

# LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

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



## REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Tuesday, August 9, 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, August 9, 2016. He then commenced roll call.

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

Absent: None.

Quorum established. Roll Call sheet was circulated for signatures.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting Minutes of 06/14/2016 and 07/15/2016 were reviewed. Johnson moved to accept the June minutes; Finley seconded; motion carried unanimously. Finley moved to accept the July minutes; Johnson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Johnson presented the June/July 2016 Treasurer's Report. Bank account was reconciled for both June and July, and all is in order. A graph was presented that shows the account balance has been stable for the last six months. Johnson brought out that about \$9000 was paid for legal expenses for the year to date and that this expense will be paid on a monthly basis from now on. Klekamp moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Application Review Committee: Pate reported that on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, she and McNicholas had met with staff at Usable Creative to revise the Business Catalyst database to accommodate the new GIT applications. A field to indicate "qualified" to take the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam; a field to indicate "qualified" to take the ASBOG Practice of Geology exam; and a field to indicate "approved" for GIT certification will be added. A new contract with Usable Creative for these changes and others, including adding the GIT roster to the Website, will be initiated soon, will be sent to the Board for review, and should be finalized by the date of the next Board meeting. This contract will be in addition to the maintenance contract that is already in place.

Pate read the numbers of applicants recommended by the Licensing Application Review Committee for a Louisiana Professional Geoscientist license as follows: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of the Licensing Review Committee List for August 9, 2016. Johnson moved to approve the recommended applicants for licensure; seconded by Klekamp. Motion carried unanimously.

License Examination: Finley reported that eight applicants have been approved to take the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam and six applicants have been approved to take the Practice of Geology exam. Both exams will be given on Friday, September 30, 2016.

The next ASBOG testing date will be March 17, 2017. The ASBOG deadline for applying to take exams on that date is January 31, 2017; the LBOPG deadline for applicants to be approved to take exams is, therefore, December 31, 2016 (30 days prior to the ASBOG deadline).

Complaint Review Committee: *Draft Policy for Seal Use:* 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) are currently under review by staff at DNR and DEQ.

*Draft Procedure for Discipline of Licensees and Enforcement of Non-Licensees:* As requested at the June 14 Board meeting by Meaney, Vorhoff drafted a memorandum dated August 4, 2016, regarding complaint review and hearing procedure. This memo presented the Board with roles and procedures that the Complaint Review Committee (CRC) can implement. Meaney asked if the investigator must be someone outside the Board. Vorhoff responded that the investigator could be the executive secretary of the Board to keep down costs but that all expenses for investigation and prosecution could be recouped from penalties assessed in any successfully prosecuted cases that arise. Vorhoff clarified that none of the CRC members, including the chair of the committee, may vote on the disciplinary actions they recommend to the full Board. Meaney then brought up the point that the CRC members should not all be Board members; otherwise, the number of voting Board members will be reduced to an unacceptable level. He then suggested that the CRC should consist of at least three people, only one of whom will be a Board member and the chair of the CRC, another the Board's executive secretary in the role of investigator, and at least one member who is not on the Board. Discussion ensued, including adding two non-Board Professional Geoscientists to the CRC, case confidentiality concerns, and how specific the details of the procedure should be prior to a first-case hearing. Johnston requested that Meaney revise the draft with the assistance of Vorhoff and present the draft at the next meeting.

Office Committee: Because checks will need to be signed more frequently than every other month when the Board now meets, Johnston suggested that Board members who live in Baton Rouge should be able to sign checks. Johnson moved to give Kumar, who lives locally, signatory authority on the bank account. Pate seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

Other Business: *Election of LBOPG Officers for 2016-2017:* Nominations were: Finley for chair; Johnston for vice-chair; Johnson for treasurer; and Pate for secretary. Meaney moved to close nominations;

Johnson seconded his motion; the motion passed unanimously. Election of officers was held by voice vote; all nominees were elected unanimously.

*Representatives of LBOPG to attend annual ASBOG Conference, October 31 –November 5, 2016, in Lawrence, Kansas:* Johnston suggested that Macon should attend the conference and attend the administrators' workshop and other activities throughout the week. Finley moved to send Macon to attend and the annual meeting (October 31 through November 4); Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Johnston then mentioned that Klekamp had expressed interest in attending the conference but that Pate had been nominated for the position of secretary for the ASBOG organization and recommended that she attend with Klekamp as an alternate. Johnson moved to send Pate to the conference, with Klekamp as an alternate if she cannot attend; Finley seconded this motion, which also passed unanimously.

*Letter from the Louisiana Attorney General:* Board members were given copies of the letter dated August 8, 2016, that reiterated that "all state agencies, boards, commissions, and political subdivisions of the State are mandated to obtain approval of the Attorney General prior to engaging the services of private legal counsel for any matter."

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Finley. Motion carried unanimously. Johnston adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.