

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

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



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 1:00 P.M.

Physical meeting at

Engineering Center Conference Room

9643 Brookline Avenue

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

and

Virtual Public Meeting Hosted on Zoom

MINUTES

Chair William Schramm called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m., Tuesday, July 9, 2024, and commenced roll call.

Present: William Schramm, Michael Simms, Melanie Stiegler, David Culpepper, Kaycee Garrett, Lloyd Hoover, Elizabeth McDade, and David Williamson, Board Members; Machel Hall, Legal Counsel; Sadé Dennis and Seija Meaux, Project Coordinators; and Brenda Macon, Executive Secretary.

Absent: William R. Finley (though attending unofficially on Zoom), Board Member; and Chantel McCreary, Assistant Executive Secretary.

Guests: Danielle Kingham, Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists Member; and Gordon Magenheim, Compliance and Outreach Officer, Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

Quorum was established.

Public Comment Period

No comments were forthcoming.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the May 9, 2024, regular board meeting were reviewed, and Schramm called for discussion. Williamson moved to accept the minutes, and Simms seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Finley started by reminding the board that House Bill 620 should be taking effect soon, so fees can be raised when that happens. Discussion ensued, with Hall explaining once again that, because of the way

the legislation was written, any fee increases must be made all at once; the board has no flexibility in raising the fees incrementally.

Finley reported that another transfer from the Campus Federal Credit Union (CFCU) savings account to the CFCU checking account used for operating expenses was required. He said funds in the operating accounts are at a low point, as this is the time of year when fewer renewals are coming in.

He said he would like to close the Capital One savings account because the account is earning at only a minimal interest rate, even less than the account was making at Campus Federal Credit Union (CFCU). He added that having all accounts at CFCU would also make it easier to monitor the account and to move funds into higher interest earning instruments, such as certificates of deposit. Board members agreed that closing the account would be best.

Williamson moved to accept the report and to close the Capital One account; McDade seconded the motion. Schramm called for discussion; with none forthcoming, he called for a vote. The motion passed.

Finley then introduced the FY 2024-2025 budget. Macon reported on the estimated increase in revenue but recommended implementing a conservative budget until more information arises from the fee increase. After a brief discussion about the impact of the new fee increases on the budget, Finley moved to accept the budget as presented; Williamson seconded the motion. Finley commented that he concurred with Macon on the need to budget conservatively for the new fiscal year. Schramm called for a vote, and the motion passed.

Standing Committees

Application Review Committee: Stiegler reported that the committee reviewed applications for five licenses and three testing (ASBOG) requests. She said the committee recommended for approval 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 for license; and 1, 2, and 3 for examination. Stiegler moved to accept these recommendations; Simms seconded the motion. Schramm repeated the motion, called for discussion, and, when no discussion was forthcoming, called for a vote. The motion passed.

License Examination Committee: Schramm and Williamson announced that they plan to offer a Zoom session on taking the ASBOG exams in August or September. The date was discussed, with Thursday, September 5, selected as the tentative choice, and all approved candidates will be notified.

Compliance Committee: Schramm asked Dennis and Meaux to report on the committee's most recent activity. Dennis presented graphics to describe the progress of the current audit, pointing out that 50% of those on the list have responded and have passed. She added that 10% of those on the list are no longer licensed, having voluntarily relinquished their licenses.

Outreach Committee: Culpepper reported that he planned to meet on Zoom with his committee on July 10 at noon. He outlined several objectives he has for the committee, and board members added their suggestions and advice.

Strategic Five-year Plan & Rules Review Ad Hoc: McDade reported that she has been talking with committee members and reading the strategic plans of other state boards. She said she planned to meet with her committee before the September board meeting.

Office Committee: Macon asked Dennis and Meaux to report on their work with the demographic database and the progress they have made this year. Meaux presented several graphics and reported on some interesting discoveries they have made, including from which universities most Louisiana licensees graduated (University of Texas, Texas A&M, and LSU).

New Business: Discussion with Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

At the request of a member of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists, Schramm welcomed Texas Board Member Danielle Kingham and Texas Board Compliance Officer Gordon Magenheim to the meeting. A joint discussion of issues related to Class VI injection wells and possible impacts on licensees and state licensing boards ensued, with LBOPG Board Member Garrett offering insights from her experience with this area of work.

New Business: Nomination of Officers for FY 2024-2025

Schramm indicated his intention not to run for the office of chair and asked for nominations for a new chair. After some discussion, Williamson was nominated for this position. Nominees for the other offices were Simms, Vice Chair; Stiegler, Secretary; and Finley, Treasurer. Schramm asked board members to be prepared for election of officers at the September meeting.

Legal Counsel's Comments

Hall had no additional comments.

Announcement of the Next Meeting and Adjournment

The date of the next regular meeting of the board was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 1:00 pm in the Engineering Center conference room at 9643 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA. Williamson moved to adjourn; Hoover seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm.