

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

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



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 1:00 P.M.

Louisiana Engineering Society Building Conference Room
9643 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809

MINUTES

Chairman John Johnston called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 14, 2016. He then commenced roll call.

Present: Art Johnson, John Johnston, Thomas Klekamp, Madhurendu Kumar, William Meaney, and Daisy Pate, Board Members. Harry Vorhoff, Legal Counsel; Georgeann McNicholas, Executive Secretary; and Brenda Macon, Assistant Executive Secretary.

Absent: William Finley, Lloyd Hoover, and L. Todd Perry, Board Members.

Quorum established. Roll Call sheet was circulated for signatures.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting Minutes of 04/12/2016 were reviewed. Georgeann McNicholas requested a reversal of the amendment to the March minutes that was made in May, as Daisy Pate discovered that she was in fact absent at the March meeting. A motion was made by Johnson, and seconded by Meaney, to reverse the previous amendment, and the reversal was unanimously approved. Motion made by Klekamp to accept the May minutes, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Johnson presented the May 2016 Treasurer's Report. Bank account was reconciled for May, and all is in order. He presented a bar graph indicating that revenue has been declining steadily since December 2014, when the Board first began accepting applications, but appears to be leveling off. Discussion regarding causes for the decline and ways to prevent further decline ensued. Klekamp noted on the list of checks that were issued in May that William Finley's name was misspelled and called for revision to correct the spelling.

McNicholas reported that, unlike previous treasurer's reports, the report given in May had not been approved by the Board. She commented that parliamentary procedure recommends that treasurers' reports be filed for record but not approved by the board. Johnston responded that the LBOPG is not bound by rules of parliamentary procedure and can adopt any process it deems appropriate. McNicholas explained the reason for merely filing the report for record is because the treasurer is simply reporting this information and is not attesting to its accuracy; Johnson added that the treasurer is not asking for

action to be taken. Johnston asked if the budget requires approval; McNicholas and Johnson confirmed that it does. Klekamp asked about the payment to ZOHO, which instigated discussion of the email accounts for Board members. The point was made that the AT&T bill will be paid by credit card because the bill is due well before the Board meets; to avoid overdue charges, therefore, the bill will be paid by credit card henceforth. Johnson also noted that more people are licensed with renewal dates in June, July, and August than in other months of the year, so renewal revenue increases during those months. McNicholas reported that a large number of renewals have been received in the last week.

Johnson then presented the LBOPG budget for 2016-2017. He noted that the projected revenue for both new and renewing licenses was far higher than the actual income. McNicholas explained that the 2015-2016 budget year was the first for the Board, and projections were based on the number, about 900, of grandfather applicants who had not yet completed the process. She also explained that she has been contacting the grandfather applicants who have not completed the application process, and most of those applicants have been grateful to discover that it is not too late to complete the process. She further noted that projections were also made with the thought that more states would be willing to enter into reciprocity with Louisiana, and while many are, the process of obtaining agreements from other states has taken much longer than expected. Johnson emphasized that pursuing renewals is critical to maintaining fiscal stability. He also explained that the proposed budget fits better with the current fiscal reality. Discussion ensued regarding major expenses and ways to bring costs down and increase revenue. The point was made that, while the large one-time cost to the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) has been paid, a recurring expense to that organization will remain. Also discussed was another large budget item, \$60,000 for potential expenses incurred for discipline and enforcement for violations by licensees and non-licensees. The point was made by Meaney that the expense should perhaps be offset by a corresponding revenue line for monetary awards. However, Johnson noted that any corresponding revenue would most likely not be forthcoming in the fiscal year in which the disciplinary or enforcement action is taken and therefore could not be counted as projected income for the same year. Additional discussion regarding enforcement procedures ensued. Meaney moved to accept the 2016-2017 budget as presented; Kumar seconded his motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Application Review Committee: Pate noted that the online application process has not been perfected for Geologists-in-Training (GITs). She also reported that the GIT roster must be added to the website. She explained that LBOPG needs to establish approval levels for GIT applicants to take the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam; to certify the applicant as a GIT; to take the Practice of Geology (PG) exam; and to apply for licensure as a Professional Geoscientist.

Pate read the numbers of applicants recommended by the Licensing Application Review Committee for a Louisiana Professional Geoscientist license as follows: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11 of the Licensing Review Committee List for June 14, 2016. She also reported that the committee recommended all four applicants for the FG exam and applicant 2 for the PG exam. Meaney moved to approve the recommended applicants for licensure. Seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Complaint Review Committee: *Draft Policy for Seal Use:* A draft of the guidelines created by the working group consisting of LBOPG Board members and representatives from both the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was presented. Discussion ensued. Johnston moved to accept the draft and to submit it to DEQ and DNR for their comments and

approval; Johnson seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously. *Draft Procedure for Discipline of Licensees and Enforcement of Non-Licensees*: Meaney referred to the draft and asked Vorhoff for a legal opinion on possible contradictions in paragraph 1a that give both investigative and prosecutorial powers to the Board. Vorhoff recommended that the Complaint Review Committee be in charge of investigating allegations of impropriety, an independent attorney act as hearing officer to preside over discipline and enforcement hearings, and the full Board be charged with deciding whether the evidence is sufficient to warrant disciplinary action. Discussion ensued. Vorhoff agreed to review and rewrite paragraph 1a to ensure that the suggested process is in place.

Office Committee: Johnston reported that issues with Adobe Business Catalyst have been discovered and reported to Usable Creative. Data, such as license numbers and initial license payment details, that have been input into some licensed PGs' applications disappear. Usable Creative has assured us that they are working with Adobe Business Catalyst to determine why this is occurring.

State Auditor Becky Ewing, met with McNicholas on Friday, June 10th, for the entrance interview for the annual audit. All requested information that was in electronic format was submitted on Monday, June 13, 2016. The additional information requested will be available for Ewing's in-house review the week on June 20 – 24.

Other Business: *Reciprocity*: Johnston reported that Virginia has denied LBOPG's request to pursue reciprocity. *PG license plate*: No action. *GIT program*: McNicholas reported that the dean of the Department of Geology at Centenary College expressed concerns that are being forwarded to the appropriate person with ASBOG. She also reported that UNO has already been working with ASBOG to use the exam as an assessment tool. Pate reported that several entities, particularly those in the New Orleans area, that are involved with coastal restoration are interested in keeping work in house and are requiring PG licensure for employment. She also mentioned that Tulane is beginning the "River Initiative" and is interested in certification for their students. Johnson reported that he will be attending the national conference of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) June 19-22 and will be talking with his colleagues about ASBOG and the GIT program. He mentioned that he intends to talk with members of Women Geoscientists on Saturday about the program. *Nominations for Executive Committee for 2017*: Johnston reminded the group that, since the next full board meeting is in August, nominations for the executive committee need to be opened before that meeting so that a vote can be held at the August meeting. He then opened the floor for nominations. Johnson was nominated for treasurer by Pate and Meaney; Pate was nominated for secretary by Johnson and Meaney; Johnston was nominated for vice chair by Johnson and Meaney; and Finley was nominated for chair by Johnston and Johnson. Nominations will remain open until a vote is taken at the August meeting. *New business—Clarifying Examination Requirements and Fees for GITs*: McNicholas reported that applicants can take both the FG and PG exams on the same day, though doing so is not recommended. She then asked the Board for guidance on whether those applicants who are eligible to take the PG exam and become fully licensed in the same year that they also take the FG exam and become certified as GITs must pay both \$100 for the GIT certification and then pay another \$200 for the PG license. Discussion ensued, with the consensus deciding that those applicants should pay for the PG license only—not both. Johnson made a motion that applicants who are eligible to take both exams should pay only one time. Also needing clarification was the question of whether applicants should pay the application fee every time they take the PG exam. Discussion regarding how many times an applicant would be allowed to take the PG exam until it was passed ensued.

Johnson presented a motion to require an applicant to pay the \$100 GIT application fee only one time, regardless of the number of times the exam was taken. Kumar seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. One final issue to be clarified was the process for approving applicants who petition to take the ASBOG exams between the June meeting of the Board and the August meeting. Discussion ensued, and the consensus of the Board decided to hold a special meeting on Friday, July 15, 2016, to review and approve those applicants. Currently, only one such application is in process.

Next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. Meaney moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously. Johnston adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.