



Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

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MINUTES

Board Meeting
April 16, 2020

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was held on Thursday, April 16, 2020 at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama. During the COVID 19 State of Emergency, the meeting was conducted virtually and Board members in attendance via video-conferencing were Mr. Steve Castleman (Board Chairman), Mr. John Milledge (Vice Chair), Mr. Billy Cooch (member), Mr. Troy Perry, Jr. (member), Dr. David Allison (member) and Mr. Richard Katz (member). Board member not in attendance was Mr. Roger Chapman. Also in attendance, participating on the call, were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Secretary), Ms. Bettie Carmack (Board Legal Counsel), Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary). Mr. Warren called Board roll and indicated that a quorum was present on the call to conduct business. Mr. Castleman, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

The regularly scheduled meeting was advertised to the public on the Board's website, (www.algeobd.alabama.gov), as well as the Secretary of State's website, (www.sos.alabama.gov), in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Chairman Castleman presented for the Board's approval the Board meeting minutes from the January 16, 2020 meeting. A copy of the minutes was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review. Mr. Katz made a motion to approve the January minutes with corrections on page 2, the spelling of *encouraged*, and Senator *Waggoner's* name. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooch and, following a roll call vote of the members, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren presented the Executive Secretary's Report to the Board. He reported on the financial activities of the Board, as of March 31, 2020, which included a line item report of expenditures for this period.

FY 2020 Financial Information:

1. Revenue	\$18,925.00
2. Expenditure Vouchers	\$37,065.89
3. Cash Balance	\$11,730.73

Mr. Warren also reported on the number of licensees for this same period.

1. Professional Geologists (PGs):	552
(comprised of 219 Alabama licensees and 333 out-of-state licensees)	
2. Licenses not renewed (October 2019 through March 2020)	13
3. Geologist-In-Training (GITs)	12

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|--------------------------------|----|
| 4. Retired | 17 |
| 5. Temporary License (current) | 1 |

Mr. Warren presented the Administrator's Report listing activities performed by the staff since the last Board meeting. (copy of the Executive Secretary's report and Administrator's report are available for viewing in the Board's official Book of Minutes). He reported that the office had not closed during the COVID 19 State of Emergency and the Board's staff had continued to work, assisting the public by phone and email, etc., but the office had been closed to the public as a safer measure due to the epidemic.

Mr. Warren reported that the March ASBOG exam had been postponed and all exam fees would be carried over to the next exam date in October.

Mr. Warren provided a financial summary from FY 2016 through FY 2019 and to-date in FY 2020 as requested by the Board at their last meeting. The Board discussed the decline in revenue from one two-year renewal periods to the next.

The Board discussed the matter of Coastal Permits. Ms. Cooch reported that he had meet with a representative of ADEM to discuss their regulations. He reported that ADEM indicated that they had no plans in the near future to modify the current regulations. The Board discussing writing a letter to ADEM notifying them of the Board's recommendations about licensed professional geologists. Mr. Warren indicated that he would draft a letter to ADEM, with the assistance of Mr. Cooch, and circulate the letter to the members for comments.

Mr. Cooch updated the Board on the Board-sponsored CE program planned in May and it was the consensus of the Board to postpone the program due to the current State of Emergency. Mr. Cooch indicated that he would check with the event facility about cancelling the date, etc. The Board discussed offering continuing education opportunities via video recorded presentations and exploring the idea with presenters, before surveying the licensees about interest in participation. The Board discussed safeguards to validate participation in awarding CE credits. The Board agreed that a satisfaction survey developed by the Board, for certification and assessment of the training, would be valuable, without placing additional burden on the presenter. Mr. Milledge made the motion that the CE committee contact presenters willing to record and provide CE opportunities for licensees and the Board develop an end-of-training assessment tool, to include a licensee certification statement, for the purpose of documenting CE credit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perry and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Dr. Allison indicated that he would inquire with his resources about web-hosting services of these training videos.

Mr. Warren presented for the Board's approval a proposed rule concerning licensure of spouses of active duty military personnel. Following a brief discussion of the proposed rule, the Board agreed to modify the rule from 180-day temporary licensure period to 90 days. Mr. Perry made a motion to approve the proposed rule concerning application for spouses of active duty military personnel to include the change of a 90-day temporary licensure period. The

motion was seconded by Dr. Allison and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren inquired to the members about the procedure to review and approve applications while under the COVID 19 State of Emergency. It was the unanimous opinion of the Board that the Executive Secretary review and approve applications and the Executive Secretary's action would be ratified by the Board.

The Board also discussed a request about relaxing the CE requirements for licensure. The Board agreed to defer modifying current Board requirements until the option of providing training video presentations was investigated by the CE committee. Upon further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that licenses could not be renewed without the required CE hours.

Dr. Allison reported that one nomination had been received for the Thornton L. Neathery award for outstanding student. He presented information on candidate, Mason Woodward, from the Department of Geosciences at Auburn University. Following a review of his application, Mr. Milledge made the motion to approve Mr. Mason Woodward, as the recipient of the 2020 award. The motion was seconded by Mr. Katz and following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Warren reported that four (4) PG applications for licensing had been received and reviewed by the Board Administrator. Mr. Warren reported that the applicants met the qualification for licensure and recommended the Board's approval. Dr. Allison made the motion to approve the four applicants for licensure as recommended by the Executive Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perry and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the chairman and other members of the Board (a list of the approved applications is available for viewing in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

The Board continued discussions about the financial summary presented by Mr. Warren. Several options were discussed by the Board to reduce expenditures and raise revenue, e.g., Board travel expenses, Board-sponsored online CE training vs. annual onsite CE program held in the past, raising licensing fees, Board compensation, virtual meetings, etc.

Mr. Katz made the motion to suspend compensation to Board members for an undetermined time and until reinstated by Board approval. The motion was seconded by Dr. Allison and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the chairman and other members of the Board.

Dr. Allison made the motion to suspend per diem travel reimbursement to Board members for an undetermined time and until reinstated by Board approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooch and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the chairman and other members of the Board.

Dr. Allison made the motion to maintain the CE requirements for licensure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perry and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the chairman and other members of the Board. The Board agreed to continue to list CE opportunities on the Board's website.

The Board advised the Executive Secretary that the expenses be kept to a minimum, with printing done in-house under the Administrative Services contract, etc.

Chairman Castleman announced that the Board's next meeting was scheduled for July 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. More details about the meeting location in accordance with existing State of Emergency guidelines would be provided to the Board and posted on the Board's and the Secretary of State's websites.


There being no further business of the Board, Dr. Allison made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perry and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Castleman adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephen P. Castleman

Board Chair



Keith E. Warren
Executive Secretary

/rr

Board Approved Applications for License on April 16, 2020

Approved Licenses:

Kristina McCoy—Licensure via Florida
Benjamin R. Black—Licensure via Georgia
Patrick Bryce—Licensure via Florida
Chelsea Curl—Licensure via Georgia