

Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: April 24, 2025

DATE: April 1, 2025

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Latricia Lord, Senior Environmental Health Specialist
775-328-2689, llord@nnph.org

SUBJECT: Recommendation for appointment to the Sewage Wastewater and Sanitation Hearing Board. Staff recommends the reappointments of Mr. John Adams, Mr. Kenneth Lund and Mr. Chad Carnes as members for three-year terms, and the initial appointment of Mr. Robert Sweeney as a member for a three-year term beginning on May 1, 2025, and concluding on April 30, 2028. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

SUMMARY

The appointment of Mr. John Adams, Mr. Kenneth Lund, and Mr. Chad Carnes as members of the Sewage, Wastewater and Sanitation Hearing Board (SWS Board) will expire on April 30, 2025. Additionally, Mr. Chris Reede has voluntarily resigned from his position as a SWS Board member.

Mr. John Adams, Mr. Kenneth Lund, and Mr. Chad Carnes have all requested reappointment and applications for new Board members were solicited by NNPH staff. The applications for all candidates that have submitted applications are attached. The new three-year term would begin May 1, 2025, and conclude April 30, 2028.

EHS staff is recommending the District Board of Health (DBOH) re-appoint John Adams, Kenneth Lund and Chad Carnes as members for three-year terms to the SWS Board beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2028. Additionally, staff is recommending the initial appointment of Robert Sweeney as a member of the SWS Board for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2025, and concluding on April 30, 2028.

District Health Strategic Priorities supported by this item:

- 2. Healthy Environment:** Create a healthier environment that allows people to safely enjoy everything Washoe County has to offer.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The last SWS Board member appointment occurred in July 2024. During the July 2024 meeting, the DBOH agreed with staff's recommendations for the following appointments:

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1001 East Ninth Street, Building B, Reno, Nevada 89512

EHS Office: 775-328-2434 | Fax: 775-328-6176 | www.nnph.org

Serving Reno, Sparks and all of Washoe County, Nevada. Washoe County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Date: April 1, 2025

Subject: Recommendation for Reappointment to the Sewage Wastewater and Sanitation Hearing Board

Page: 2 of 3

- Reappointment of Mr. Matthew Buehler as a member and Matt Smith as an alternate and appoint Chris Reede as a member and Julianne Zotter as an alternate for three-year terms beginning on August 1, 2024, and ending on July 30, 2027.

BACKGROUND

The SWS Board, as established in the sewage, wastewater, and sanitation regulations, considers appeals of actions taken by Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) and assesses petitions for variances from the regulations. Over the years, staff have sought professionals in these fields to provide valuable expertise to support and enhance technical knowledge provided by program staff. The SWS Board consists of five members and two alternates, who will act as voting members in the event that the regular members are not available. Appointments to the board are three-year terms.

The SWS Board meets when an appeal or request for variance is filed. Over the last several years, this has been approximately 2-3 times a year. Here is the current list of SWS board members:

Member	Qualification	Term Expires
Matthew Buehler	Long term Board member and community activist with degree in Biomedical Engineering and advanced degree in Biology	July 30, 2027
Kenneth R. Lund	Real Estate broker and attorney	April 29, 2025
John Adams	Owner of a local construction company	April 29, 2025
Chad E. Carnes, P.E.	Local engineer with experience in septic design	April 29, 2025
Chris Reede	Owner of a local well drilling company	July 30, 2027
Matt Smith (Alternate)	General manager of local septic company	July 30, 2027
Julianne Zotter, P.E. (Alternate)	Local engineer with experience in septic design	July 30, 2027

Solicitation for interest on serving on the SWS Board is an ongoing and open recruitment process that allows applicants wishing to serve on the SWS Board to apply using instructions on the EHS website. Since the terms for three members were due to expire April 30, 2024, EHS staff solicited reappointment applications from existing members and sent a notice of the upcoming position vacancy via a NNPH press release announcing the openings on the SWS Board.

To date, EHS staff have received three (3) applications for reappointment and one (1) application for an initial appointment which are all attached to this report. Due to the technical nature of this advisory board, staff used the following criteria when making a recommendation to the board:

- Knowledge of regulations pertaining to septic systems and well construction.
- Knowledge/Experience in construction trades.
- Knowledge/Experience in real estate.
- History in community / Board experience

Staff reviewed the applicant pool and are recommending the following candidates to the Board for reappointment/appointment:

- Mr. Adams has extensive experience in the septic industry as the owner of a local excavation company. He has submitted multiple septic plans to NNPH for review and installed septic systems

Date: April 1, 2025

Subject: Recommendation for Reappointment to the Sewage Wastewater and Sanitation Hearing Board

Page: 3 of 3

according to NNPH regulations. His knowledge of both the regulatory requirements as well as the challenges of septic construction make him an ideal candidate.

- Mr. Lund is an attorney and real estate broker in Washoe County. His field of expertise has been very valuable as almost all issues reviewed by the SWS Board deal with property.
- Mr. Carnes has worked as a licensed engineer designing septic systems in Washoe County for over 30 years. He has submitted multiple septic plans to NNPH for review and has overseen the installation of countless Engineered Sand Filters according to NNPH regulations.
- Mr. Robert Sweeney is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist who currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA). He spent 20 years as a regulator in Oregon and Washington and has extensive experience in liquid waste management and land use.

Staff are confident the applicants being recommended for reappointment and appointment to the SWS Board will continue to provide a wide range of experience, knowledge, and expertise to help address septic and well construction issues in Washoe County and will represent our community interests well. Appointment of the recommended candidates will completely fill the SWS Board.

FISCAL IMPACT

As these are voluntary positions, there will be no fiscal impact to Northern Nevada Public Health associated with the reappointments.

RECOMMENDATION

It is staff's recommendation that the board re-appoint John Adams, Kenneth Lund and Chad Carnes as members for three-year terms to the SWS Board beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2028. Additionally, staff recommends the initial appointment of Mr. Robert Sweeney as a member of the SWS Board for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2025, and ending on April 30, 2028.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the recommendation, a possible motion would be:

1. "Move to reappoint John Adams, Kenneth Lund, and Chad Carnes as members and appoint Robert Sweeney as a member for three-year terms beginning on May 1, 2025, and concluding on April 30, 2028, to the Sewage, Wastewater, and Sanitation Hearing Board"

or, should the Board wish to consider an alternative motion the possible motion may be:

1. "Move to appoint (*name of applicant*) to the Sewage, Wastewater, and Sanitation Board three-year term beginning May 1, 2025, and concluding on April 30, 2028," or
2. "Move to continue the item to the next meeting to allow for additional consideration by the Board."