LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

1800 City Farm Drive, Building 5B, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 1:00 P.M.
Physical meeting at
1800 City Farm Drive, Building 5B
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
and
Virtual Public Meeting Hosted on Zoom

MINUTES

Chair Michael Simms called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2026, and commenced roll call.

Present: Michael Simms, William Schramm, Melanie Stiegler, David Culpepper, William Finley, Elizabeth McDade, and David Ray Williamson, Board Members; and Brenda Macon, Executive Secretary.

Absent: Sadé Dennis and Seija Meaux, Project Coordinators; Chantel McCreary, Assistant Executive Secretary; and David Peterson, Legal Counsel.

Guest: Richelle Moore, LA Office of the Attorney General.

Quorum was established.

Simms reminded board members of required training and financial disclosure statements.

Public Comment Period
None.

Meeting Minutes
Minutes of the March 11, 2025, regular board meeting were reviewed. Williamson moved to accept the minutes as presented; Culpepper seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion; none was forthcoming. He then called for a vote, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report
Treasurer William R. Finley, who had been absent at the March meeting, explained that he had a medical emergency in February that prevented him from attending in March. He said he was still catching up after

his recent health crisis and would not be presenting a financial report for the period. Macon presented a draft budget for the new fiscal year beginning on July1. The board discussed the draft, asked several questions, and made several amendments. Williamson moved to continue the budget discussion at the July board meeting, at which point, a new budget will be adopted; Schramm seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion; with none forthcoming, he called for a vote. The motion passed.

Standing Committees

Application Review Committee: Committee Chair Melanie Stiegler reported that the committee reviewed 12 applications for Louisiana Professional Geoscientist licenses, and they recommended eight of them – 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11 – for approval by the board. She further reported that the committee had reviewed three applications for Louisiana Geosicentist-in-Training (GIT) certificate after candidates passed the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam and one application for GIT that is a transfer from Texas; the committee recommended applications 1, 2, 3, and 1 for approval for GIT certification. Finally, she reported that the committee reviewed four testing candidate applications – one to take the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam only, three to take the ASBOG Practice of Geology (PG) exam; the committee recommended applications 2, 3, and 4 for approval to take the ASBOG PG exam. Simms called for a motion on the committee's recommendations. Stiegler moved to approve the applications for licenses, GIT, and testing; McDade seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion. With no discussion ensuing, he called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

License Examination Committee: Committee Chair David Ray Williamson reported that, during the March testing session, eleven Louisiana candidates had taken the ASBOG FG exam and thirteen had taken the ASBOG PG exam. Of those candidates taking the exams, six passed the FG and eight passed the PG exams. Brief discussion ensued. No motions were made.

Compliance Committee: Committee Chair William H. Schramm reported on the progress of the ongoing 2026 continuing education audit. He said the total number of approved audits is currently 22; three are awaiting additional information from the auditees; four have expired without response; four have not yet responded but are still active; and one is deceased. He reported that the committee had met earlier in the day to discuss two possible complaints; one was dismissed because the complainant is no longer available and one had a simple solution that generated no penalty. Brief discussion ensued.

Outreach Committee: Committee Chair David B. Culpepper briefly presented an outline of the focus of the outreach essential to the board. These essentials include increasing public awareness of the geoscience profession; improving understanding of licensure and professional standards; expanding communication with students and universities; strengthening connections with other state agencies; and promoting transparency and public access to information. He also gave an example of universities that are currently offering courses linked to preparation for the ASBOG exams. Discussion ensued. Schramm suggested asking Randy Kath with ASBOG to provide the passing rate for the exams in Louisiana by the schools represented. Additional discussion ensued.

Strategic Five-year Plan & Rules Review Ad Hoc: Committee Chair Elizabeth C. McDade stated that the committee is still working through the rules to make changes and suggested a planning session in June to speed up the editing process.

Office Report: Macon reported the following developments and progress:

1. The blog-style announcements section has been added successfully to the website. Updates have already been made.

2. LBOPG shared a booth with the Baton Rouge Geological Society. Staff were able to make significant contacts with both potential and current GITs and licensees, and the networking opportunities with other booth participants were abundant.
3. The new agreement with the Louisiana Office of the Attorney General for the coming fiscal year has been completed.

Old Business

The board then discussed going into executive session to discuss sensitive personnel matters. Simms moved to go into executive session; Williamson seconded the motion. Simms then conducted a roll call vote. The results were seven ayes, zero nays, and no abstentions:
Culpepper: Aye
Finley: Aye
McDade: Aye
Schramm: Aye
Simms: Aye
Stiegler: Aye
Williamson: Aye

The board returned from executive session at 3 pm.

Adjournment

The date of the next regular meeting of the board was scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 1:00 pm, at the Board office (1800 City Farm Drive, Building 5B, Baton Rouge). Meetings of the Compliance Committee, Ad Hoc Rules Committee, and Outreach Committee were also scheduled for that date at 10 am, 11 am, and 12 pm, respectively. Finley then moved to adjourn; Culpepper seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm.