

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

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



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

1:30 P.M.

Louisiana Engineering Society Building

Conference Room

9643 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809

MINUTES

Dr. Kumar called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., July 8, 2014.

Present: William Finley, Lloyd Hoover, Arthur Johnson, John Johnston, William Meaney, Madhurendu Kumar, L. Todd Perry, Board Members. Ethel Graham, Legal Counsel, and Georgeann McNicholas, Executive Secretary to the Board.

Absent: Kelli Hardesty, and Daisy Pate, Board Members.

Roll Call sheet was circulated for signatures.

Johnston made a motion to accept minutes of June 17, 2014 meeting. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Kumar gave Treasurer's Report. Finley suggested that in the future, the total amount of checks to be distributed be included.

Dr. Kumar pointed out the distributed copy of the news article *Louisiana Geoscience Licensing Deadline Moved – Again – To End of Year* in the AAPG Explorer.

Standing Committee Reports.

The Board reviewed the current standing committees. Johnston requested that he be replaced as Chairman of the Hearing committee by Johnson. Further he requested that the Office Committee be made a standing committee. Motion made by Johnston. Seconded by Hoover.

Motion carried. Office Committee Chair is Johnston, with Kumar and Johnson as committee members. Lloyd Hoover added as committee member to Hearings and to Reciprocity Committees.

Application Review Committee - McNicholas read Hardesty's Application Review status report. Lloyd Hoover, Arthur Johnson, Chacko John, Jeffrey Bernsten, Joe Mark Henderson, Leslie O'Connor, Daniel Vellone and Bruce Darling were recommended for licensing. Discussion ensued regarding concerns with two applications and it was determined to table the voting on those two applications until further review is complete. Johnston made a motion to license Lloyd Hoover, Arthur Johnson, Chacko John, Jeffrey Bernsten, Joe Mark Henderson, Leslie O'Connor, Daniel Vellone and Bruce Darling. Seconded by Meaney. Motion passed with Hoover and Johnson abstaining. Johnson raised the question whether all transcripts are required or just enough to show the 30 hours of geoscience requirement has been met, waiver of references due to licensing in states that have equal requirements as Louisiana and what should be stated on the website. Graham said legally, only the proof of 30 hours is needed. Graham suggested developing a flow chart for the Board. Discussion ensued. No changes to be made to the website at this time. Discussion ensued regarding to various states licensing requirements and continuing education requirements.

Licensing Exam Committee – Kumar explained ASBOG fees and requirements. Copies will be made for Pate, Hardesty and Perry to prepare a report. Discussion ensued concerning timing of joining ASBOG. Tabled until Licensing Exam Committee report.

Complaint Committee - Meaney submitted his section of the Rules to Finley.

Hearings Committee – Johnston submitted a draft of rules for complaints and hearings to Finley and copied all Board Members. Discussion ensued regarding Board's power to file suit in District Court, civil division, for violations.

Comity/Reciprocity Committee – Finley reported that this all involves finalization of Rules. Johnson suggested that draft rules be submitted a few days before board meetings.

Office Committee – Business card approved with the correction of the zip code to 70809. Membership cards approved at last meeting to be ordered. Ink credit card by Chase Bank found to be the best deal because it has no annual fee and gives the highest level of rewards for a business card. Recommended as the best for small businesses by Money magazine. Johnston made a motion that the board apply for the card, seconded by Hoover. Motion carried unopposed. Discussion concerning Vacation and Sick leave for office personnel. Graham offered to obtain and submit to LBOPG. Tabled to next meeting. Motion made by Johnston that LBOPG adopt the State Holidays Observed by the Office of State Purchasing for the office staff of LBOPG. Motion seconded by Finley. Motion carried. Signage on exterior door to building complete. The two interior signs have been shipped. Johnston reported the need for a quality scanner for the office to scan in color, legal size, for transcripts and all other documents

submitted with applications. Johnston made the motion that a legal size, color, quality scanner be purchased, not to exceed \$1000.00. Motion seconded by Finley. Motion carried unopposed.

Rules Committee – Finley distributed a list of definitions. Clarified “Credential” is both a “license” for professional geoscientist and a “certificate” for Geoscientist-in-Training. Graham stated that 711.2 says “certificate”. She will need to confirm if “certificate” may be used in rules. Finley will cross check definitions with the Act. “Registration card” will be the term used and it will be sent for renewals every year. Wallet-size cards will give status of license. Graham will check “Inactive”, “Expired” and “Retired” with the Act. Discussion ensued regarding Temporary Licenses. Meaney stated that there are only two classifications in our Act: “Active” and “Inactive”, (90 days after the renewal date). Graham stated that the Administrative Procedure Act states that Legislature must approve the rules. Doesn’t know if Public Hearings are required but will find out. Kumar suggested that we have deadline dates set for the completion of the Rules.

Website - McNicholas reported that there have been issues with the Reference section of the application on the website and the web designer worked on it over the weekend. McNicholas reported that until the issue is resolved, we are not notifying grandfathered applicants to apply for their license. Usable Creative provided training and a “How To” webpage for LBOPG to revise webpages. A running list of suggestions has been compiled. Many compliments on the ease of licensing have been forthcoming. We cannot have a “Save and Return” and mandatory fields, only one or the other is allowable. Discussion ensued regarding the transcript process. Finley suggested that there may be some way to break up running sentences in the applications narrative section. McNicholas suggested Finley follow-up with Usable Creative. McNicholas stated that a date need to be set for Phase so that the approval process may begin. Determined that Phase II deadline should be set for December 1, 2014.

Legal Report –Graham informed the Board that any inquiries about temporary licenses should be told that LBOPG is not issuing temporary licenses at this time and get their name and contact numbers. Graham also informed the Board that even though the Rules are not complete, the Board has the power to address violations to the Act.

The Board reviewed possible designs for the seal. Number 1 was the design originally suggested. Discussion ensued. Johnson made a motion to accept design Number 3. Seconded by Finley. Motion passed unopposed.

Letter to Representative Green was reviewed. Johnston made a motion to approve the letter. Seconded by Finley. Motion passed unopposed.

Next meeting will be July 22nd at 1:30 p.m. at the Louisiana Engineering Society Building Conference Room, 9643 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA and the following one will be August 12nd.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Johnston, seconded by Johnson. Motion passed unopposed. Kumar adjourned meeting at 3:30 p.m.