

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

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



SPECIAL MEETING OF LBOPG

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 10:30 A.M.
Virtual Public Meeting Hosted on Zoom

MINUTES

Chair William Finley called the meeting to order at 10:44 am, Friday, January 26, 2021, and commenced roll call.

Present: William Finley, William Schramm, Melanie Stiegler, Lloyd Hoover, Elizabeth McDade, and David Williamson, Board Members; and Brenda Macon, Executive Secretary.

Absent: Todd Perry, Board Member; Machel Hall, Legal Counsel.

Guests: Scott Meier, applicant for licensing.

Quorum was established. Roll Call is part of the meeting registration record on Zoom.

Public Comment Period

No comments.

Special Topic of Meeting: Action on Pending Applications

Application Review Committee: Stiegler reported that license candidates 1, 2, and 3 were recommended for approval. Stiegler moved to accept the committee's recommendation and approve these applicants for licensure. Williamson seconded the motion. Finley then called for a vote; the motion passed.

Further, she reported that one candidate, number 1, was approved in committee, as authorized by the board at the January 14 board meeting, to take the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam.

Stiegler then reported that both the Application Review and Examination Committees had met immediately prior to this special meeting and both committees had unanimously recommended to deny the waiver of the examination requirement that had previously been requested by an applicant. Stiegler moved to accept this recommendation; Williamson seconded the motion. Finley called for discussion; none was forthcoming. Finley then called for a vote; the motion passed. Williamson reported that Macon would be drafting a bullet list of the reasons for denial and sending that list to board members.

New Business

Schramm asked Finley to report on the recent meeting with the heads of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR). Finley explained that the meeting went well, with agreement by these department heads that licensing their

employees would be a good idea. The point was made that not everyone who practices the review of geological work would need to be licensed as long as a licensed individual supervised or reviewed the work of those who were unlicensed. The department heads were planning to conduct an internal review and audit and meet again to share the results of their review. Finley said the department heads are aware that the board has initiated a new grandfather period specifically for state employees, so those unlicensed employees would have an opportunity to apply for the license without having to take the examinations. He said their cooperation was encouraging. Schramm asked if the board should provide guidance for the departments. Finley explained that he would like to have samples of the types of work the employees are reviewing so that the board would have a better understanding of what documents require review by a licensed geoscientist. He said, if the board understood what the employees are doing, the board could do a better job of providing guidance and making sure the people who review those documents are qualified to do so. Schramm then asked if creating a working group, composed of people from both agencies and the board, would be beneficial in building that understanding. Finley agreed that such a group could be helpful. Schramm volunteered to set up such a group; Williamson volunteered to serve as part of that group; Finley agreed as well to be part of the group. Details were discussed.

Adjourn

As announced at the January 14 board meeting, the date of the next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 1:00 pm. Williamson moved to adjourn; Schramm seconded the motion. The motion passed. Finley adjourned the meeting at pm.