

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS
9643 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809



COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 12:00 p.m.
The Louisiana Engineering Center Conference Room
9643 Brookline Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Also offered as a Zoom virtual meeting

MINUTES

Committee Chair Todd Perry called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm and commenced roll call. Present were Todd Perry and William Schramm, Board members and Compliance Committee members. Also present were Brenda Macon, LBOPG Executive Secretary, and Mabelle Hall, Assistant Attorney General and LBOPG legal counsel. Committee member Lloyd Hoover was absent.

Perry then turned the committee's attention to the final draft of the seal practice rules and guidance document. Perry asked Macon to present the document; Macon pointed out that committee had only requested a formatting change, which had been made. She reminded the committee that the board had approved the document at the September 15, 2020, meeting and would be ready to add to the website once she received the example map. Perry said he would send the map. Schramm suggested that the sample documents need examples of seal placement as well; Macon said she would add a seal to each of the examples. Schramm mentioned that someone from a state agency had already asked about the guidelines; Macon said she had passed along the committee chair's responses that the agency representative's surmised points about electronic seal use were correct. Perry concurred. Schramm and Perry determined that the document, with the discussed additions, is ready to be posted on the website. Perry and Schramm discussed where on the website to post the document, agreeing under the "Resources" menu.

Perry then directed the committee toward discussion of the standard operating procedures document for the continuing education review process. Schramm suggested adding the word "geoscience" before the phrase "one hour of ethics"; Perry agreed. Schramm asked if the document with the suggested change is ready to be presented to the board for approval; Perry said it is. Macon asked if the document is an internal document or if it should be public. Discussion ensued, ending with the consensus that the document is an internal guidance document that can be shared with the public.

Perry turned to the fourth item on the agenda, the list of auditees for 2021 and asked Macon to present the randomly generated list. Schramm pointed out that, though the statute requires 2% of licensees to be audited

each year, it does not limit the board to only 2%. He suggested that those licensees audited one year who do not originally pass could be audited again the following year to be sure they are successfully completing the continuing education requirements in the second year. Discussion ensued, with general agreement on this point. Macon explained that she and Schramm had discussed how to handle those licensees who had been randomly selected for the trial audits in 2019 and 2020 but renewed and did not respond to the voluntary audits. She suggested collecting those names and adding them to the list for the first year the audit becomes official in 2022. Perry asked if the people on the list had been called; Macon said she had sent follow-up emails but had not called. Discussion ensued. The committee agreed to take that action. Macon asked if renewing non-respondents from the 2021 audit, the last voluntary audit, should also be added to the list; the committee agreed that they should. Macon asked if the board needs to approve the list for 2021; Schramm said it does. Perry agreed to bring the list to the board's attention.

Perry then moved on to the standard operating procedures document for enforcement. Hall mentioned she had made the changes discussed at the October meeting and now needs to get the amended flowchart. Schramm asked if the document can be presented to the full board for approval. Perry suggested presenting it to the board for review at this meeting and asking them to consider it for ratification and approval at the January meeting. Hall agreed. Schramm said it needs to be made clear that the document is intended to be put forward for approval in January. Perry agreed. Hall commented that the document could be approved at the meeting later in the day if the board chooses to do so; Perry and Schramm agreed to allow the board to determine if extra time is needed.

Perry called for any items of new business. Schramm mentioned that he had contacted the State Civil Service regarding the numbers of geologists working at the various state agencies. He reported the agency listed 37 geologists, 35 of whom are employed by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, one is with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and one is with the Department of Health and Hospitals. Of the 37, 20 are unlicensed and 17 are licensed. He said that raises the question of those working for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which changed the position designations from "geologists" to "petroleum scientists," effectively eliminating the geologists working at that agency. However, he reported, ten of the 67 petroleum scientists employed by DNR are licensed professional geoscientists. He said the job descriptions of many of those petroleum scientists employed at DNR indicate they are performing geologic reviews that would require licenses. Perry asked if state employees are exempt; Hall and Schramm explained that state employees are not exempt. Perry asked if the board needs to speak with the head of DNR; Hall suggested that would be one avenue. Perry asked if it would be best to start by talking with Civil Service; Schramm and Hall agreed that it would. Perry pointed out that the committee needs to develop an approach before pursuing this issue too vigorously; Schramm and Hall agreed.

After calling for additional comments and hearing none, Perry adjourned the meeting at 12:44 pm.