

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

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



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 1:00 P.M.

Physical meeting at

Louisiana Engineering Center

9643 Brookline Avenue

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

and

Virtual Public Meeting Hosted on Zoom

MINUTES

Chair William Schramm called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2023, and commenced roll call.

Present: William Schramm, Michael Simms, William Finley, Melanie Stiegler, David Culpepper, Lloyd Hoover, Elizabeth McDade, and David Williamson, Board Members; Machel Hall, Legal Counsel; Brenda Macon, Executive Secretary; and Maria Mata de Leder, Administrative Coordinator.

Absent: Chantel McCreary, Assistant Executive Secretary, and Seija Meaux, Project Coordinator.

Guests: Riley Milner, Louisiana Geological Survey (retired); Clinton Wallace, Providence Engineering; and Bryce Wesh, Fugro.

Quorum was established.

Public Comment Period

No comments from guests were recorded.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the November 8, 2022, regular board meeting were reviewed. Schramm called for discussion; none was forthcoming. Williamson moved to accept the minutes; Finley seconded the motion. Schramm called for a vote, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Finley presented the treasurer's report for November and December 2022 and called attention to two charts he had distributed. He reported that the budget appears to be back on

track and trending normally. He said conference travel was the greatest expense for this budget period. Discussion ensued, with suggestions regarding budget adjustments in the next fiscal year to account for increased travel for participation in ASBOG. Several board members commented on the importance of the ASBOG meetings, including networking with other state boards and providing input on the examination questions. Finley brought up the possibility of increasing fees to offset the board's growth and new initiatives within the constraints of the statute and rules; additional discussion ensued. Schramm asked Hall to check on the best approach to clarify the intent in the statute regarding fee limits and increases, and she agreed. Stiegler moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; McDade and Culpepper simultaneously seconded the motion. Schramm called for discussion; none was forthcoming. He then called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committees

Application Review Committee: Stiegler said nine applications for PG license had been reviewed, and seven (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8) were recommended for approval. She said five GIT applications had been reviewed, and all five (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) were recommended for approval. Finally, she said nine applications to take the ASBOG exams had been considered, and all nine (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9) were recommended for approval. Stiegler then moved to approve the recommended applicants; Finley and Williamson simultaneously seconded the motion. Schramm called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

License Examination Committee: Williamson mentioned that AEG would be sponsoring an online presentation on studying for the ASBOG exams. He said he would be attending and welcomed other board members to join him. He also reported that he had spoken with two geology classes at Centenary College in Shreveport about taking the ASBOG exam and becoming licensed Louisiana Professional Geoscientists. Discussion ensued, with McDade pointing out that the board has a LinkedIn presence that has a significant following; she said the app has great potential for sharing information with students about the ASBOG examinations and licensing.

The possibility of offering those who had been approved to take the ASBOG exams in Louisiana a free Zoom workshop to prepare them for the exams was discussed, with particular attention to being careful about not sharing confidential testing information. The consensus was that such a workshop would be a valuable service to testing candidates. Schramm said he would ask the ASBOG administrators about the idea; Williamson said he would attend the AEG presentation and report back to the board.

Macon mentioned that one of the board's successful ASBOG testing candidates had called to offer assistance to others who would be taking the exams by talking about ways to study for the exams. Schramm said this example brings up the possibility of new licensees providing mentorship to those who would be taking the exams, which would serve the dual purpose of providing the candidates with valuable study advice and the new licensee with continuing education credits for service to the profession. Additional discussion ensued.

Compliance Committee:

Mata de Leder summarized the work done so far on the 2023 continuing education audit. She began by pointing out that the auditees are from various states, but of the 29 (24 new and 5 re-audited because of problems in 2022) six are from Louisiana and six are from Texas. She said six (21%) have already passed the audit and 20 (69%) more have already responded and are pending. She provided details on the mailing, pointing out that three of those sent cannot be completed for different reasons: deceased, retired, and undeliverable. She then referenced Finley's question during the November board meeting regarding the number of auditees from Louisiana who passed the 2022 audit and the number of those who passed who were from other states and provided answers: She said nine auditees were from Texas, and three were from Louisiana; of those, five of those from Texas passed and all three from Louisiana passed. Schramm commented that the majority of respondents incorrectly code the activities and complete the log sheet. He said the idea has been discussed to provide the licensees who are selected for the 2024 audit with either an online video or a virtual training session so the committee can address the issues they have seen in prior audits and to give those who are to be audited instructions for selecting activities, coding, and completing the log sheet. Discussion ensued.

Outreach Committee: Finley asked Milner to report on his research during the period between the November and January. Milner reported that he had acted on the information Williamson provided on the Texas Mining and Reclamation Association, which provides teaching workshops and modules for teachers at no cost to the state, to the teachers, or to the schools. He talked about the potential for such a program in Louisiana, asking if it would be within the board's mission to sponsor a workshop for 4th and 8th grade teachers, starting with one small school district. He suggested coordinating with the Baton Rouge Geological Society to create such a workshop. The consensus of the board was that this was not within the scope of the board's mission but that it would be a great project for the BRGS. Schramm pointed out that the board's sole mission is to license qualified geoscientists, adding that the type of outreach he considers to be essential to the board's operations is that which helps those licensees.

Finley added that he also felt that the board should educate the public regarding why licensing geoscientists is important. He said putting together a contact list would help with disseminating information to the public. He reported that he and Macon provided a short presentation at the October meeting of the Lafayette Geological Society, and Macon added that several of those in attendance have applied to take the ASBOG exams. Discussion ensued.

Strategic Five-year Plan & Rules Review Ad Hoc: Simms reported that the committee has been working on updating the rules. He said he hopes the committee can meet soon to continue the progress on that work. He said they are also working on the mission statement and discussing services for licensees. Finley reported that he would be presenting on "The Practice of Geoscience in Louisiana" at the upcoming JESC in Lafayette on February 23 and 24 and directed the board members' attention to his presentation abstract, which summarizes the definition of geoscience. He also asked Hall to comment on the scope of the definition and its feasibility as a legal definition in the rules. Hall said she and her staff have created a document that puts the content of the statute side-by-side with the content of the rules so that it becomes easier to see where the rules are redundant (repeat the statute) and where they

work together. She said she had sent the document to the members of the Ad Hoc Committee so they have time to review it prior to their next meeting and be able to talk about it.

Office Committee: Macon reported on administrative news, including working with the coordinator of the DOJ Civil Law Training sessions and planning to provide this training during upcoming meetings; reminding the board to submit their financial reporting document; and requesting one more time for approval to purchase the Xerox printer that the board has been borrowing from LAPELS for the last year. The board approved the purchase.

Other Business

Schramm reported that Warren Brady, a Louisiana resident living in Congressional District 5, had indicated an interest in applying for the vacant board position. He mentioned that Brady had an issue with applying for the position online and requested that Macon find out if he could mail his application to the Office of Boards & Commissions. Schramm also said that Brady would need to have a letter of recommendation from the Baton Rouge Geological Society because CD5 does not have a geological society. Discussion regarding whether the two “at large” positions had to be filled by non-licensed residents; Macon offered to ask the director of the Office of Boards & Commissions when she called to ask about alternative ways to apply for the board position. Board members agreed.

Announcement of the Next Meeting and Adjournment

The date of the next regular meeting of the board was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 1:00 pm. Williamson moved to adjourn; Culpepper seconded; the motion passed. Schramm adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.