



Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

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MINUTES

Board Meeting
January 19, 2023

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was held on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama. The following members attended onsite: Mr. Troy Perry, Jr. (Board Chair), Dr. Scott Brande (Vice Chair), Mr. Richard Katz (member) and Mr. Chris Bryant (member). Board members attending virtually were Dr. David King (Secretary/Treasurer) and Mr. Russell Griebel (member). Board member absent was Ms. Leslie Noble (member). Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Secretary), Ms. Katherine Robertson (Assistant Attorney General) and Ms. Renee' Reames (Recording Secretary). Chairman Perry called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Mr. Warren called Board roll and indicated that a quorum was present to conduct business. Chairman Perry welcomed everyone in attendance.

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.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Chairman Perry presented for the Board's approval the Board meeting agenda for the January 19, 2023, regular meeting of the Board. A copy of the agenda was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Mr. Katz made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande and unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Perry presented for the Board's approval the Board minutes from October 27, 2022, regular meeting of the Board. A copy of the minutes was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Mr. Katz made a motion to approve the October minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande and unanimously approved by the Board.

Executive Secretary Report: Mr. Warren presented the Executive Secretary's Report to the Board. He reported on the financial activities in FY 2023 for the period ending December 31, 2022, which included a line-item report of expenditures for this same period.

Financial Information for fiscal year 2023:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Revenue | \$12,050.00 |
| 2. Expenditure Vouchers | \$11,756.51 |
| 3. Cash Balance | \$25,758.75 |

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

1. Professional Geologists (PGs):	537
(comprised of 232 Alabama licensees and 305 out-of-state licensees)	
2. Licenses not renewed (April 2022 thru December 2022)	31
3. Geologist-In-Training (GITs)	15
4. Retired	17
5. Temporary License (current)	1

The Board discussed licensure activities and Mr. Warren reported that out-of-state licenses averaged around 300 active licensees. Mr. Warren presented the Administrator's report on activities performed by staff and reminded the Board that beginning March 2023, the ASBOG exams would be administered electronically to the candidates, rather than in person in Montgomery.

MOTION: Mr. Katz made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously approved by the Board.

Rules Committee Report: Chairman Perry reported that the Rules Committee had met, and he presented recommendations from the Committee for the Board's approval (report available for review in official Book of Minutes).

Rule 364-X-1-.08 Order Of Business: The Committee recommended that the order of business be removed and replaced with "follow Robert's Rules of Order."

Rule 364-X-1-.10 Board Meetings: The Committee recommended that item (3) be modified to reflect "four (4) quarterly meetings to conduct business in accordance with the Open Meetings Act."

Mr. Warren explained recent changes to the Open Meetings Act regarding quorums, electronic attendance and restrictions.

Rule 364-X-2-.01 Definition Of Terms: The Committee recommended that item (8)(d) modified to reflect "geological services or work" and that tasks and services are not exhaustive of the tasks and services that may, "upon request be recognized and approved by the Board" geological services or geological work.

Rule 364-X-3-.02 Application Form: The Committee recommended to remove application requirements for applicant's photograph.

Rule 364-X-4-.02 Fees: The Committee recommended an increase in fees. The Committee's recommendations included the following fees and no dollar amount listed for the ASBOG exams since the fees were determined by ASBOG:

Application from \$150 to \$200; License Fee from \$150 to \$200, Geologist-In-Training remain the same at \$75, Seals and Stamps Fee previously approved at \$100 from \$75, Renewal Fee from \$150 to \$200, Late Fee from \$100 to \$150, Temporary License Fee from \$200 to \$250, Roster Fee remain at \$25 and License Replacement Fee from \$10 to \$25.

Dr. King joined the meeting virtually at 10:52 a.m.

Rule 364-X-5.01 Curricula Approved By The Board: The Committee recommended that the courses remain the same and modified to read “preferred by the Board” for licensure. Chairman Perry referred to Dr. King for comments. The Board discussed emphasizing the content of the ASBOG examinations and it was noted that the Rule had been modified several years ago from “required” to “suggested” courses, since the Board did not have control over universities’ curriculum. Also discussed was sending a letter to the universities about the change in the Board’s rules and commenting on the merits of fieldwork and the preferred coursework for licensure. The Board discussed further Dr. King’s concerns about basic educational requirements in the Board’s review of applicants’ transcripts.

Rule 364-X-6-.02 Non-Qualifying Experience: The Committee recommended replacing item (3) to indicate “contract work performed in accordance with the design of a licensed professional geologist will not be recognized by the Board as qualifying geological experience, unless supported by a detailed reference from the principal, project manager or supervisor who is a licensed professional geologist.”

Rule 364-X-7-.02 References: The Committee recommended replacing “abstain from voting on that applicant” in item (7) to read “must recuse from the Board’s discussion and consideration of the applicant, including the final vote.”

Rule 364-X-8-.06 Examination Results: The Committee recommended replacing the Board determining that the passing score, with the “National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG), the exam administrator” determining the passing score.

Rule 364-X-10-.01 Tasks and Services For Which Licensing Is Required: The Committee recommended a review of the Rule, and the Board agreed that the list of tasks and services were not exhaustive, but there were no Rule changes recommended.

Rule 364-X-11-.01 Seal of The Board: The Committee recommended a review of the Rule, and there were no changes to the Rule.

Rule 364-X-11-.02 Seal of The Licensee: The Committee recommended to add “or a board-issued electronic seal” may be used by the licensee.

Rule 364-X-12-.01 Requirements: The Committee recommended adding “at least” ten (10) days “prior to” commencing the work for which the permit is sought and omitting reference to “of entering the State for,” when a person desired an interim permit.

Rule 364-X-13-.02 Continuing Education: The Committee recommended to remove in item (5)(c) “televised courses or videotaped” and add “online courses” as continuing education activities. Also recommended was to remove reference to “correspondence” courses in item (8)(d) and replace with “exclusively through online” course, and to also add “web-based programs that monitor attendance and are offered in real time are eligible for one (1) PDH of credit for each contact hour. Web-based programs that are pre-recorded will not be eligible for credit unless attendance is monitored, and an instructor is available for comment and questions.”

MOTION: Mr. Katz made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Rules Committee with the changes discussed by the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande. Following a roll call vote, the following members voted aye: Mr. Katz, Dr. Brande, Mr. Bryant, Dr. King and Mr. Griebel. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported that he would submit the proposed changes to the Rules to LSA for public notice, and he reviewed the process for promulgating rules.

Mr. Warren explained that Rules Committee had completed a full review of the Board's rules in accordance with § 41-22-5.2 that required a review every five (5) years of any rule adopted after July 1, 2013.

MOTION: Mr. Katz made the motion to certify with LSA that the Board had completed a review of Board's rules in accordance with § 41-22-5.2. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and following a roll call vote, the members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Proposed Legislative Changes: Mr. Warren reported that the Board had previously discussed changes to the Board's statute to include licensure exemptions and Board appointments by categories, etc. Following discussion by the Board, Chairman Perry tabled this matter to the next Board meeting as an agenda item.

Dr. King left the meeting at 11:36 a.m. due to a scheduling conflict.

Review of Applications: Mr. Warren presented nine (9) applications for the Board's approval, consisting of PG applications.

Mr. Griebel left the meeting at 11:37 a.m. due to a scheduling conflict.

Ms. Robertson left the meeting at 11:37 a.m. due to a scheduling conflict.

The applications were reviewed by the members present at the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Bryant made the motion to approve applicant WDB pending verification of transcript. The motion was seconded by Mr. Katz and unanimously approved by the Board.

MOTION: Dr. Brande made the motion to approve the remaining eight (8) PG applications. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously approved by the Board (a list of the approved applications is available for viewing in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting: Chairman Perry announced that the Board's next meeting was scheduled April 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and consideration would be given to meeting at one of the universities, as previously discussed, to promote student and faculty awareness of licensure.

Adjournment: There being no further business of the Board, Mr. Bryant made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Katz and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Troy J. Perry, Jr.
Board Chair

Keith E. Warren
Executive Secretary

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