

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

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



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 1:00 P.M.

Physical meeting at

Engineering Center Conference Room

9643 Brookline Avenue

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

and

Virtual Public Meeting Hosted on Zoom

MINUTES

Chair William Schramm called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m., Thursday, May 9, 2024, and commenced roll call.

Present: William Schramm, Melanie Stiegler, Kaycee Garrett, Elizabeth McDade, and Michael Simms, Board Members; Machel Hall, Legal Counsel; Sadé Dennis, Project Coordinator; and Brenda Macon, Executive Secretary.

Absent: David Culpepper (though attending unofficially on Zoom), William Finley, Lloyd Hoover, and David Williamson (though attending unofficially by phone), Board Members; Chantel McCreary, Assistant Executive Secretary; and Seija Meaux, Project Coordinator.

Guests: Kent Bowker, Carbon Cycle (Dallas); Danielle Callahan, Approach Environmental (The Woodlands, TX); Jacob Danielson, LDEQ (Baton Rouge); and Matthew Kratochvil, Fugro Marine (Lafayette).

Quorum was established.

Public Comment Period

Guests introduced themselves; no other comments were forthcoming.

Statement of the Board's Mission and Purpose

Schramm read from R.S. 37:711.12 (C), part of the statute that created the board, to remind those present of the board's mission.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the March 21, 2024, regular board meeting were reviewed, and Schramm called for discussion. McDade moved to accept the minutes, and Simms seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

In Finley's absence, Macon said that Finley's report pages were in the board members' packets. She said the board was in the red during the period April into May but was following the same trend as in previous years. She mentioned that the budget versus actual shows the budgeted revenue is on track, but expenses were above the anticipated budget. She cited factors outside of board control, including inflation, for this increase in spending.

She then presented a draft budget for the new fiscal year, 2024-2025. She pointed out that, if the pending legislation allowing an increase in fees eventually passes, the board should be able to meet its financial obligations. She highlighted specific details in the budget and asked board members to take the draft home and review it, anticipating discussion and a vote at the July meeting.

Schramm asked how much more income is anticipated from the fee increases; Macon said the estimated additional income would be \$44,500. Discussion ensued.

McDade moved to accept the report; Stiegler seconded the motion. Schramm called for a vote; the motion carried.

Report and Discussion of Pending Legislation (House Bill 620)

Macon and Schramm reported on the progress of the proposed legislation to increase fees charged by the board. Discussion and questions ensued.

Standing Committees

Application Review Committee: Stiegler reported that the committee reviewed applications for six licenses, one GIT certification, and three testing (ASBOG) requests. She said the committee recommended for approval 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 for license; 1 for GIT certification; and 1, 2, and 3 for examination. Stiegler moved to accept these recommendations; McDade seconded the motion. Schramm repeated the motion, called for discussion, and, when no discussion was forthcoming, called for a vote; the motion passed.

License Examination Committee: In Williamson's absence, Schramm announced that, in August, he and Williamson would be offering a free Zoom tutorial on preparing for the upcoming ASBOG exams. Macon reported on the pass/fail rate on the latest ASBOG exams: Six people took the PG exam, and two passed; three people took the FG exam, and one passed. She said the fail rate, therefore, was 67% overall. Discussion ensued, with Schramm reporting that the difficulty of the March exams was discussed at the recent ASBOG COE workshop. He also mentioned that ASBOG offers some in-depth prep courses. Stiegler asked how many of the recent testing candidates had taken the exams previously; Macon offered to find that information and report later. Guest Jacob Danielson asked questions about taking the exams and the process for becoming licensed; board members and staff responded:

Question: If I pass both the ASBOG exams but don't yet have five years of experience, will I get a license?

Answer: No. You can take both exams before you have five years of experience, but you must complete the five years before you can apply for a full license.

Question: If I pass both exams, then, and wait until I have five years of experience, what do I need to do next?

Answer: Apply for the license. You will already have the ASBOG test scores, and that is a large part of the criteria to become licensed.

Compliance Committee: Schramm presented the latest information on the 2024 audit and shared the latest decisions by the reviewers. He reported that, of the 28 auditees on the list, eleven audits had been approved, 14 had not yet responded, and three are under review. He said the next audit (2024) will be announced in late October/early November 2024.

Outreach Committee: Macon reported that Williamson has been involved in several outreach activities since the last meeting. He has been working with a faculty member at Centenary on a course project for undergraduate geology students. He has also presented several guest lectures in the faculty member's classes. Williamson is also slated to participate at an upcoming LSU Center for Energy Studies short course in July 2024. Macon asked board members to let her know about their activities in their communities and organizations so the board's work in outreach can be documented.

Schramm reported that David Culpepper has expressed in becoming chair of the Outreach Committee, and Schramm has granted that request. He then asked Culpepper, who was attending the meeting virtually, to provide board members with his plan for moving the committee forward. Culpepper said he feels the board needs to develop specific objectives in the five-year strategic plan and use those objectives to drive the board's outreach. Discussion ensued, with suggestions for ways the outreach committee, working in tandem with the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning, can move forward.

Schramm mentioned that someone had asked about having an officially designated "Geologists Day." Board members discussed the idea, with several members pointing out that such a day does exist. They all agreed that advertising this day would be one way to reach a wider audience and bring awareness to what geologists do.

Strategic Five-year Plan & Rules Review Ad Hoc: McDade reported that she is continuing the work of developing a strategic plan for the board. She is communicating with committee members to set up a meeting to decide on direction. Macon commented that, in response to Hall's suggestion to look at the strategic plans and mission statements from other boards, she had researched these documents and had forwarded several to McDade for the committee to use in preparing LBOPG's strategic plan. Discussion ensued.

Office Committee: Macon reported that the website developer has met with board members and staff to train them in using the recently completed compliance review functionality. She said the meeting was recorded and offered to send the recording to those who missed the meeting.

Macon then pointed out to board members that each of those present could find a partially completed DA2054 Form in the individual's folder. She reminded them that the state requires all employees who travel on state business, **and are reimbursed for that travel**, to have driver authorization forms on file with their home agencies. Discussion ensued.

Legal Counsel's Comments

Hall had no additional comments but did alert the board to a potential public records issue at the state level. She said that, with delegation of the carbon sequestration program, there are quite a few public records requests of application documents, including information previously stamped confidential under federal rules. It's not clear right now whether/how some of these documents will be treated under federal law or state law. This may affect the work of geologists working on these projects. Several board members stated that they had already encountered this issue.

Announcement of the Next Meeting and Adjournment

Schramm read the mission statement of the board into the record and reminded board members to make progress toward goals. The date of the next regular meeting of the board was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 1:00 pm in the Engineering Center conference room at 9643 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA. Stiegler moved to adjourn; Garrett seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.