

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

9643 Brookline Ave., Ste. 101, Baton Rouge, LA 70809



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 1:00 P.M.

Physical meeting at

Louisiana Engineering Center

9643 Brookline Avenue

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

and

Virtual Public Meeting Hosted on Zoom

MINUTES

Chair William Schramm called the meeting to order at 1:19 p.m., Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and commenced roll call.

Present: William Schramm, Todd Perry, Melanie Stiegler, David Culpepper, Michael Simms, and David Williamson, Board Members; Mabelle Hall, Legal Counsel; Brenda Macon, Executive Secretary; Maria Mata de Leder, Administrative Coordinator; and Saija Meaux, Project Coordinator.

Present on Zoom (unofficial attendance): William Finley

Absent: Lloyd Hoover and Elizabeth McDade, Board Members.

Guests: Joseph Brinton, Agapito Associates, Inc.; Riley Milner, Louisiana Geological Survey (retired)

Quorum was established.

Public Comment Period

No comments from guests were recorded.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the September 13, 2022, regular board meeting were reviewed. Schramm called for discussion; none was forthcoming. Williamson moved to accept the minutes; Stiegler seconded the motion. Schramm called for a vote, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Finley presented the treasurer's report for September and October 2022 and called attention to two charts he had distributed. He pointed out that extraordinary expenses in the first

quarter of the fiscal year skew the budget but moderate over time. He said this is an historical trend. Perry commented that the board may need to consider increasing fees by \$20 per year to offset the downturn in revenue and increase in expenses that have been noted. Discussion ensued. Perry moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; Williamson seconded the motion. Schramm called for discussion; none was forthcoming. He then called for a vote; the motion passed.

Standing Committees

Application Review Committee: Stiegler said three applications had been reviewed, and two (2 and 3) were recommended for approval. She said one applicant had taken only the ASBOG Practice of Geology exam but had requested a waiver for the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam. That applicant was present and asked the board to consider his request for a waiver. Stiegler pointed out that the decision to recommend the waiver needed to be made by both the Application Review Committee and the License Examination Committee and that the two committees had not had time to discuss the waiver. Discussion ensued, with the board agreeing to adjourn briefly to allow the committees to review the waiver and make a recommendation. When the board reconvened, Stiegler announced that the committees recommended approval of the waiver and granting the license. Perry moved to approve the waiver; Stiegler seconded. Stiegler then moved to approve the recommended applicants (1, 2, and 3) for license; Williamson seconded the motion. Schramm called for discussion; with none forthcoming, he called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

Stiegler then told the board that three applicants had applied to take the ASBOG exam in March 2023. She said all three were recommended for approval. Perry moved to approve the testing candidates; Culpepper seconded. Schramm called for discussion. None was forthcoming. He then called for a vote. The motion passed.

License Examination Committee: Williamson reported that 27 examinations were administered on October 7, 2022: 15 FG; 12 PG. He reported that test scores had not yet been received. He reminded the board that the exams given in March 2023 will be computer based and administered by Prometrics, the company under contract with ASBOG to manage the new format. Williamson mentioned that Macon had compiled a list of candidates who had been approved by the board to take the exams over the last six years who have either not yet passed the exams or who have not yet taken the exams. Macon reported that, per the board's decision to allow those who had been approved to stay on the active list until they passed the exams, those approved candidates have all been added to the Prometrics database to receive notifications of the exam registration periods.

Compliance Committee: Perry asked Mata de Leder to present information on the 2022 continuing education audit; she reported that 24 licenses were audited, representing 2% of the total active licensee base. Of those 24, 14 passed the audit, two retired, and two voluntarily relinquished their licenses. Six were still pending, as they had not submitted information on their continuing education activities for the audit period. All six were sent certified letters to notify them that their licenses would be in inactive status until the board received their information. One of the six responded with a log sheet and documentation but did not pass the audit. Discussion ensued.

Schramm mentioned that those licensees who do not respond to the audit should be added to a disciplinary database. He said the board does not yet have one, but ASBOG does. He said someone representing the board should have access to the ASBOG database so that those people can be added.

Mata de Leder then reported on the 2023 audit. She said 24 randomly selected licenses will be audited. Additionally, five licensees whose documentation required three or more reviews before they passed were included. She reported that the majority of those selected were from Texas and Louisiana, with six each, while two were from Alabama and two were from California; the rest were from eight other states (one each).

Finley asked how many of the auditees who passed the 2022 audit were from Louisiana and how many were from other states; Mata de Leder responded that she had not researched that number. Discussion ensued.

Outreach Committee: Finley introduced Riley Milner, who has volunteered to assist the board with outreach. Finley reminded the board that college enrollment is down across the board. He said the downturn affects the profession as a whole and, as this board has seen, will have broad impacts on licensing. He said, in his talks with university officials, he has been told that the university will be aggressively recruiting. This recruiting program includes sending faculty to high schools to talk with students about the various professional curricula. Finley said he hopes to participate in this program.

He then mentioned that he and Macon had presented information on the GIT program and licensing at the October meeting of the Lafayette Geological Society. He said several younger members of the audience had questions. He asked Macon if any had followed up by contacting her. Macon reported that the meeting had a direct impact, with at least one person who was approved at this board meeting to take the ASBOG exams in March 2023 in attendance at the Lafayette meeting.

Strategic Five-year Plan & Rules Review Ad Hoc: Simms reported that the committee had not met and had no update. Discussion regarding issues confronting the committee ensued.

Office Committee: Macon reported on administrative news.

Other Business

Todd Perry announced his resignation from the board effective with the current meeting, and the board formally accepted the resignation. Perry served as a board member for more than ten years (since January 2012), served as vice-chair for more than five years (since January 2017), and is the longest serving board member to date. He was presented with a plaque expressing appreciation for his exceptional contributions and service to the profession and to the board. He thanked the board and complimented the members and the staff on their work.

Schramm then called for nominations for a new vice chair to be added to the currently uncontested slate of officers nominated for the 2022-2023 year. Simms was the sole nominee and accepted the nomination. The slate of officers elected to the board for 2022-2023 are: Schramm, chair; Simms, vice chair; Stiegler, secretary; and Finley, treasurer. Committee

assignments were also made; a chart of these assignments is attached as part of this official record.

Announcement of the Next Meeting and Adjournment

The date of the next regular meeting of the board was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 1:00 pm. Williamson moved to adjourn; Culpepper seconded; the motion passed. Schramm adjourned the meeting at ? pm.