

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS**

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



**REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG**

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

1:30 P.M.

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

**MINUTES**

Chairman Kumar called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., September 23, 2014.

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

Absent: William Finley, Daisy Pate, and L. Todd Perry Board Members.

Quorum established. Roll Call sheet was circulated for signatures.

Minutes of 9/9/2014 were reviewed. Graham noted a reason for the executive session needs to be in the minutes. Hardesty noted the time of executive session was 1:48 p.m. instead of 2:48 p.m. Johnson made a motion to accept minutes with the corrections. Hardesty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Graham proposed T. Perry's request for a revision to the meeting minutes of 10/28/13 to reflect his presence at the meeting. Johnson made a motion to amend the 10/28/13 minutes to reflect T. Perry's presence at the meeting. Hardesty seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Graham noted McNicholas will amend the minutes of 10/28/13 and post revised minutes on the website.

Board reviewed the list of checks to be authorized. Johnston moved for checks to be approved. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Licensing Application Review Committee – Hardesty presented topic of references by geologists by title but not a degreed or licensed geoscientist. She suggested, in these cases, we ask applicant to supply job details of reference or provide a licensed or degreed geoscientist as an alternative reference. Received consensus of Board. Hardesty recommended listed numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7,

9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 59, 60, 61, 64, and 65 to be licensed on Licensing Review Committee List for September 23, 2014 . Meaney made motion to approve recommendation of the Application Review Committee. Seconded by Johnston. Motion carried unanimously. Johnson asked if there were others listed need Board discussion. Hardesty replied discussion was needed by Application Review Committee prior to presentation for Board discussion. Johnson noted one applicant was denied and inquired as to reason for denial. McNicholas to follow-up and confirm prior to distribution of denial status.

Licensing Examination Committee - No report at this time.

Complaint Review Committee – No report at this time.

Hearing Committee – No report at this time. Discussion ensued regarding Board’s ability to change rules as needed.

Comity/Reciprocity - No report at this time. McNicholas commented ASBOG is drafting a universal Licensing Agreement between States. Johnson and Kumar commented regarding other States requirements varying from Louisiana’s requirements. McNicholas noted, at this time, the Board has been accepting applications for approval without references if the applicant was certified in Arkansas, Alabama or Mississippi or Texas. Concern recommendations may be dated was raised. Kumar noted references certify an applicant is in good standing. Graham concurred a certificate of good standing gives the presumption person has good moral character. No further discussion.

Office Committee – Johnston reported the bank funds will be moved the middle of October when the officers are available. Johnston reported on costs of checks from three sources. Sam’s Club checks were the least expensive. Johnston proposed we use Sam’s Club checks when new account is opened. McNicholas noted the checks will be the same as the duplicate checks, 3 to a page, currently used by the Board. Johnston reported 1726 applicants for grandfathering, 1530 have been notified to apply online for license, 640 have applied and 118 have been licensed to date. Johnston reported 400 flyers announcing the extension of the grandfathering period/licensing procedure were produced and sent to be included in the GCAGS registrant’s information. Denial letter was reviewed and revised by the Board. Motion was made to approve revised denial letter by Johnson, seconded by Hardesty. Motion passed unanimously. Johnston reported signage is done. Waiting for installation date.

Rules Committee – Meaney queried how revisions should be addressed. Agreed comments/revisions should be circulated via email.

Website – McNicholas reported the contract has been finalized and is ready to be submitted to the Office of Contractual Review. Hardesty asked how soon the reviewers report webpage will be available and McNicholas confirmed it was listed in Stage 1. McNicholas noted non geoscientist references were submitted and recommended language on website under References be changed to read “geoscientist’s name”, “geoscientist’s address”, etc. instead of

“reference’s name”, “reference’s address”. Hardesty requested language may be added regarding geoscientist reference. Hoover expressed concern of requirements for references. Discussion ensued concerning who is a qualified reference. Confirmed reference must be able to meet the qualifications to be licensed in Louisiana. Meaney suggested an addition be made to website so when a reference responds that they are not a licensed geoscientist, a field populates so the reference may write his/her detailed work experience. Further discussion ensued concerning continuing need post-grandfathering period.

Legal Counsel’s Comments – None.

Other Business –

- a.) Continuing Education – Meaney stated that continuing education purpose is to insure licensee continues to update their professional education, to be learning. The roots of what the Board has currently drafted come from the Texas rules and, at the time they implemented rules, there was one controlling group. This Board needs to insure evenhandedness to all. Discussion ensued concerning hours of credit for preparing to teach a course, teaching a course, giving lectures/presentations, attending a 2 or 3 credit semester course, attending a lecture, and writing publications. Discussion ensued. A proposal was drafted to be circulated to all LBOPG members for comment. Discussion ensued concerning applicants that do not require licensure.
- b.) List of documents required to be sealed. Graham clarified the Act states that all documents prepared by a licensed Professional Geoscientist must be sealed and that the person sealing the document must be the preparer. Discussion ensued. A document must be in a final and unalterable form (PDF) to be sealed. Not a collaborative effort or one that can be modified by a superior. Professional Geoscientist does not seal until the report is final. Exception noted by Hardesty is when a map is sealed and incorporated in another’s report.
- c.) Professional Geoscientist seal design needs “Est.” or “Established” added prior to “2011” because licensed professional geoscientists are asking if that date should be changed to the date they are licensed. Johnston made a motion to add “Est.” prior to “2011” on the seal. Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be October 14, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Louisiana Engineering Society Building Conference Room, 9643 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA. October 28, 2014 will be the next meeting after October 14, 2014 meeting. Hardesty requested confirmation that meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Confirmed by the Board.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Johnson, seconded by Hardesty. Motion passed unopposed. Kumar adjourned meeting at 3:25 p.m.