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**STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING  
BUSINESS MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Date:** August 18, 2022

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** Held Virtually via Google Meet

**Joining Info:** By Video Conference  
[meet.google.com/qks-niad-yfo](https://meet.google.com/qks-niad-yfo)  
By Phone via Teleconference  
1-414-909-7588 (PIN: 385820141)

**Members Present:**

Joseph Radtka, Chair  
Michael Bowersox, Industry Member  
Roland Mann Jr., Industry Member  
Richard Bowers, Consumer Member

**Absent:** Keith Horton, Vice Chair  
Richard Small, Industry Member  
Gregory Schott, Industry Member

**LABOR Officials & Staff Present:**

John Bull, Executive Director  
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General  
LaKissha Thornton, Administrative Officer I  
Danielle Anderson, Web Coordinator and Outreach

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Diane Kastner, Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors Associations  
William Sompayrac, Pipeline Trading Institute  
Jeff Dean, Tri-Gas and Oil  
Earl Slacum, Tri-Gas and Oil

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Mr. Joseph Radtka, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Plumbing to order, virtually, at 10:41 a.m.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Radtka asked that the Board make a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 21, 2022 Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Bowers, seconded by Mr. Bowersox, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the minutes without amendment.

## **PLUMBING COMPLAINTS**

No action has been taken on complaints as the unit is still in the process of filling the vacant investigator position. Accordingly, no Committee report was provided.

## **REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS**

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summaries for June 2022:

<b>Plumber</b>	<b>Candidates Tested</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>Pass %</b>
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Journey Natural Gas Fitter	1	0	0	0%
Journey Plumber/Gas Fitter	31	14	17	45%
Master Natural Gas Fitter	2	1	1	50%
Master Plumber/Gas Fitter	19	9	10	47%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>45%</b>

Director Bull also reported that since Jan. 2022, 413 candidates were tested, 163 candidates passed, 250 failed, for a pass rate of 39%. Since the inception of the test, 10127 candidates were tested, 3659 candidates passed, 6468 failed, for a pass rate of 36%. There are currently 12,858 active licensees.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairman Radtka addressed an email from Mr. Earl Slacum of Tri-Gas and Oil, regarding the acceptance of two applications for the issuance of a Propane Gas Fitter Certificate by demonstrating to the Board that the applicant's qualifications are at least equivalent to the qualifications required by the National Propane Gas Association training program for distribution systems operations. Chairman Radtka asked Council Kinstler for guidance regarding the Board's ability to grant the Certificate without the applicant providing certifications from the National

Propane Association. Mr. Slacum stated that he was aware of a provision in the law that would allow applicants to be granted a Propane Gas Fitter Certificate by Board review. Counsel Kinstler replied stating the MD Annotated Code, Bus. and Occup., Article 12 § 302 (f), does allow for the Board to approve an application by Board review. Chairman Radtka asked Mr. Slacum to detail the applicants' experience. Mr. Slacum stated the both applicants worked for PEPUP in Delaware each with more than ten (10) years of experience, and the no license or certification was required to perform the work. Chairman Radtka opened the floor up for discussion. Mr. Bowersox commented that as Delaware and Virginia do not issue Journeyman licenses any liability for the work performed by the individuals would fall to the company that employed them, and as such supported granting the Certificates. Mr. Radtka then asked for a Motion to accept the applications be entered. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to accept the applications, which was seconded by Mr. Mann. The motion to accept was unanimously approved by the Board. Council Kinstler clarified the motion and the vote, stating the Board had voted to approve those applications after they had been submitted.

An application was placed on the agenda for review by the Board. It was determine that the application should not have been placed on the agenda as the application did not present an extraordinary circumstance that would require a review by the full Board. It was decided that the application would be reviewed by the application review committee and the matter would be handled administratively. Mr. Bowersox expressed a concern of the legality of having sent an application to the Board that had not been redacted to remove any personal information. Counsel Kinstler replied stated that she had previously instructed, via email, all Board members to delete the email and or application that we sent to them and to destroy any hard copies of the application after today's meeting. Chairman Radtka commented stating the PSI did not send the email to the Board and that it was sent out by LaKissha Thornton, the Board Administrator, after being forwarded to her by PSI for review. Mr. Bowersox withdrew his question and said that he would seek additional guidance on the matter.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

Director Bull stated that the Complaint Administrator position was in the process of being filled and that he would provide updates as they become available. Director asked the Board for permission to sign the approved meeting minutes of the Board to assist with the retention records compliance standards. He stated that the signature line would read that the minutes were signed on behalf of the Board himself, as the Executive Director, and would list the date that the minutes were approved. Chairman Radtka stated that he had no objections to Director Bull's suggestion and asked for a motion to allow the Executive Director to sign the approved minutes on behalf of the Board. A motion was made by Mr. Bowersox and seconded by Mr. Bowers and unanimously approved by the Board.

Director Bull also asked the Board reply to a request that he will be sending to update the contact information for all Board members.

### **COUNSEL'S REPORT**

There was no council report.

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

There was no chair report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Director Bull reintroduced the discussion on 12-308.1 regarding the Board’s decision to introduce legislation to have that law amended or removed. He stated that the Secretary’s Office would not be accepting any new concept proposals for bills until November 2022, and their office would place a priority on the Sunset Review bills for the mechanical boards and that the proposal to amend the law may not be accepted or reviewed during this session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board did not convene in a closed session.

**APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF CLOSED SESSION**

None necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon Mr. Bowersox’s Motion, and Mr. Bowers’s second, and by a roll call vote the Board unanimously voted to adjourn meeting at 11:09 a.m.

**Signature on file**

**08/18/2022**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**John Bull**  
**Executive Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Signed on behalf of the Board as voted and approved on 08/18/2022**