

February 11, 2013
LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS
EXAMINING BOARD

The Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board held their meeting at the DEP Building, Trenton, NJ. George McCarthy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The following members were in attendance:

MEMBER	AFFILIATION
Linda Cantwell	NJDEP
Robert Dobson	Middletown Sprinkler
George McCarthy	Spring Irrigation Co Inc
William Frederick Rapp	Atlantic Irrigation Specialties
Ken Scherer	Hillsborough Irrigation
Gaetano Virone	Environmental Designers Irrigation

Michael Schuit, DAG, Gene Rosenblum, DAG, Patricia Conti, Annie Loh, and Chrissy Gerstnicker 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.

Open session minutes from the December 5, 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented. Ken Scherer abstained.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

A discussion was held concerning changes that should be made to the exam application. It was agreed that once the draft rules and regulations are adopted, the application will be changed.

Discussions were held with regard to setting up various sub-committees in order to assist in resolving pending matters. Forward

Guy Virone informed the Board that he recently had a discussion with a liaison to the Plumbing Board who confirmed that a plumber cannot use their license for more than 1 business. It was suggested that two Board members meet with the Plumbing Board for an informal discussion concerning this matter. Guy and Bob expressed an interest in pursuing this.

The Board entered into a closed session to discuss enforcement matters at 10:40 a.m.

The Board returned to open session at 12:30 p.m.

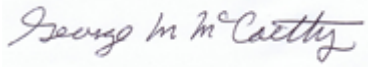
Based on a review of the case file, the Board motioned and approved the closing of cases: 525, 499, 066, and 442.

The Board reviewed and discussed the draft rules and regulations.

The Board motioned to accept and approve the changes to the rules and regulations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George McCarthy". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

George McCarthy, Chairman
Landscape Irrigation Contractors Board

March 14, 2013
LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS
EXAMINING BOARD

The Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board held their meeting at the DEP Building, 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
William Frederick Rapp	Atlantic Irrigation Specialties
Gaetano Virone	Environmental Designers Irrigation

ABSENT

Ken Scherer	Hillsborough 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.

The Board voted to enter into a closed session. 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 entered into a closed session to discuss enforcement matters at 10:08 a.m.

The Board returned to open session at 2:15 p.m.

The Board voted to approve the following:

Case 097 and case will be issued AONOCAPA.

Case 490 – Refer to the enforcement contractor for additional information. Issue a settlement for \$500 if the additional information does not resolve the matter.

Case 607 – Issue a settlement offer letter in the amount of \$500 for irrigation maintenance

Once verified by the inspector, issue settlements letters in the amount of \$500 for advertising to cases 445, 604, 547, 508, 509, 502, and 532.

Based on a review of the case file, the Board motioned and approved the closing of case 564.

The Board was informed that staff had not been provided with a Treasurer’s report.

The open and closed session minutes were approved as presented.

Applications were reviewed and approved for the April 11, 2013 examination; 1 application was conditionally approved pending additional information and 16 initial/re-applications applications were approved

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George McCarthy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

George McCarthy, Chairman
Landscape Irrigation Contractors Board

May 15, 2013
LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS
EXAMINING BOARD

The Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board held their meeting at the DEP Building, 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
Ken Scherer	Hillsborough Irrigation
William Frederick Rapp	Atlantic Irrigation Specialties
Gaetano Virone	Environmental Designers Irrigation

ABSENT

George McCarthy	Spring Irrigation Co Inc
-----------------	--------------------------

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.

The open and closed session minutes were approved as presented.

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report. An inquiry was made as to what charges were made against the official reception line item. Staff will contact the appropriate office and members will be notified via email.

The Board reviewed and approved the results from the April 2013 examination; 4 passed and 21 failed.

Correspondence was received from an individual employed by a public school district. He indicated that he has prepared, designed and installed all school and athletic irrigation and is responsible for the maintenance. Since school districts are exempted from the requirement of having to employ a certified irrigation contractor, the individual was inquiring as to whether or not he would be eligible to take the examination. A discussion was held. The existing regulations are clear in that irrigation experience must be obtained under a certified contractor. The individual will be notified that he must be able to show he meets this requirement.

DAG Schuit informed the Board that their rules and regulations were submitted to the Governor's office. As a result, some minor recommended changes were made. In addition, since the statute does not include synthetic artificial surfaces, references pertaining to this will need to be removed from the rules. A discussion was held and it was agreed that synthetic surfaces should be addressed in the future. The Governor's office also raised concerns with regard to advertising. They wanted assurances that a company publishing an advertisement could not be held responsible. The intention was to catch illegal landscape irrigation contracting not those publishing the advertisements. A discussion was held and changes were made to clarify that the publisher of an advertisement would not be held liable.

The Board motioned and approved to move forward with the recommended changes made by the Governor's office. Corresponding changes were made to the summary document.

DAG Rosenblum informed the Board that due to increased demands in her work load, she would not be able to continue as the Board's DAG for enforcement.

The Board voted to enter into a closed session in order to discuss enforcement matters.. 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 entered into a closed session at 12:55 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 1:10 p.m.

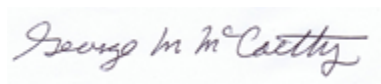
Trish Conti expressed concerns about staffing with regard to the increase in enforcement activities along with the changes made to the process. In addition the proposed rules and regulations will create a continuing education process, and a requirement to issue business permits. A discussion was held and members inquired as to whether or not they would be able to hire a part time person in order to assist.

Based on a review of the case file, the Board motioned and approved the closing of case 445, 508, and 490. These were submitted as advertising complaints.

The Board was informed that a total of 53 advertising inquiry letters had been sent out. Currently 21 of them have been closed as a result of updating their websites and agreeing to discontinue advertising. In addition, 23 additional complaints were reviewed and closed due to the fact that they had registered a certificate holder. Members were informed that tracking complaints for statistical purposes is a very manual process.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George McCarthy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

George McCarthy, Chairman
Landscape Irrigation Contractors Board

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.

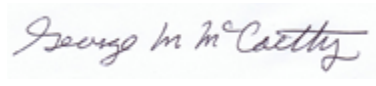
The Board voted to enter into a closed session in order to discuss enforcement matters at 10:40 a.m. Whereas the Open Public Meeting Act provides that a public body such as the Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board may meet in closed session to discuss “any investigations of possible violations 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George McCarthy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

George McCarthy, Chairman
Landscape Irrigation Contractors Board

September 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
William Frederick Rapp	Atlantic Irrigation Specialties
Ken Scherer	Hillsborough Irrigation
Gaetano Virone	Environmental Designers Irrigation

Gene Rosenblum, DAG, Patricia Conti, Annie Loh, and Tim Martin 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 July 17, 2013 meeting were approved as presented. Guy Virone abstained.

The Board discussed a communication received with regard to their Water Sense provider status. The communication informed the Board that until New Jersey has an established continuing education program they are no longer eligible to be a Water Sense provider.

The Board was informed that staff was recently contacted by the Irrigation Association of New Jersey (IANJ). The IANJ was requesting specific information along with answers to questions in order to prepare for an upcoming exam preparatory course. Staff has not received these types of inquiries in the past and the IANJ provided very little notice in order to obtain what was needed.

The Board reviewed and accepted the Treasurer's report.

George McCarthy informed the Board that he had recently seen a notification at a supply house. The notification was informing individuals of the pesticide licensing requirement. Mr. McCarthy was inquiring as to whether or not the Board could do something similar with regard to the irrigation certification requirement. A discussion was held. Bob Dobson agreed to prepare a draft notification and the other members offered to reach out to their suppliers in order to see if it could be posted.

Tim Martin (IANJ) arrived. Mr. Martin informed the Board that he has heard that the proposed rules should be moving forward. Based on recommendations from the Governor's office, the business permit will not require a fee. In addition, the rules will establish a continuing education process.

The Governor's office recommended several changes to the proposed rules and regulations. A discussion was held. The members agreed to these minor changes. In reviewing the document further, concerns were expressed with regard to the January 31, 2014 date indicated in the proposal. This date was specific to the CEC requirement. Should the adoption process be complete before that date, contractors expiring on that date would be required to meet the CEC requirement for renewal. DAG Schuit was contacted via a telephone conference in an attempt to clarify the re-adoption with amendments process.

The Board motioned to remove the January 31, 2014 date from the proposal provided the Governor's office agreed. Further discussion was held. The Board rescinded this motion and motioned to approve the proposed rule with the changes recommended by the Governor's office. The Board should have the ability to work with this date should an issue arise.

The Board voted to enter into a closed session in order to discuss enforcement matters at 11:25 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 1:05 p.m.

Fred Rapp provided members with a copy of a draft enforcement activities flow chart he recently prepared. Mr. Rapp is currently working on the format so that it will print out properly.

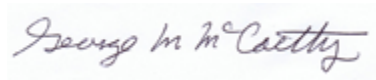
A discussion was held with regard to hiring a temporary staff member to assist the Board with various activities. George McCarthy indicated that they would like the temporary staff member to send out acknowledgment letters to complainants, maintain a continuing education credit database, send out notifications to contractors deemed deficient in continuing education credits, and possibly scanning enforcement cases for the Board's review. Mr. McCarthy inquired as to whether or not the Board could purchase a laptop to be utilized by the temporary staff member and at Board meetings. The Board held discussions about hiring the staff member one day a week or possibly one day every other week.

Nine initial exam applications and three re-applications were submitted to the Board for review. Members agreed to approve these applications for the October 2013 examination. Guy Virone voted no to Application 616032 based on the information reflected in the applicant's W2 forms. Mr. Virone requested that the topic of experience to be added to the next meeting agenda under Old Business.

The Board voted to issue an Administrative Order and Notice of Civil Administrative Penalty Assessment (AONCAPA) in the amount of \$1000.00 to cases 097, 513, 509, 604, 502. The ANOCAPA's were issued for failing to respond to the notices of violation previously issued and/or take the corrective action necessary to resolve the violation: cases

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



George McCarthy, Chairman
Landscape Irrigation Contractors Board

November 20, 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 10:10 a.m. The following members were in attendance:

MEMBER

AFFILIATION

Linda Cantwell	NJDEP
Robert Dobson	Middletown Sprinkler
George McCarthy	Spring Irrigation Co Inc.
William Frederick Rapp	Atlantic Irrigation Specialties
Ken Scherer	Hillsborough Irrigation
Gaetano Virone	Environmental Designers Irrigation

Gene Rosenblum, DAG, Michael Schuit, DAG, and Patricia Conti 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 September 17, 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

The Board reviewed and accepted the Treasurer's report as presented.

Staff reminded members to review the 2014 schedule previously provided. In addition, the RFP process for an enforcement contractor will need to begin in the spring. Based on recent emails that have been received, it appears that there could be some movement with filling the remaining vacancy on the Board. A request was received from a provider interested in offering CECs. The provider is awaiting a response.

George McCarthy informed members that he recently attended a WaterSense webinar outlining upcoming changes that would take effect sometime in July. The changes would significantly increase the number of individuals recognized by the program, by automatically recognizing all NJ irrigation contractors. In the past, a NJ contractor interested in recognition would need to apply and attest to certain requirements. It was noted that only a small number of NJ contractors had applied. In addition once the changes are in place, the Water Sense recognition would not distinguish an irrigation contractor from other professional licenses recognized by WaterSense. A discussion was held and the Board motioned and approved to send a letter to EPA opposing the changes to the program. It was suggested that other statutory bodies be cc'd in the letter.

A discussion was held concerning the next meeting scheduled for December 11 in Atlantic City. Due to the number of contractors attending the meeting last year, concerns were expressed concerning the fact that the rules have been published and are in the comment period. It was agreed that the public would be informed that the rules have been published and are available for review on <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules>. In addition, all comments must be submitted in writing. The Notice Proposal provides a direct link to both the amendment proposal and the online comment submission. Instructions on submitting comments through the mail are also included in the Notice Proposal.

Bob Dobson provided members with a copy of a notice prepared by/for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry informing Louisiana homeowners to hire only licensed landscape contractors. A discussion was held as to whether or not the Board would do something similar. Mr. Dobson offered to prepare a draft notification for the members to review. It was agreed that the notification would be published in spring/fall irrigation type publications. The Board inquired as to whether or not DEP would also publish the notification. Trish Conti agreed to follow up on the inquiry once a finalized draft has been received. Mr. Dobson noted that July is Smart Irrigation month in New Jersey.

As a result of an applicant including W2 forms as part of his supporting documentation for experience, a discussion was held as to how much time/money constitutes one year of experience. The discussion included dollars verses hours, minimum hours, what constitutes a season, time cards verses actual records, pay stubs verses W2 forms. The Board will develop a certification type statement where the applicant or the employer states that the applicant worked "X" number of hours a week from "X" to "X".

The Board members discussed the need to secure a method for tracking continuing education credits taken by irrigation contractors. Members had previously contacted the Irrigation Association, but the cost of having them track credits was excessive. The Board agreed to contact them again. Members inquired as to whether or not the method utilized to track credits for pesticide applicators might be an option. They were informed that the system used by pesticides is unique and specific to them. Members were reminded that previous discussions included the possibility of irrigation contractors tracking their own credits and then being randomly audited.

The Board reviewed and approved the results from the October 2013 examination; six passed, 20 failed.

The Board voted to enter into a closed session in order to discuss enforcement matters at 12:05 p.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 2:05 p.m.

The Board voted as follows:

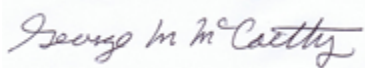
close case 613 based on an investigation

issue case 532 an Administrative Order and Notice of Civil Administrative Penalty Assessment in the amount of \$1000.00 for advertising without a certificate

refer case 598 to the Plumbing Board; it appears to be violating N.J.S.A.45:14C-2.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



George McCarthy, Chairman
Landscape Irrigation Contractors Board

December 11, 2013
LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS
EXAMINING BOARD

The Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board held their meeting at the NJ Turf Grass Expo, Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ. George McCarthy called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

MEMBER

AFFILIATION

Robert Dobson	Middletown Sprinkler
George McCarthy	Spring Irrigation Co Inc.
William Frederick Rapp	Atlantic Irrigation Specialties
Ken Scherer	Hillsborough Irrigation
Gaetano Virone	Environmental Designers Irrigation

Michael Schuit, DAG was also in attendance.

George McCarthy 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 November 20, 2013 meeting were previously reviewed and approved by the board.

Art Elmers from Netafim asked when the public comment period is over, Michal Schuit responded with the details.

John Raffiani asked what penalties are being issued to multiple offenders. George McCarthy responded that if a person is found in violation once, its handled as a 1st time violation, if the same person is found in violation for multiple offenses, than the penalty is stepped up.

John Raffiani commented that websites are not being taken down. Michal Schuit replied that 75% of the violators that have been notified have taken them down, and that is considered exceptional. George McCarthy added that all known website violators are sent notices requesting them to take down their websites.

John Raffiani asked what the most severe penalty possible is? Robert Dobson replied the worst penalty in recent history is approx. \$1000, however, Robert Dobson says he has seen fines assessed for much higher than this in the history of the board's existence.

Eric from Central Jersey Irrigation asked if he could volunteer to be an inspector. George McCarthy replied that he could not officially volunteer as an inspector, but taking action and sending in notices is in effect a form of being a volunteer inspector.

Gaetano Virone commented that the board does not receive too many videos or photo's as proof of violations.

George McCarthy added the NJIA form is only the minimum required info needed for the board to take action.

Wade Slover, from NJIA Board commented that the NJIA is taking note, and that additional info can be added to the current form.

Eric from Central Jersey Irrigation asked if anything can be done to track and report violators by vehicle license plates? George McCarthy replied No.

Phil Hays, Evergreen Lawn Sprinkler, asked if the board had a way to cross reference licensed individuals by Company or Employer?

George McCarthy responded that the future business permit will do that because each business permit holder has to list their license holder by name.

Robert Dobson added that additional strengths of the pending Act have not yet been able to be utilized because the new rules and regs. are not officially adopted as of yet.

Phil Hays then asked if the business permit is going to be renewed every year. George McCarthy replied, No, it will be renewed every 2 years.

George McCarthy mentioned that the 2010 law required CEC's, However, logistics for them are part of the new rules and regs. As a result, anyone renewing in Jan 2014 will not have to submit CEC's. Robert Dobson then added if CEC's have been previously submitted that they are still on file, and will count towards future renewals.

George McCarthy mentioned that the new rules are close to acceptance, and what's left are just formalities and they will be accepted soon. Robert Dobson added that these are the most scrutinized rules and regs to date in the history of the Board. Michael Schuit mentioned that the October 21, 2013 proposed rules comment period is still in effect and that everyone should please review and comment.

Phil Hays asked for the website, Michael Schuit offered the web address for the LICEB site.

Robert Dobson added that part of the process is that the board will have to review and approve any comments that come in during the comment period.

Art Elmers asked if the look back period on CEC's for individuals having more than required will be carried over? George McCarthy responded that some of these can be carried over.

John Eiger from Northern Rain Irrigation asked who keeps track of the CEC's?

George McCarthy replied that it is the applicants responsibility to keep track, not the board's, however, they must be submitted to the board as proof, so keep your certificates organized in a file.

Eric from Central Jersey Irrigation asked How many violations were issued in 2013? George McCarthy responded that the bulk of the 2013 complaints were advertising, and that the board only reviewed a couple of actual practice cases.

John Raffiani asked how long a period does it take for the board to review and act on between 1st and 2nd violations for repeat offenders? Gaetano Virone responded that recently the board has taken longer than normal because so much time was dedicated to reviewing and updating the rules and regs, and it will definitely be quicker going forward once the new rules are adopted. George McCarthy added that based on the board's meeting schedule the quickest it would be is 60 days, and could take up to 6 months.

John Raffiani asked if anyone new if violators were charging sales tax? He wonders if there was a way to track that as proof. George McCarthy replied that the board has no way of tracking that.

Joe from Quench Irrigation mentioned that he had a Landscaper using a link to his website address without his permission. George McCarthy followed that if someone gets turned in, the board investigates the situation, and sometimes it's just a reference to irrigation, not actually advertising irrigation services, and that would not be a violation.

Gary Amos, John Deere Landscapes, brought up that he knows lots of Landscapers who cannot get their licenses because they own their own businesses and have no way to get the required 3 year internship experience. George McCarthy replied that any Landscaper can hire a licensed person as an employee, and comply, and they could intern under that person for 3 years. Robert Dobson responded saying that doing otherwise means they are in violation and ignoring the law.

Sam Bello – Bello Irrigation stated that he thought at one point in the past it had to be the business owner who held the license. George McCarthy replied that one does not have to be the owner and that a licensed employee would count.

George Ley, or George E Ley Irrigation, Pennsylvania, commented that he works in many states, and that in Rhode Island

they have a license law, but someone from out of state can apply to be an apprentice for one year, and then when that period is up, they can take the test, so there is a way for a company to get licensed without having an employee on staff. Robert Dobson added that he thought Rhode Island's license was administered through the Plumbers. George Ley responded yes, it is a plumbing license, but it's not so restrictive.

George McCarthy mentioned that out of 26 recent NJ applicants who sat for the exam, that only 6 actually passed.

Eric at Central Jersey Irrigation mentioned a situation he was familiar with where a curb contractor ripped out existing irrigation in the process of installing new curbing. The curb contractor was retained by the owner to repair the irrigation. George McCarthy commented that the contractor would need a license to make these kinds of repairs.

Gary Amos mentioned that many Town inspectors are not aware of the license requirement, and how can the Board get more exposure on this with Towns? George McCarthy responded that it's better for the Board to deal with DCA and have them promote the requirements.

Sam Bello, Bello Irrigation suggested the Board make a motion to have letters sent to DCA and every municipality in the State.

Gary Amos asked if LICEB can work towards standardizing municipal permit process. George McCarthy responded that the board has no power to do that.

Gary Stafford asked how plumbers can be licensed to do irrigation if they don't know a thing about irrigation and are never tested. George McCarthy explained that any plumber can install irrigation with a valid plumber's license. Gary Stafford replied that permits are being taken out for backflow devices and rain sensors, but there is no permits required for irrigation itself. Robert Dobson mentioned that years ago there was some discussion with DEP about removing the plumber's exemption, and he thought that may still be a bargaining point that could be investigated.

Gary Stafford asked if there is a procedure to investigate violators. George McCarthy responded that the Board doesn't investigate anyone until there is a formal complaint filed, and that the Board's investigators are only dispatched if further information is needed to confirm a case.

Joe from Quench Irrigation asked how does the irrigation industry fight plumbers? There are 600 irrigation contractors in NJ and over 10,000 plumbers.

Eric from Central Jersey Irrigation mentioned that plumbers are not exempt from low voltage electric permits (like irrigation contractors) if a Town requires an electric permit for that. If that happens, a plumber cannot install irrigation. George McCarthy replied that is correct.

Robert Dobson asked the audience how many of them were listed on "Angie's List"? Members of the audience replied that Angie's list does not check for licenses, and the general consensus was that it discredits the service.

George McCarthy stated that the 2015 CEC Requirement will be in effect by January 2015.

Eric from Central Jersey said the Board really needs the ability to track violators by license plates. He felt that would be a much more effective way of catching violators. Robert Dobson stated that the Board is not a police force, and that we have no authority to enforce like other entities in DEP, like Pesticide's. Robert Dobson also added that LICEB is "of" the DEP, but not "in" the DEP.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ken Scherer and seconded by Fred Rapp @ 4:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



George McCarthy, Chairman
Landscape Irrigation Contractors Board