment period.
  - o No virtual public comments were received during the comment period.
  - o No written public comments were received before or during the comment period.

**New Business**

- During New Business, Chairman Dotson reviewed the Board's rules, providing a general summary. At the previous meeting, the Board discussed potential changes to certain rules. It was noted that a clear indication is required for this process to move forward, as it is a lengthy process that must proceed through the Commissioner's Office. Mr. Denard Mickens (Office of General

Council) subsequently provided additional explanation of the process, followed by further clarification from Mr. Patrick Parker (Office of General Council).

- Chairman Dotson proposed the following agenda items be added to the agenda for the next meeting. The Chairman suggested that the Board members be prepared to discuss specific suggestions.
  - o Chapter 0400-45-09 will be included as a discussion item on the agenda for the next meeting.
  - o Chapter 0400-45-10 will be included as a discussion item on the agenda for the next meeting.
  
- The Board discussed the process for administering written examinations.
  - o Mr. Burks initially made a motion to continue administering the exams using historical procedures until the next meeting; this motion was later retracted.
  - o Mr. Burks then made a motion to require applicants to travel to Nashville to take the written examinations during Board meetings until the subject can be revisited.
    - o Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.
      - Vote 3-0 Passed
  
- It was further determined that those applicants who take a written examination during the next meeting will not be given oral interviews in the same meeting.

### **Continuing Education**

- It was proposed that staff present a list of proposed CEU submissions for consideration and approval at the next meeting.

### **Active Enforcement Cases / Complaints Review**

- Mr. Richard Rogers explained that complaint information is available online and updated daily, and the Board was given instructions on how to access this information.
  
- Some discussion was had regarding complaint ID: 139489
  
- Mr. Ashby Barns provided a brief overview of the complaint process. Mr. Wilson asked how the Board could assist. Mr. Rogers responded that the majority of complaints involve paperwork issues; however, if a situation arises in which staff are uncertain how to proceed, they would reach out to the Board for guidance.

### **Oral Interviews**

- Each applicant was asked a series of technical questions related to the license for which they were applying. Once the Board had no further questions, a vote was taken on whether to recommend the applicant to the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation for licensure or to recommend denial.
  
- **Robert Snow**
  - o Water Well Driller License
    - Mr. Watson made a motion to recommend for licensure.
      - Motion failed.
    - Mr. Wilson made a motion to not recommend for licensure.
    - Mr. Burks seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
        - Motion passed.

- Monitor Well License
  - Mr. Wilson made a motion to recommend for licensure.
  - Mr. Burks seconded.
    - Vote 3-0
    - Motion passed.
- **Brian Dobbs**
  - Pump Installer License
    - Mr. Wilson made a motion to recommend for licensure.
    - Mr. Watson seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed.
- **Kyle Starks**
  - Water Well License
    - Mr. Watson made a motion to recommend for licensure.
    - Mr. Burks seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed.
  - Pump Installer License
    - Mr. Burks made a motion to recommend for licensure.
    - Mr. Wilson seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed.

### **Review of Pending Applications**

- **Zachary Cavness:** Pump Installer
  - Mr. Burks made a motion to recommend to move forward to the written exams.
    - Mr. Wilson seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed
- **Donald Lee Cress:** Water Well Driller
  - Mr. Watson made a motion to not recommend moving the application forward.
    - Motion failed.
  - Mr. Wilson recommended to move the application forward.
    - Motion failed.
  - Mr. Burks made a motion that the application has been reviewed by the board.
    - Mr. Wilson seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed
- **Jonathan Lane Miller:** Pump Installer, Water Well Driller, and Geothermal
  - Mr. Watson recommended that the application for Pump Installer, Water Well Driller, and Geothermal not move forward.
    - Mr. Wilson seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed

- **Aaron Crowley:** Monitor
  - o Mr. Watson made a motion to recommend that the application move forward.
    - Mr Wilson seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed
- **Jason James:** Treatment
  - o Mr. Watson made a motion to recommend that the application move forward.
    - Mr. Burks seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed
- **Preston Reed Morris:** Water Well Driller
  - o Mr. Watson made a motion to move the application forward.
    - Mr. Wilson seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed
- **Samuel Peralta:** Treatment
  - o Mr. Burks made a motion to move the application forward.
    - Mr. Watson seconded.
      - Vote 2-1
      - Motion passed
- **Ernest Retzer:** Treatment and Pump Installer
  - o Mr. Watson made a motion to move the treatment application forward.
    - Mr. Burks seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed
  - o Mr. Watson made a motion to deny the pump installer application.
    - Mr. Burks seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed
- **Floyd Vincent Robertson:** Pump Installer and Water Well License
  - o Mr. Watson made a motion to deny the application for Air Rotary Drilling [Water Well Driller] moving forward.
  - o Mr. Wilson seconded.
    - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed.
  - o Mr. Watson made a motion to deny the application for Pump Installer moving forward.
  - o Mr. Wilson seconded.
    - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed.

- **Robert Smith:** Water Well Driller
  - o Mr. Watson made a motion to move the application forward.
    - Mr. Burks seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed
  
- **Anthony Stiltner:** Geothermal
  - o Mr. Watson made a motion to deny the application.
    - The motion was retracted.
  - o Mr. Wilson made a motion to move the application forward.
    - Mr. Burks seconded.
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed
  
- **David M Tersigni:** Monitor
  - o Mr. Burks made a motion to move the application forward
    - Mr. Wilson seconded
      - Vote 3-0
      - Motion passed

#### **Scheduling of Next Board Meeting**

- After some discussion, Mr. Burks made a motion that the Board meet again on March 19, 2026.
  - o Seconded by Mr. Wilson
    - Voted 3-0
    - Passed
  
- The Board agreed to schedule its next meeting for March 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM Central Time.
- Prior to adjournment, Mr. Wilson made a suggestion to talk about the process of ending the reciprocity that Tennessee has with North Carolina regarding the issuing of licensing at the next board meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

- Mr. Burks made a motion to adjourn.
  - Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 PM Central Time.