



Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

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MINUTES

Board Meeting
October 12, 2023

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama. The following members attended: Mr. Troy Perry, Jr. (Board Chair), Mr. Russell Griebel (Board Vice Chair), Ms. Leslie Noble (member), and Mr. Chris Bryant (member). Board members absent were Dr. David King (Secretary/Treasurer), Dr. Scott Brande (member), and Mr. Richard Katz (member). Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Secretary), Ms. Katherine Robertson (Assistant Attorney General attended virtually), Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary). Chairman Perry called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Mr. Warren called the Board member 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 October 12, 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. Griebel made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Perry presented for Board approval a copy of the Board's minutes from the July 13, 2023, meeting. A copy of the minutes was provided to the members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Mr. Griebel made a motion to approve the July minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble 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 September 30, 2023, which included a detailed listing of the obligations vs. budget for the same period.

Financial Information for fiscal year 2023:

1. Revenue	\$52,950.00
2. Expenditure Vouchers	\$50,837.75
3. Cash Balance	\$27,859.61

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

1. Professional Geologists (PGs):	499
(comprised of 211 Alabama licensees and 288 out-of-state licensees)	
2. Licenses not renewed (April 2023 through September 2023)	28
3. Geologist-In-Training (GITs)	14
4. Retired	18
5. Temporary License (current)	3

Ms. Childers reported that another renewal notice reminder had recently been sent to individuals who had not renewed their license.

Chairman Perry reported that he had recently attended a meeting at Auburn University. He commented on conversations with AU Department of Geosciences' staff, who reported a decline in the number of students entering the profession and steps to modify the coursework to accommodate changes. He reported that he had encouraged the academic program to move toward ASBOG exam as an academic standard and the students becoming more aware of licensing opportunities.

The Board discussed several geological professions that were exempt from licensing in accordance with the Board's statute §34-41-7. Ms. Childers reported that ASBOG had recently updated State statistics for comparison. The Board discussed implementing a concerted effort in speaking with professional associations about the Board's licensing activities.

The Board discussed resuming the Board-sponsored continuing education program to benefit licensees. Mr. Warren reported on funds that may be available in FY 2024 to resume the CE program. MOTION: Mr. Bryant made the motion for the Board to resume sponsoring a continuing education program annually. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren commented on the Governor's Executive Order for Red Tape Reduction that included the Board reviewing its statute and rules to identify and remove barriers to professional licensure. He explained that reciprocity would be a part of the Red Tape Reduction and alignment of continuing education with other states.

The Board discussed establishing an official outreach program and becoming involved in the three universities with geology graduates in the State and also partnering with ASBOG to foster interest in the profession and licensure. Opportunities through the STEM outreach program and promoting the profession to high school students were also discussed, and the Board discussed speaking presentations focusing on new and emerging geological sciences.

Mr. Warren reported that the annual ASBOG meeting was scheduled for later in October, and he would follow-up with Ms. Deana Sneyd, ASBOG's Executive Director, about furthering a partnership.

The Board's budgetary limitations were discussed in developing an outreach program which included travel expenses. Other alternatives in promoting the profession were discussed which included having a presence on social media platforms. Mr. Warren reported that the Board's Administrative Services contract was in the final year and the Board would be developing contract specifications to request proposals for Administrative Services.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Coastal Permits: Mr. Warren reported that the Board's legal counsel had spoken with ADEM's legal counsel about Coastal Permits, and he would follow-up with a letter to ADEM.

Update on Board of Professional Soil Certifiers: Chairman Perry reported that he had spoken with Mr. Heller who had initially notified the Board about the Board of Professional Soil Certifiers. The Board discussed the differences in scope and requirements between the two Boards, and it was the consensus of the Board to table further discussion until the Board was formally contacted by the Board of Professional Soil Certifiers.

Recognition of Annual Neathery Award: The Board discussed various resources to promote the recipient of the Neathery Award as Outstanding Geology Student in the State. MOTION: Ms. Noble made the motion to recommend the Neathery Award recipient for the Alabama Geological Society Scholarships. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board also agreed to submit an article to related professional publications about the recipient.

NEW BUSINESS

Final Adoption of Proposed Rules: Mr. Warren reported that four rules had been republished as previously approved by the Board. He reported that no comments from the public had been received and no one was present at the meeting to address the Board on this matter. Chairman Perry presented proposed Rules 364-X-4-.02 Fees, 364-X-5-.01 Curriculum Approved by the Board, 364-X-6-.02 Non-Qualifying Experience, and 364-X-13-.02 Continuing Education. MOTION: Mr. Griebel made the motion to approve as Final Rules 364-X-4-.02, 364-X-5-.01, 364-X-6-.02, and 364-X-13-.02 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and unanimously approved by the Board.

Annual Election of Board Officers: MOTION: Ms. Noble made the motion that the current slate of officers remain the same with Mr. Perry as Board Chair, Mr. Griebel as Board Vice Chair, and Dr. King as Board Secretary-Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously approved by the Board.

Proposed 2024 Board Meeting Schedule: Chairman Perry presented a list of dates in 2024 for the Board to conduct meetings. MOTION: Mr. Griebel made the motion to approve the 2024 Board meeting dates of January 11th, April 11th, July 11th and October 10, 2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Warren reported on conflicts in scheduling the current meeting on the Auburn University campus. The Board agreed to hold the January meeting at the University of Alabama and Mr. Warren indicated that he would begin coordinating the meeting space.

Review and Approval of Applications for Licensure: Ms. Childers presented seven (7) Professional Geologist (PG) applications for the Board's review and approval. Following a review of the applications, Chairman Perry called for a motion to approve. MOTION: Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve 5 PG applications as presented (MRM, DY, JI, CI and RJT) and deny 2 PG applications

(EDP and DLT). The motion was seconded by Mr. Griebel and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board further recommended that the two applicants, whose applications were denied, take the ASBOG examination.


ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting: Chairman Perry announced that the Board's next meeting was scheduled for January 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., with tentative plans to meet at the University of Alabama.

Adjournment: There being no further business of the Board, Mr. Griebel made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Troy J. Perry, Jr.
Board Chair


Keith E. Warren
Executive Secretary

Approved on January 11, 2024 (date)/rr 