

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS
1800 City Farm Drive, Building 5B, Baton Rouge, LA 70806



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Thursday, August 6, 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 1:09 p.m., Thursday, August 6, 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, Project Coordinator; Chantel McCreary, Assistant Executive Secretary; and Richelle Moore, Legal Counsel.

Guests: Amy Easley and Hunter Curtis, attorneys, LA Office of the Attorney General.

Quorum was established.

Public Comment Period

None.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the May 13, 2026, regular board meeting were reviewed. Williamson moved to accept the minutes as presented; Schramm 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 said he was still catching up after his recent health crisis but was able to present the treasurer's report for the period. He called attention to two graphs showing the trends in expenses and revenue that consistently repeat each year. He pointed out that summer months are much more tenuous than the rest of the fiscal year because of fewer renewals and greater expenses. Williamson

moved to accept the treasurer's report; Stiegler seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion; with none forthcoming, he called for a vote. The motion passed.

Macon presented the draft budget for the new fiscal year. The board discussed the draft and asked several questions. Simms moved to adopt the proposed budget for FY 2026-2027; McDade seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion; with none forthcoming, he called for a vote. The motion passed.

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 3:21 pm, and Simms conducted a roll call vote to accept the terms of the proposed overtime settlements for the two employees affected.

Culpepper: Aye

Finley: Aye

McDade: Aye

Schramm: Aye

Simms: Aye

Stiegler: Aye

Williamson: Aye

Board members asked several questions regarding the logistics of creating, signing, and presenting the settlements, and discussion ensued. The board then returned to the original order of the agenda.

Standing Committees

Application Review Committee: Committee Chair Melanie Stiegler reported that the committee reviewed six applications for Louisiana Professional Geoscientist licenses and recommended all of them – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – for approval by the board. She also reported that the committee reviewed seven testing candidate applications – four to take the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam only, two to take the ASBOG Practice of Geology (PG) exam only; and one to take both exams. The committee recommended applications 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 for approval to take the exams. Schramm asked Stiegler questions about one of the applications, and she offered a response. That issue sparked discussion of the issue and related problems, which led to discussion of ways to address it in the future. McDade moved to approve the applications for licenses and testing; Finley 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, as of August 6, 14 candidates have registered for exams: nine for the ASBOG FG and five for the ASBOG PG. Williamson also asked for discussion of an applicant who applied to LBOPG for a PG license based on reciprocity from

Texas, which had granted the applicant a PG license with a waiver, based on education (BS, MS and PhD degrees from a university outside the U.S.) and 34+ years of geological experience, to take either the FG or PG exams. Williamson's purpose of the discussion was not to argue the reciprocity agreement with Texas, but to discuss with the LBOPG board that approval of the applicant's application by LBOPG would be granted to an applicant who (1) had not taken either of the ASBOG exams and (2) was granted a license by Texas after that state had waived the normally required exams. Louisiana state law and the LBOPG rules and regulations require an applicant to take and pass the FG and PG exams. The reciprocity agreement between Louisiana and Texas is silent on the question of waivers to take exams. The discussion was animated by advocates both for and against the concept. However, the LBOPG board was made aware of the situation, and the applicant was approved for a Louisiana PG license.

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 24; one is 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 also reported that a list of 33 auditees for the 2027 continuing education has been created and will be sent out in late September or early October.

Outreach Committee: Committee Chair David B. Culpepper requested that his committee swap time slots for the September committee meetings to give him more time to work with the committee members. He then reported that he intends to contact Randy Kath with ASBOG to provide the passing rate for the exams in Louisiana by the schools represented. Board members expressed support for that contact and discussion regarding the uses and limitations of that information ensued.

Strategic Five-year Plan & Rules Review Ad Hoc: Committee Chair Elizabeth C. McDade stated that the committee is still working through the rules and asked Macon to send the latest version to all board members for their review and feedback.

Office Report: Macon had previously sent the board her report describing the following developments and progress:

- First-class postage price increases have prompted a change in the way renewals are acknowledged. Office procedures have been implemented to reduce or eliminate physical mail. Because of the expense incurred by mailing renewal acknowledgments and license cards, that practice has been changed. Unless a licensee requests a physical license card, the renewal acknowledgments are sent by email.
- The board's online payment, financial, and website security has been successfully recertified with the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI SSC). The next recertification will be due on June 17, 2027.
- The annual inventory report to the Louisiana Property Assistance Agency was submitted on June 3, 2026, and has been approved. The next inventory report will be due on June 3, 2027.
- The ad for the Executive Secretary position was tested on LinkedIn in late May, and tweaks have been made to refine the position description. A Civil Service Supervisor has been working with Macon to create the second position required to make the transition to the new executive secretary.

Adjournment

The date of the next regular meeting of the board was scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 1:00 pm to accommodate schedule conflicts. The meeting will be held 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 4:34 pm.