



Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

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MINUTES

Board Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2015

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at the Board offices located at 2777 Zelda Road, Montgomery, Alabama. A quorum was present. Board members in attendance were Ms. Marsha Andrews (Chair), Mr. Roger Chapman, Mr. James Heller, Mr. Steve Castleman, Dr. David Allison, Mr. Billy Cooch, and Mr. John Milledge. Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director) Ms. Hope Paulene (Administrator), Mr. Bill Garrett (Board Counsel), and Ms. Renee' Reames (Executive Secretary to Mr. Warren).

The regularly scheduled meeting was advertised to the public on the Board's website, (www.algeobd.alabama.gov), as well as the Secretary of State's website, (www.sos.state.al.us), in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

New members were introduced and welcomed by the Board. Mr. Warren administered the oath of office to the following new Board members: Mr. Stephen P. Castleman, Dr. David T. Allison, Mr. William W. Cooch, and Mr. John B.D. Milledge.

The Board reviewed the minutes from January 22, 2015 meeting. A copy of the minutes had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review. Ms. Andrews gave an overview to the new board members about the meeting process and agenda items. Mr. Heller made a motion to accept the January minutes as presented with one correction to the spelling of Mr. Castleman's name. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooch and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported on the Board's financial activities and Ms. Paulene reviewed the Executive Secretary's report (copies are available for viewing in the Board's official Book of Minutes):

- A) Number of Licensees (through March, 2014):
- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Professional Geologists (PGs): | 574 |
| a. Alabama (229) | |
| b. Out-of-State (345) | |
| 2. Licenses not renewed (January-March) | 28 |
| 3. Geologist-In-Training (GITs) | 10 |
| 4. Retired Permanently | 3 |
| 5. Temporary License (current) | 2 |
- B) FY 2014-2015 Financial Information (as of March 30, 2015)

1. Revenue	\$22,025.00
2. Expenditure Vouchers	\$33,242.88
3. Cash Balance (as of 3-30-15):	\$52,130.58

Ms. Paulene corrected the statistics on licensees renewing their license in March to reflect 7 were eligible to renew and all had not renewed. Following a review of the detailed expenses and revenue by the Board, Mr. Warren reported that license renewals occur every two years and there should be an increase in revenue from renewals beginning in the second quarter of this year. Ms. Andrews reported that the election of officers, to include a Treasurer/Secretary, would be discussed later in the Board meeting. Mr. Chapman made a motion to accept the Financial Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported on legislative activities and a proposed bill to pull Board funds at the end of each fiscal year to a zero balance. Should this bill pass, it is proposed that the funds would go back into the General Fund. He commented on the Alabama Association of Regulatory Boards opposition to this bill. Ms. Andrews commented on the hardship by licensees to obtain continuing education credits in order to maintain their license and the decision of the Board to approve the expenditure of the Board's funds to sponsor a CE program that had no registration cost to the licensees.

Mr. Warren reported on the results of the recent legal audit and Sunset review. He encouraged the Board members to attend the New Board Member Training offered by the Alabama Board of Examiners of Public Accounts. The 2015 training had been postponed, but Board members would be notified when a new date has been scheduled. Mr. Chapman commented on the requirement of each Board member to annually file a Statement of Economic Interest with the Alabama Ethics Commission.

The Board discussed the number of in-state and out-of-state licensees and licensing fees. Mr. Warren reported that following the initial licensing period (grandfather provision), the number of licensees have leveled out to around 560 and the number of in-state licensees has decreased. It was the consensus of the Board to track retired and inactive status of licensees for reporting purposes.

Ms. Paulene reported that the Alabama Geological Society (AGS) has agreed to reimburse registered students for the registration cost of taking and passing the ASBOG Fundamental of Geology Examination. Written requests are to be submitted to the AGS, <http://alageolsoc.org/>.

Ms. Andrews commented on the flyer created by the Board to encourage licensure. The flyer were mailed to the three universities that have geology departments. Ms. Paulene reported on the Fundamental and Practice exams indicating a 50% success rate in having a passing score. Ms. Andrews asked Dr. Allison for recommendations in creating further interest by the education institutions regarding professional licensure.

Mr. Warren reported that should the Board wish to submit recommendations concerning the exams, comments could be sent to ASBOG, which provides input to the Council of Examiners in developing exams for fair measures of competency in the profession. Ms. Andrews recommended that the examinations be held closer to graduation dates to eliminate long lapse in time between the two.

Ms. Paulene reported that a previous licensee had requested to renew their license rather than reapply. Ms. Andrews deferred further discussion on this matter, to the next Board meeting, to allow the Executive Director to develop a policy on this process.

Mr. Warren presented Rule 364-X-.5(02) Curricula Approved by the Board, which had been published for public comments. Ms. Andrews explained that many university course names had been re-branded and curricula had been reorganized; the change in the Board's Rule allowed for some flexibility in meeting course requirements for licensure. Mr. Warren reported that no public comments had been received. Mr. Castleman made the motion to approve the Final Rule 364-X-.5(02) as published. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chapman and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Andrew reported on the upcoming Board-sponsored Continuing Education program to be held at the Birmingham Marriott on April 21, 2015. She reported that Mr. Patton planned to make closing remarks and a transition speech, since his term has expired, and will introduce new Board members that may be present at the CE program.

Ms. Andrews reported that the election of officers had been postponed until new Board members were appointed and asked for nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Chapman nominated Jim Heller for the position of Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Allison for the position of Vice Chair; and Ms. Andrew for the position of Board Chair. The nominations were seconded by Mr. Castleman. There were no other nominations and the nominations were accepted unanimously by the Board.

Mr. Chapman presented a request from a licensee for a continuing education exemption for his 2015 renewal due to poor health. Following a discussion of the Board's Rule, Mr. Castleman made a motion to approve the CE exemption for his 2015 renewal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Andrew presented an inquiry about GIT classification and supervision, as it pertained to the Board's Rules. As this request involved employment at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and duties that included working with licensed geologists and environmental scientists, the Board agreed to accept her supervision by this employer in meeting her GIT requirements.

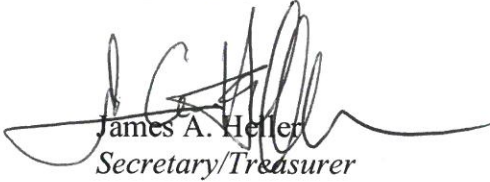
Ms. Paulene present five (5) PG applications for licensing for the Board's consideration. One applicant was previously licensed. He was met the grandfather provision in obtaining his license in 1996. He had maintained his license in Florida since 1991 and had taken the Florida examination. He had reapplied for licensing in Alabama, but has not obtained his CE credits. It was the consensus of the Board that when a license lapsed, two options were available: the applicant could renew the license with applicable license fees and CE requirements or reapply and meet the current application requirements, to include the ASBOG exam. Dr. Chapman made the motion to approve 4 of the 5 applications. The motion was seconded by Mr. Castleman and unanimously approved by the Board (a list of the approved applications is available for viewing in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is July 23, 2015.

The Board again addressed the matter of Board terms and limited number of licensees that meet the classification requirements outlined in the statute for appointees. Ms. Andrew indicated that discuss of this matter would be continued to the next Board meeting.

There being no further business of the Board, Ms. Andrews adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



James A. Heller
Secretary/Treasurer

Marsha Andrews
Marsha Andrews
Chair

/rr

Board Approved Applications for License on April 9, 2015

Approved Geologist License:

Robert L. Fargo—Reciprocal from Pennsylvania

William D. McBryde—Reciprocal from Mississippi

Christopher R. Napoleon—Reciprocal from Georgia

Bobby J. Wolf—Reciprocal from South Carolina