



## Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

2777 Zelda Rd  
Montgomery, AL 36106  
334/240-7236 Fax: 334/263-6115  
[www.algeobd.alabama.gov](http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov)  
Email: [geology@alstateboard.com](mailto:geology@alstateboard.com)

### MINUTES

Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 22, 2015

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on Thursday, October 22, 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), Dr. David Allison (Vice Chair) Mr. James Heller (Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. Steve Castleman, Mr. Billy Cooch and Mr. John Milledge. Board member not in attendance was Mr. Roger Chapman. Also in attendance were Keith Warren (Executive Secretary), Ms. Hope Paulene (Administrator) and Ms. Renee' Reames (Executive Secretary to Mr. Warren and recording secretary).

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

The Board reviewed the minutes from July 23, 2015 meeting. A copy of the minutes was distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review. Mr. Heller recommended that the minutes be corrected in paragraph 7 on page 2, to read *age groups in two categories*. Mr. Castleman made the motion to approve the July minutes with the recommended change. The motion was seconded by Dr. Allison and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Paulene presented the financial report and a detailed list of deposits and expenditures was provided to the Board members for their review. She presented the Executive Secretary's report (copies available for viewing in the Board's official Book of Minutes):

- A) Number of Licensees (through October 22, 2015):
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Professional Geologists (PGs):                                   | 537 |
| (comprised of 216 Alabama licensees and 321 out-of-state licensees) |     |
| 2. Licenses not renewed (January-September)                         | 60  |
| 3. Geologist-In-Training (GITs)                                     | 10  |
| 4. Retired  | 3   |
| 5. Temporary License (current)                                      | 2   |
- B) FY 2014-2015 Financial Information (as of September 30, 2015)
- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Revenue              | \$59,550.00 |
| 2. Expenditure Vouchers | \$58,090.00 |
| 3. Cash Balance         | \$64,808.70 |

Ms. Paulene reported that the Board's 2016 budget allocation was \$75,000. Mr. Heller reported that he had reviewed the detailed expenses and deposits and they were in order. Mr. Heller made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Allison and unanimously approved.

Ms. Paulene reported that 18 applicants had taken the Fundamentals exam and 7 applicants had taken the PG exam. The Board members discussed the Alabama Society's offer to pay for the examination.

Ms. Andrews announced that Tony Neathery had recently passed away and recommended that the Board request a Resolution from the Legislature and the Board also present a Resolution retiring Mr. Neathery's license number (#1). She further suggested that the Board consider holding their Board meeting in Tuscaloosa, after the Legislature has passed the Resolution, to make these presentations to the family. The Board discussed making inquiries with friends and co-workers of Mr. Neathery about writing an article for the Board's newsletter. Ms. Andrews indicated that she would contact associates of Mr. Neathery about the article. Mr. Castleman made a motion that the Executive Secretary approach the Legislature about acknowledging Mr. Neathery. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board discussed the new GIT flyer presented by Mr. Heller, along with the Texas's version of a flyer. A copy of the Texas flyer and new Board flyer (Building on Solid Ground: The Geologist-In-Training Credential in Alabama) were provided to the Board members for their review. The Board further discussed posting the new GIT flyer on the Board's website, along with requesting that the Alabama Society post a copy on their website and in their newsletters, and email the new flyer to universities' department heads and student organizations and honorary societies, and distribute copies at field trips, etc. Mr. Heller reviewed a spreadsheet he had developed on the historical performance results of Alabama applicants taking the examinations. He recommended that this data be updated periodically and distributed to the Universities' department heads, along with the exam results specific to students from their university. The Board agreed that these efforts were in support of preparing the students to take the examinations and promoting licensure in Alabama.

The Board further discussed soliciting candidates for "most outstanding student" and an article be included in the Board's newsletter. The Board asked the Executive Secretary to seek legal counsel's review of the Board's sponsorship of most outstanding student campaign.

The Board also continued discussions from the last Board meeting about creating an age limit exemption, where licensees would be exempt from the requirement of obtaining continuing education credits. Ms. Paulene reported that 30 CE hours were required every 2 years and that a maximum of 15 hours could be carried forward. The Board also discussed defining retirement as not practicing and not providing any consultant work. Ms. Paulene reported that the Board's statute did not authorize the collection of fees for inactive and retired licenses categories. The Board asked the Executive Secretary to seek legal counsel's review of Rule 364-X-13-.02(9)(3) vs. the statute and agreed to continue the discussion at a future Board meeting.

The Board discussed outreach services to promote licensure awareness. Dr. Allison mentioned developing a speaker's bureau and rotating to different universities, honor societies, and student organizations to discuss career paths and licensure. Ms. Andrews indicated that this matter would be discussed further at future board meetings and to solicit Mr. Chapman's assistance in creating a speaker's bureau.

Ms. Paulene reported on the low number of licensees that renewed their license online. The Board discussed modifying the format for online renewal and the best method of reporting CE hours online. Ms. Paulene further commented that due to the number of licensees, auditing of CE reported hours was limited. The Board discussed Professional Development hours that qualify as CE hours (Rule 364-X-13-.02) and modifying the website to include a Statement of CE Certification and/or year-round access in reporting CE hours when password-based licensee accounts were available online, similar to Texas' licensure website. The Board asked Ms. Paulene to work with ISD and obtain their recommendations about the matter.

The Board considered a request from a licensee about conflicts with their work schedule in obtaining the CE hours required by the Board. The Board members discussed the 2-year time requirement that the licensee was allowed to obtain the CE credits. The Board recommended that the licensee, whose expired license was in the 90 day grace period, have a conversation with their employer about this situation affecting their license and consider obtaining CE hours through online courses that allow participants to log off and log on again to continue the course over a period of several days. Mr. Castleman made a motion to deny the request to not comply with the CE requirements. The motion was seconded by Dr. Allison and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Andrews reported that election of officers were typically held in October. The Board members unanimously agreement to postpone the election of officers until October 2016, since officers had recently been elected in April after expired Board terms had been filled.

Mr. Warren arrived at 11:25 a.m. due to a conflict in this schedule.

Ms. Andrews reminded the Board that the next Board-sponsored CE program was planned to be held on April 26, 2016.

Ms. Andrews presented the 2016 Board meeting schedule for the Board's approval. Mr. Castleman made the motion to approve the dates presented: January 21st, April 21st, July 21st, and October 20<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren presented the annual renewal of the Administrative Services Contract with Warren and Company, Inc. Mr. Heller made the motion to renew the contract for another year effective November 26, 2015 at the same rate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooch and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Castleman left the meeting at 11:34 a.m. due to a conflict in schedule.

Mr. Warren reported that the Legal Counsel Service contract with the Attorney General's office was being increased from \$100 per hour to \$150 per hour. Mr. Warren reminded the Board that

they had discussed requesting an exception in paying legal fees due to budgetary restriction. He explained, however, that the AG's office was not funded in the 2016 budget approved by the Legislature and it was his understanding that no exemptions were being approved. It was the consensus of the Board to accept the adjustment in legal services fees.

Mr. Warren reported that he would not be attending the ASBOG meeting due to travel time and that he was not aware of any changes being made to the ASBOG examinations.

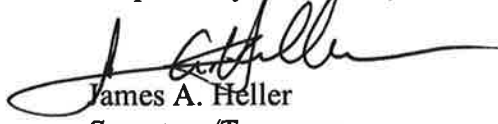
The Board discussed improving the quality of the Board's licensure certificates.


Ms. Paulene present one (1) PG application for reconsideration, three (3) PG applications for licensing and one (1) Geologist in Training applications for the Board's consideration. Following a review the applications by the Board, Mr. Cooch made the motion to approve the 1 GIT applications and 3 PG applications as presented and the application for reconsideration was denied because they did not take the ASBOG exam. The motion was seconded by Dr. Allison 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 January 21, 2016

There being no further business of the Board, Ms. Andrews adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
James A. Heller  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

  
Marsha Andrews  
*Chair*

/rr

**Board Approved Applications for License on October 22, 2015**

*Approved Geologist License:*

Jim Florey—Reciprocal from Texas

Andy Foy—By ASBOG Examination

Myra L. Hart, P.G.—Reciprocal from Texas

*Approved Geologist-in-Training License:*

Charles Fredoline Hoffman, IV —By ASBOG Examination