## **July 17, 2013**

## LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS EXAMINING BOARD

The Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board held their meeting at the DEP Complex, Trenton, NJ. George McCarthy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The following members were in attendance:

## MEMBER AFFILIATION

Linda Cantwell NJDEP

Robert Dobson Middletown Sprinkler
George McCarthy Spring Irrigation Co Inc
Ken Scherer Hillsborough Irrigation
William Frederick Rapp Atlantic Irrigation Specialties

## **ABSENT**

Gaetano Virone Environmental Designers Irrigation

Michael Schuit, DAG, Gene Rosenblum, DAG, Patricia Conti, and Annie Loh, were also in attendance.

Linda Cantwell read the Open Public Meetings Act statement for the Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board and announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided to the Secretary of State and designated newspapers, as well as posted in DEP.

Both the open and closed session minutes from the May 15, 2013 meeting were approved as presented. George McCarthy abstained.

The Board reviewed and accepted the Treasurer's report.

DAG Schuit reported that the proposed rule is in the Governor's office but has not been released for publication. A discussion was held. George McCarthy will contact Tim Martin. Based on an email, Mr. Martin and Mike Edminson from the NJ Irrigation Association had previously met with a representative from the Governor's office concerning the rule changes.

A discussion was held concerning the hiring of temporary staff in order to assist with Board functions. Fred Rapp offered to reach out to someone he knows for guidance regarding the use of employment agencies. George McCarthy agreed to prepare a list of proposed job duties.

Members were informed that the five settlement offer letters previously approved for issuance have been mailed. To date 102 advertising inquires have been sent; 71 have been resolved and staff is currently working with six companies in an attempt to resolve them. These counts do not include complaints that were submitted, reviewed, and determined to have a registered certificate holder. In addition, many case files have been uploaded and are currently pending.

The Board voted to enter into a closed session in order to discuss enforcement matters at 10:40 a.m. Whereas the Open Public Meeting Act provides that a public body such as the Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board may meet in closed session to discuss "any investigations of possible violations of law" and any pending or anticipated litigation; Whereas the Board desires to retire to closed session to discuss possible violations of law and litigation matters; Now therefore, be it resolved that the Board shall at this time meet in closed session to discuss the above mentioned matters. The substance of the closed session will be disclosed publicly only when it will not impede the State's ability to investigate the possible violation of law in question or participate in the litigation or breach an attorney-client privilege. .

The Board returned to open session at 12:20 p.m.

Bob Dobson and Fred Rapp will prepare a final draft outlining the enforcement process in order to utilize a collection agency when fines are issued but not paid.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

George McCarthy, Chairman

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Landscape Irrigation Contractors Board