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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD
8550 UNITED PLAZA BOULEVARD, SUITE 903
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1433
February 2, 2026

At 9:00 a.m. on February 2, 2026, Linda H. Bergeron P.E. called the meeting to order at the Board's office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the following members present:

Linda H. Bergeron, P.E.	Chairman
Byron D. Racca, P.E.	Vice Chairman
Janice P. Williams, P.E.	Treasurer
James H. Chustz, Jr., P.L.S.	Secretary
Vijaya Gopu, Ph.D., P.E.	
Gordon E. Nelson, P.E.	
Susan H. Richard, P.E.	
Byron E. Trust, P.E.	
Robert L. Wolfe, P.E., P.L.S.	
Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.	
Connie P. Betts, P.E.	

Also present

Donna D. Sentell, Executive Director
Chantel McCreary, Deputy Executive Director
Bill Tripoli, IT Director
Carlos Morgan, Staff
Morgan Georgetown, Staff
Rhett Rayburn, Staff
Keri Caines, Staff
Joe Harman, P.E., Technical Advisor
David Patterson, P.L.S., Technical Advisor
D. Scott Landry, Board Attorney

Mr. Jeter led the invocation, and the pledge was led by Ms. Betts.

Chairman Bergeron acknowledged public comment time.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Trust, seconded by Mr. Racca, to approve the February 2, 2026 proposed Call and Agenda for the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Richard, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2025 Board meeting.

Committee Reports

Laws and Rules Committee

The Board reviewed the requirements of La. R.S. 49:964(D) with respect to annually reviewing Board rules and submitting reports to the legislative oversight committees. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Richard, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, to approve the Laws and Rules Committee's review and proposed action regarding Rules 901 through 1525.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Laws and Rules Committee, to have Mr. Landry draft the proposed rule revisions to Rules 1103(B), 1301(E), 1311 and bring to a future meeting for review.

The Board reviewed possible revisions to rule 1505(B). After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Trust, to have Mr. Landry draft the proposed revisions and return to the Laws and Rules committee to review.

Chairman Bergeron remanded to the CPD Committee to review LAPELS rule 3103 (A) Acceptable Activity concerning the requirements of the following subject matters:

1 technical in nature, business management practices and professional ethics. The
2 committee should make a recommendation whether a certain number of CPD hours
3 per year should be required in each category to ensure balanced professional
4 development while maintaining flexibility for licensees.
5

6 The Board recessed at 10:16 a.m. and resumed at 10:35 a.m. Mr. Racca, Mr.
7 Morgan and Ms. Caines were not present, and Ms. Shanna Hubble was present.
8
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10 **Applications**

11 **Application Reviews**

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13 The Board reviewed the application Steven **Bouchareune** for licensure as a
14 professional engineer by comity. After discussion, the Board approved the motion
15 made by Mr. Trust, seconded by Dr. Gopu, with Mr. Racca, Ms. Williams, Mr.
16 Chustz, Dr. Gopu, Mr. Nelson, Ms. Richard, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Betts and Mr. Jeter in
17 favor, and Mr. Trust opposed, to approve Mr. Bouchareune for licensure as a
18 professional engineer by comity.
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21 **Land Survey Committee**

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23 Mr. Chustz presented the report from the Land Survey Committee. After
24 discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Land Survey
25 Committee to approve the updated *Compendium of Louisiana and Federal Laws*
26 *Related to Land Surveying* for 2026.
27

28 At 11:05 a.m. Ms. Hubble and Mr. Landry exited the meeting.
29

30 **Committee Reports (continued)**

31 **Finance Committee**

32
33 Ms. Williams presented the Finance Committee report. After discussion, the Board
34 unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Trust,
35 to amend account 5238 and add \$3,000 for promotional items.
36
37

38 Ms. Williams presented the financial report for FY 25-26. After discussion, the
39 Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to
40 accept the year-to-date budget for FY 25-26 and the proposed budget for FY 26-27
41 as presented.
42

43 The Board discussed the pending retirement of Cheron Seaman, Deputy Executive
44 Director. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by
45 the Finance Committee to authorize the newly appointed Deputy Executive
46 Director, Chantel McCreary, as an authorized signatory on all Louisiana
47 Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board financial accounts. This
48 authorization shall include, but not be limited to all checking, savings, money
49 market, and certificate of deposit accounts held at the Board's banking institutions
50 in the Baton Rouge area. This authorization shall be effective today, February 2,
51 2026, upon board approval. The Executive Director is further authorized to
52 execute any documentation required by the financial institutions to implement
53 this action.
54

55 **Nominations and Awards Committee**

56
57 Mr. Racca presented the report for the Nominations and Awards Committee. The
58 Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Nominations and Awards
59 Committee to elect the following Board officers for 2025-2026:
60

61 Janice P. Williams, P.E. – Chairman/Vice Chairman
62 James H. Chustz, Jr., P.L.S. – Chairman/Vice Chairman
63 Gordon E. Nelson, P.E. – Secretary
64 Vijaya Gopu, Ph.D., P.E. – Treasurer
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The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Chustz, to schedule the 2026 Board meeting dates as follows:

- Monday, June 1, 2026
- Monday, July 20, 2026
- Monday, September 14, 20206
- Monday, November 9, 2026

Old Business/New Business

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by Mr. Chustz to approve Board and staff members to attend the LSPS Convention in Lake Charles, Louisiana on April 15-17, 2026.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Trust, seconded by Ms. Williams to designate Mr. Trust, Dr. Gopu and Mr. Jeter as the NCEES funded delegates to attend the NCEES Southern Zone meeting in Carolina, Puerto Rico, on April 23-25, 2026.

Closing Business


The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to approve all committee recommendations and actions.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Trust, seconded by Mr. Chustz, to acknowledge and confirm all licenses and certificates issued and renewed since the last Board meeting.


The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve all Board expenses.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m. on February 2, 2026.



Linda H. Bergeron, P.E.
Chairman



James H. Chustz, Jr., P.L.S.
Secretary