

1 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
2 LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING  
3 AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD  
4 9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121  
5 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1433  
6 April 22, 2024  
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8 At 9:00 a.m. on April 22, 2024, Connie P. Betts, P.E. called the meeting to order  
9 at the Board's office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the following members  
10 present:

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12 Connie P. Betts, P.E. Chairman  
13 Reginald L. Jeter, P.E. Vice Chairman  
14 Linda H. Bergeron, P.E. Treasurer  
15 Byron D. Racca, P.E. Secretary  
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17 James H. Chustz, Jr., P.L.S.  
18 Janice P. Williams, P.E.  
19 Vijaya Gopu, Ph.D., P.E.  
20 Gordon E. Nelson, P.E.  
21 John J. Plaisance, II, P.E., P.L.S.  
22 Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.  
23 Wilfred J. Fontenot, P.L.S.  
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25 Also present: Donna D. Sentell, Executive Director  
26 Cheron Seaman, Deputy Executive Director  
27 D. Scott Landry, Board Attorney  
28 Joe Harman, P.E., Technical Advisor  
29 David Patterson, P.L.S., Technical Advisor  
30 Bill Tripoli, IT Director  
31 Janet Lindsey, Application Manager  
32 Chris Aaron, Staff  
33 Morgan Georgetown, Staff  
34 Rhett Rayburn, Staff  
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37 The invocation was led by Mr. Jeter and the pledge was led by Ms. Bergeron.  
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39 Public comment time was recognized by Chairman Betts.  
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41 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by  
42 Mr. Plaisance, to accept the April 22, 2024 proposed Call and Agenda for the  
43 meeting.  
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45 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded  
46 by Dr. Gopu, to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2024 Board  
47 meeting.  
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49 Chairman Betts reviewed the committee assignments for FY 2024-2025 and  
50 appointed Ms. Bergeron, Ms. Williams and Dr. Gopu to the Building Committee.  
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53 **Compliance and Enforcement**  
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55 **Case # 2023-72** – Ms. Georgetown reported on an unlicensed firm which (a)  
56 practiced and/or offered to practice engineering and used the words  
57 “engineer”, “engineering” or any modification or derivative thereof in a  
58 person’s name or form of business or activity without proper licensure and (b)  
59 committed fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or gave false or  
60 forged evidence, in applying for a license with the Board. The respondent has  
61 signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint  
62 Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following  
63 sanctions:

1. Fine of \$3,750
2. Costs of \$1,521.62
3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
4. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Winkelmann & Associates, Inc.**

**Case # 2023-73** – Ms. Georgetown reported on a professional engineer who **(a)** committed fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or gave false or forged evidence, in applying for a license with the Board and **(b)** aided or assisted another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$1,500
2. Costs of \$1,521.62
3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
6. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
7. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Michael D. Clark, P.E.**

**Case # 2023-48** – Mr. Rayburn reported on an unlicensed firm which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering without proper licensure. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$3,000
2. Costs of \$501.23
3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
4. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Smith Emery Laboratories, Inc.**

**Case # 2023-55** – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineer who practiced and/or offered to practice engineering services in Louisiana with an expired professional engineer license on two projects in Louisiana between October 2022 and April 2023. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$1,000.00;
2. Costs of \$156.77;
3. Successful completion of Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher;
4. Successful completion of Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz with a score of 90% or higher;
5. Publication of consent order on the Board's website and summary of consent order in the Journal identifying by name; and
6. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name.

1 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion to approve the  
2 signed consent order made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of  
3 Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu. The name of the Respondent is  
4 **Gabriel S. Arias, P.E.**

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6 **Case # 2023-57** – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineer who  
7 practiced and/or offered to practice engineering with an expired license. The  
8 respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the  
9 Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the  
10 following sanctions:

- 11 1. Fine of \$1,000
- 12 2. Costs of \$694.13
- 13 3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
- 14 4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
- 15 5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of  
16 consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
- 17 6. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal with name
- 18 7. Report to NCEES with name

19  
20 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
21 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr.  
22 Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
23 **Gary A. Storm, P.E**

24  
25 **Case # 2023-59** – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineering firm  
26 which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering in Louisiana with an  
27 expired firm license on 21 projects in Louisiana between October of 2018 and  
28 October of 2023. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed  
29 consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed  
30 consent order contained the following sanctions:

- 31 1. Fine of \$5000;
- 32 2. Costs of \$182.05;
- 33 3. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal identifying  
34 Respondent by name; and
- 35 4. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name.

36  
37 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
38 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz, and Dr.  
39 Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
40 **Allied Engineering Design, LLC.**

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42 **Case # 2023-60** – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineer who aided  
43 or assisted the professional engineering firm where he was supervising  
44 professional in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board when the firm  
45 offering to provide engineering services in Louisiana with an expired firm  
46 license. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order  
47 offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order  
48 contained the following sanctions:

- 49 1. Fine of \$500;
- 50 2. Costs of \$182.05;
- 51 3. Successful completion of the Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz with a score  
52 of 90% or higher;
- 53 4. Successful completion of the Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz  
54 with a score of 90% or higher;
- 55 5. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal identifying by  
56 name; and
- 57 6. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name.

58  
59 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
60 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz, and Dr.  
61 Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
62 **Noel K. Clary, P.E.**

1 **Case # 2023-74** – Mr. Rayburn reported on an unlicensed firm which  
2 practiced and/or offered to practice engineering without proper licensure.  
3 The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered  
4 by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained  
5 the following sanctions:

- 6 1. Fine of \$3,000
- 7 2. Costs of \$418.50
- 8 3. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal with name
- 9 4. Report to NCEES with name

10  
11 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
12 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr.  
13 Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
14 **DBR Engineering Consultants, Inc.**

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16 **Case # 2023-75** – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineer who aided  
17 or assisted another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. The  
18 respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the  
19 Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the  
20 following sanctions:

- 21 1. Fine of \$500
- 22 2. Costs of \$418.50
- 23 3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
- 24 4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
- 25 5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of
- 26 consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
- 27 6. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal with name
- 28 7. Report to NCEES with name

29  
30 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
31 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr.  
32 Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
33 **Kenneth L. Roland, P.E.**

34  
35 **Case # 2022-11** – Mr. Aaron reported on an unlicensed firm which practiced  
36 and/or offered to practice engineering without proper licensure in violation of  
37 La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1) and (9), *to wit* LAC 46:LXI §2301B. The respondent has  
38 signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint  
39 Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following  
40 sanctions:

- 41 5. Fine of \$3,000
- 42 6. Costs of \$246.96
- 43 7. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Board’s official Journal
- 44 identifying Respondent by name.
- 45 8. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name

46  
47 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
48 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr.  
49 Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
50 **AMMTEC Consultants PLLC.**

51  
52 **Case # 2022-13** – Mr. Aaron reported on a professional engineer who aided or  
53 assisted an unlicensed firm which practiced in Louisiana without proper  
54 licensure in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board in violation of La.  
55 37:698(A)(12). The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent  
56 order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent  
57 order contained the following sanctions:

- 58 7. Fine of \$500
- 59 8. Costs of \$246.96
- 60 9. Completion of the Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or
- 61 higher
- 62 10. Completion of the Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz, with a score
- 63 of 90% or higher

1 11. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Board’s official Journal  
2 identifying Respondent by name.

3 12. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name

4 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
5 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr.  
6 Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
7 **Alan E. Money, P.E.**

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10 **Committee Reports**

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12 **Laws and Rules Committee**

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14 Mr. Landry reviewed pending House and Senate bills for the 2024 Regular  
15 Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

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17 The Board recessed at 10:33 a.m. and resumed at 10:50 a.m.

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19 **Finance Committee**

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21 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Plaisance, seconded  
22 by Mr. Racca, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with  
23 **Tri- Core Technologies, L.L.C.** to provide maintenance and support of the  
24 LOLA information technology system. The term of the contract will be for  
25 three months, **beginning July 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2024**, in  
26 the total amount not to exceed **\$36,270**.

27  
28 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by  
29 Ms. Bergeron, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with  
30 **Red Stick Solutions, L.L.C.** to provide information technology support  
31 services for the Board. The term of the contract will be for one year,  
32 **beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025**, in the total amount not to  
33 exceed **\$21,600**.

34  
35 Chairman Betts presented the financial report for FY 23-24. After discussion,  
36 the Board unanimously approved the motion made by John Plaisance,  
37 seconded by Jimmy Chustz, to accept the year-to-date financial report for FY  
38 23-24 as presented.

39  
40 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by  
41 Mr. Racca, to authorize the Executive Director/Deputy Executive Director to  
42 invest **\$150,000** in a Certificate of Deposit or savings account, whichever  
43 provides the better interest rate, at **JPMorgan Chase Bank**.

44  
45 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by  
46 Ms. Bergeron, to authorize the Executive Director/Deputy Executive Director  
47 to invest **\$150,000** in a Certificate of Deposit or savings account, whichever  
48 provides the better interest rate, at **Hancock/Whitney Bank**.

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50 **Old Business/New Business**

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52 Ms. Sentell updated the Board on the lease agreement with Stirling Two United  
53 Plaza, L.L.C. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion  
54 made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Dr. Gopu, to authorize the staff to purchase  
55 the furniture items offered by the current tenants, Cross Country Mortgage, at  
56 a total amount not to exceed \$2,000.

57  
58 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded  
59 by Dr. Gopu, to schedule the next Board meeting for Monday, June 10, 2024.

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61 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by  
62 Mr. Fontenot, to request NCEES Associate Member status for Chris Aaron.

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The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Chustz, seconded by Dr. Gopu, to approve Board and staff members to attend the NCEES Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL on August 14-17, 2024.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to approve Board enforcement staff to attend the Law Enforcement program at the NCEES Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL on August 16-17, 2024.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Ms. Bergeron, to not participate in the ceremonial signing for the UK Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) at the NCEES Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:25 a.m. and resumed at 12:05 p.m.

**Closing Business**

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to approve all committee recommendations and actions.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr. Chustz, to acknowledge and confirm all licenses and certificates issued and renewed since the last Board meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to approve all Board expenses.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Plaisance, to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m. on April 22, 2024.

  
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Connie P. Betts, P.E.  
Chairman

  
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Byron D. Racca, P.E.  
Secretary