

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

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



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 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 1:10 p.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2015.

He then commenced Roll Call.

Present: John Johnston, Todd Perry, Lloyd Hoover, Madhurendu Kumar, William Finley, William Meaney, Board Members. Harry Vorhoff, Legal Counsel. Georgeann McNicholas, Executive Secretary. Mag Lockhart, Assistant Executive Secretary.

Absent: Kelli Hardesty and Daisy Pate, Board Members.

Quorum established. Roll Call sheet was circulated for signatures.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting Minutes of 10/13/2015 were reviewed. Motion made by Finley to accept the minutes, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Request for Raise: Lockhart submitted a request to the Office Committee for a raise and holiday pay if holiday falls on Tuesday. Office Committee took it under advisement and unanimously recommended that the request be declined for the following reasons: the position is a 10-hour a week temporary position, so holiday pay is unwarranted; and the requested raise is in excess of what the full-time Executive Secretary position earns per hour. Motion was made by Johnson to decline the requested raise, seconded by Kumar. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2015. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Perry, seconded by Meaney. Motion carried unanimously.

Licensing Application Review Committee – Discussion ensued regarding applicant number 1 on Licensing Application Review Committee List for November 10, 2015. Request for title page and abstract of PhD dissertation and Master's thesis will be requested. Johnson read the numbers of applicants recommended by the Licensing Application Review Committee for a Louisiana Professional Geoscientist license as follows: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, of the Licensing Review Committee List for November 10, 2015. Finley motioned to accept the recommended list of applicants as read. Seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Licensing Examination Committee – No report at this time.

Complaint Review Committee – No report at this time.

Hearing Committee – No report at this time.

Comity/Reciprocity – Johnston discussed reciprocity discussion with Executive Director of the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists (MSBRPG). Johnson made a motion that a reciprocity agreement be sent to MSBRPG, seconded by Kumar. Discussion ensued regarding whether transcripts should be required to be submitted by reciprocity candidates. Finley made a motion that reciprocity candidates must meet all LBOPG requirements i.e. pay licensing fee, complete LBOPG application, including submission of transcripts and three references, and meet all of Louisiana’s requirements except for ASBOG exam requirement which is waived if licensed in reciprocal state. Seconded by Meaney. Motion carried unanimously. Licensing Application Review Committee will review the first reciprocity applicant received and make recommendation for December LBOPG meeting. Johnston notified the Board that the Texas Board of Geologists has already notified its licensees of the reciprocity agreement between Texas and Louisiana via email. Johnston offered to draft an email to send to Louisiana geological societies and circulate to the LBOPG for approval.

Office Committee – Rules were hand delivered on October 21, 2015 to the Louisiana Register for publication on November 20, 2015. Reciprocity agreements were mailed on 10/23/2016 to TX, AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, ID, IN, KY, ME, MN, NE, NH, NC, OR, PA, SC, TN, UT, VA, WA, WS. Minnesota has responded that their Act does not allow for reciprocity. New Hampshire “do sign agreements with any state”. ASBOG membership package was mailed on October 26, 2015 and receipt confirmed. McNicholas and Pate will be attending the ASBOG meeting. Contract with LA Champagne & Co. for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 was approved by the Office of Contractual Affairs. LA Champagne is late preparing 3rd Quarter tax reports. LA Champagne & Co. does not anticipate any penalty for filing late. LBOPG received a contract with Usable Creative for January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017 subscription to the Business Catalyst content management software, hosting, and maintenance for \$1,500 annually. Discussion ensued regarding how reciprocity applicants will be noted in database. Request Usable Creative add a box for reciprocity applicants to check on application.

Legal Counsel’s Comments – Motion was made by Johnson to waive requirement that legal counsel read the proposed bylaws. Seconded by Perry. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion ensued regarding formal written notice of Board meetings via email. Motion was made by Meaney to insert language to bylaws that written notice of Board meetings may be made via email. Seconded by Johnson. Vorhoff proceeded that standing committees were based on the Board’s decision and can be added at Board’s discretion. Johnston noted that the Act states “Chairman” and “Vice Chairman” instead of “Chair” and the Act states that the “Secretary”, meaning the Board Secretary, provide written notice of LBOPG of board meetings so the ByLaws should use the same language as the Act. Motion made by Perry to approve the ByLaws as revised, seconded by Kumar. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business – *Committee Assignments*: Johnston suggested that the following committees be the LBOPG standing committees: Application Review, License Examination, Enforcement Committee and Office Committee. Discussion ensued regarding combining Hearings Committee with Complaint Committee into Enforcement Committee. Hoover suggested that persons on Complaint Committee cannot be on Hearing Committee on some boards. Discussion continued. While Vorhoff reviewed Act and Rules it was suggested that there be a standing Complaint Committee instead of the proposed Enforcement Committee and a Hearing Committee established as needed and appointments made by Chairman at that time. At the next meeting, Johnston would like for everyone to determine what committees they would like to serve. *ASBOG Field Trip*: ASBOG Board of Examiners will be meeting in Baton Rouge in April. Discussion ensued concerning possible field trips. Johnston suggested that board members ask their respective societies and to notify him of anyone that wants to provide a field trip. *Legal Counsels Finding On Complaint/Hearing Committees*: Vorhoff said the Board, upon receiving a complaint, determines if the complaint is unfounded and sends notice to the

person who filed the complaint. If it is determined that the complaint requires a hearing, the hearing may be before the entire board or a subcommittee may be appointed. The only requirement of the subcommittee is that one Board member must be on the committee. When the Board as a whole is the hearing committee, if the person who filed the complaint is on the board, that person should abstain from voting following the hearing. Finley made a motion that the four standing committees be: License Application Review, Licensing Examination, Complaint, and Office, seconded by Kumar. Motion passed unanimously. Hearing Committee will be appointed as stated in the Act. *ASBOG Counsel of Examiners* – McNicholas noted that all Board members, as licensed professional geoscientists, may apply to ASBOG to be an examiner at the April 7th – 9th Counsel of Examiners meeting which will be held in Baton Rouge. The Counsel of Examiners review all questions from the GIT and PG exams and make recommendations. Kumar explained the process to the Board. *EPA proposed rule* – Discussion concerning whether or not LBOPG should comment on the EPA proposed rule. Decided that there may be a time in the future but not now. Perry made a motion that LBOPG take no action at this time. Seconded by Finley. *License Plates* – McNicholas met with Tiffany K. Allen, OMV Legislative Coordinator. The contract is being drafted between LBOPG and the Office of Motor Vehicle. LBOPG’s vanity plates will be “PG” and then 4 numbers with the seal approved by the board and “Professional Geoscientist” on the bottom. First 100 have been reserved so that PG’s whose numbers are in the first 100 may reserve their license number. If not, the number will be given to any PG that applies for a PG vanity plate. *Ethics* – Discussion ensued regarding the various ways, online and through geological society meetings, for licensees to fulfill the Ethics requirement.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Johnson motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Meaney. Motion carried unanimously.

Johnson adjourned meeting at 2:15 p.m.