



## Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

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### MINUTES

Board Meeting

January 14, 2021

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 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. Troy Perry, Jr. (member), Mr. Richard Katz (member), Dr. David King (member), Dr. Scott Brande (new member), Mr. Russell Griebel (new member), and Ms. Leslie Noble. Member absent was Mr. Chris Bryant. Also in attendance, participating on the call was Ms. Bettie Carmack (Board Legal Counsel) and participating onsite were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Secretary) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary). Mr. Warren called Board roll and indicated that a quorum was present on the call to conduct business, noting that new members were present. In the absence of an elected official, Mr. Warren called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The regularly scheduled meeting was advertised to the public on the Board's website, ([www.algeobd.alabama.gov](http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov)), as well as the Secretary of State's website, ([www.sos.alabama.gov](http://www.sos.alabama.gov)), in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act. Due to the COVID 19 State of Emergency, this meeting was held virtually.

New Board members, Ms. Noble, Mr. Griebel and Dr. Brande were administered the oath of office by Mr. Warren. The new members were welcomed to the Board by the other members.

Mr. Warren reported that election of Board officers for the positions of Board Chair, Board Vice Chair and Board Secretary/Treasurer was due. Mr. Katz nominated Mr. Perry as Board Chair. There were no other nominations from the floor and Mr. Perry was unanimously approved by the members. Mr. Perry nominated Mr. Griebel as Board Vice Chair. There were no other nominations from the floor and the Board unanimously approved Mr. Griebel as Board Vice Chair. Mr. Perry nominated Dr. King as Board Secretary/Treasurer. There were no other nominations from the floor and the Board unanimously approved Dr. King as Board Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. King indicated that he was available to review the financials if submitted electronically.

Chairman Perry presented for the Board's approval the Board meeting minutes from October 15, 2020 regular meeting of the Board. 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 October minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Warren indicated that through this motion a roll call vote had been established.

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

FY 2021 Financial Information:

1. Revenue	\$9,775.00
2. Expenditure Vouchers	\$14,564.33
3. Cash Balance	\$3,222.38

Mr. Warren reminded the Board of the cost-saving measures previously approved by the Board and reduction in the Administrative Services contract, e.g., suspend travel, suspend compensation payments, etc. He also reported that the licensing fees had not ever been increased and every other year, the Board had a larger renewal period affecting the Board's finances. The Board discussed reviewing the 2-year trend and Mr. Warren reported that he would have more information available to review after the May renewal cycle.

Mr. Warren also reported on the number of licensees for this same period and indicated that renewals were continuing:

1. Professional Geologists (PGs):	549
(comprised of 216 Alabama licensees and 333 out-of-state licensees)	
2. Licenses not renewed (July 2020 thru Dec. 2020)	21
3. Geologist-In-Training (GITs)	13
4. Retired	17
5. Temporary License (current)	1

Dr. Brande made the motion to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

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).

Mr. Warren reported that the letter regarding Coastal Permits had been mailed to ADEM requesting they modify their rules to indicate work by a licensed PG and to allow licensed PG to perform service in the interim of ADEM regulations being promulgated affecting coastal inspections. Chairman Perry asked Ms. Noble to review the well-drillers statute for future Board discussion and consider further action on this matter. Chairman Perry tabled further discussion to allow time to review the matter.

Chairman Perry report on previous Board discussion about Board-sponsored CE programs. He indicated that a Board committee had worked for several years on sponsoring onsite programs. He reported that Dr. Allison, a former Board member, had coordinated with USA that agreed to sponsor a platform for virtual presentations (due to the pandemic) for CE credits and the Board had discussed posting on Board's website a "call for speakers" for the purpose of adding to the

library of CE presentations. Dr. King and Mr. Katz volunteered to serve on the CE committee. Chairperson Perry encouraged other members to participate and reported that former Board member, Bill Cooch, had offered to assist with information on progress and liaisons of the committee. Also discussed by the Board were the Geological Society Association's CE program, to include the April 2021 Geological Society meeting in Auburn. Mr. Warren reminded the members that CE opportunities are posted on the Board's website if they wish to submit any items to the Board's office. Ms. Noble made a motion that the CE committee be established and comprised of Dr. King, Mr. Katz and Dr. Brande (as ex-officio member). The motion was seconded by Mr. Griebel. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported that he had been getting requests about CE opportunities and extensions. He reported on considering an emergency rule due to the pandemic and explained the emergency rule process. The Board requested that Mr. Warren obtain more data, continue to post CE opportunities for licensees and submit a updated report at the next meeting regarding the number of requests.

Mr. Warren recommended that the Board consider at a future date, proposed legislative changes. He commented on the difficulty in filling a few of the Board position categories due to very limited number of licensees in these categories. Chairman Perry tabled discussion of this matter to a future date.

Chairman Perry reported that a call for nominations for the Neathery outstanding student award would be sent by administration to the three university programs. Dr. King and Dr. Brande agreed to serve on the Board's committee.

Mr. Warren presented the annual renewal of the Administrative Services Contract for the Board's approval. He reported that this was the Board's second renewal of a five-year cycle. He reminded the Board of the initial contract amount and recent reduction to \$2000 per month due to the pandemic. Mr. Katz made the motion to approve the renewal of the contract and continue at the \$2000 monthly rate. The motion was seconded by Dr. King. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections and one abstention by Mr. Griebel. Chairman Perry stated the motion was approved by the majority of the voting members.

Mr. Warren reported that eight (8) PG applications and one (1) GIT application for licensing had been received, with all applicants meeting the qualification for licensure. Mr. Warren reminded the members that the applications were being reviewed by administration for the purpose of establishing credentials. Dr. King made the motion to approve the applications as recommended (a list of the approved applications is available for viewing in the Board's official Book of Minutes). The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previously established roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board discussed reviewing, electronically, the applications and academic information during the State of Emergency. After a brief discussion, Mr. Griebel made the motion to continue with

administrative review of the applications until the State of Emergency – Safer at home, had lapsed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Katz. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairman Perry announced that the Board's next meeting was scheduled April 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Warren indicated that he would keep the Board apprised of continuing with virtual meetings.

There being no further business of the Board, Mr. Griebel made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Katz. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board and he adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Troy J. Perry, Jr.  
*Board Chair*

Keith E. Warren  
*Executive Secretary*

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