

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING  
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD  
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1433  
July 29, 2024

At 9:04 a.m. on July 29, 2024, Connie P. Betts, P.E. called the meeting to order at the Board's office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the following members present:

Connie P. Betts, P.E.	Chairman
Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.	Vice Chairman
Linda H. Bergeron, P.E.	Treasurer
Byron D. Racca, P.E.	Secretary

James H. Chustz, Jr., P.L.S.  
Janice P. Williams, P.E.  
Gordon E. Nelson, P.E.  
Susan H. Richard, P.E.  
Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.  
Wilfred J. Fontenot, P.L.S.  
Vijaya Gopu, Ph.D., P.E. (*via Zoom video teleconference*)

Also present: Donna D. Sentell, Executive Director  
Cheron Seaman, Deputy Executive Director  
Joe Harman, P.E., Technical Advisor  
David Patterson, P.L.S., Technical Advisor  
D. Scott Landry, Board Attorney  
Bill Tripoli, IT Director  
Janet Lindsey, Application Manager  
Chris Aaron, Staff  
Rhett Rayburn, Staff  
Carlos Morgan, Staff

Mark L. Morgan, P.E.

The invocation was led by Mr. Jeter and the pledge was led by Ms. Bergeron.

Public comment time was recognized by Chairman Betts. Mr. Morgan made some comments and exited the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to accept the July 29, 2024 proposed Call and Agenda for the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr. Chustz, to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2024 Board meeting.

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

**Case # 2023-39** – Mr. Aaron reported on an unlicensed firm (that subsequently became licensed as a professional engineering firm) which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering without proper licensure. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$3,000
2. Costs of \$231.93
3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
4. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Total Engineers LLC**.

**Case # 2023-40** – Mr. Aaron reported on a professional engineer who aided or assisted another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$500
2. Costs of \$231.93
3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
6. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
7. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Krunal M. Patel, P.E.**

**Case # 2024-17** – Ms. Georgetown reported on a professional engineering firm which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering with an expired license. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

5. Fine of \$500
6. Costs of \$566.60
7. Past unpaid renewal fees of \$120
8. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz by each supervising professional
9. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz by each supervising professional
10. Publication on the Board's website and in the Board's official Journal identifying Respondent by name.
11. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Dr. Gopu, Mr. Chustz, and Mrs. Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Rayner Consulting Group, L.L.C.**

**Case # 2024-18** – Ms. Georgetown reported on a professional engineer who aided or assisted another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

8. Fine of \$500
9. Costs of \$566.60
10. Completion of the Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher
11. Completion of the Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher
12. Publication on the Board's website and in the Board's official Journal identifying Respondent by name.
13. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Dr. Gopu, Mr. Chustz, and Mrs. Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Benjamin A. Rayner, P.E.**

**Case # 2024-24**– Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineer who failed to disclose disciplinary actions in another jurisdiction on an application for a license renewal. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$1000;
2. Costs of \$1,328.32;
3. Successful completion of Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher;
4. Successful completion of Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz with a score of 90% or higher;
5. Publication of consent order on the Board's website and summary of consent order in the Journal identifying by name; and
6. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name.

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Mr. Chustz, Ms. Williams, and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Gerald T. Wynne, P.E.**

## **Committee Reports**

### **Laws and Rules Committee**

The Board reviewed several Acts of interest from the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

The Board recessed at 10:22 a.m. and resumed at 10:40 a.m.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to change the effective date for the proposed fee increases from January 1, 2025 to July 1, 2025.

At 11:27 a.m. Mr. Rayburn and Mr. Aaron exited the meeting and staff members Chantel McCreary, Brittany Nuccio and Kelly McAdams entered the meeting.

### **Application Reviews**

The Board reviewed the application of Mr. George **Tatsis** for licensure as a professional engineer by comity. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Racca, to accept the recommendation of the reviewing committee, comprised of Mr. Jeter and Dr. Gopu, to notify the applicant that he is deficient in progressive engineering experience by 17 months.

The Board reviewed the application of Mr. Paul **Lynes** for licensure as a professional engineer by comity. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Racca, to deny the application based on not satisfying the educational requirements of the Board.

### **Finance Committee**

Ms. Bergeron presented the financial report for FY 23-24. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to accept the end of year budget for FY 23-24.

Ms. Bergeron presented the recommendations from the Building Committee to approve \$41,940 for office furniture and \$6,255 for moving expenses. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to amend the FY 24-25 budget to add these items.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:06 p.m. and resumed at 12:48 p.m.

### **Old Business/New Business**

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. Bergeron, to schedule the next Board meeting for Monday, September 23, 2024.

1 Chairman Betts discussed the dates for the annual JESC meeting in Lafayette  
2 which has been scheduled for February 5-6, 2025. After discussion, the Board  
3 unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to  
4 schedule the first Board meeting of 2025 for Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

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6 **Closing Business**  
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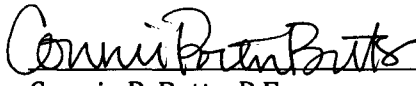
8 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Chustz, seconded by  
9 Ms. Williams, to approve all committee recommendations and actions.

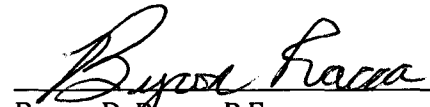
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11 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by  
12 Ms. Bergeron, to acknowledge and confirm all licenses and certificates issued and  
13 renewed since the last Board meeting.

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15 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by Mr.  
16 Nelson, to approve all Board expenses.

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18 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Chustz, seconded by  
19 Ms. Williams, to adjourn.

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21 The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m. on July 29, 2024.  
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27 Connie P. Betts, P.E.  
28 Chairman  
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Byron D. Racca, P.E.  
Secretary