



## Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

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### MINUTES

Board Meeting  
October 7, 2021

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was held on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama. Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, the meeting was held virtually. The following member attended onsite: Mr. Troy Perry, Jr. (Board Chair). Other members attending virtually were: Dr. Scott Brande (Vice Chair), Dr. David King (Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. Chris Bryant (member), Mr. Richard Katz (member), Ms. Leslie Noble (member) and Mr. Russell Griebel (member). Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Secretary), Ms. Katherine Robertson (Assistant Attorney General, attending virtually), Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary). Mr. Warren called Board roll and indicated that a quorum was present to conduct business. Chairman Perry called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and he welcomed the Board's new Legal Counsel, Ms. Katherine Robertson, Chief Deputy of the Civil Division at the Attorney General's office.

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.alabama.gov](http://www.sos.alabama.gov)), in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Chairman Perry presented for the Board's approval the Board meeting agenda for the October 7, 2021 regular meeting of the Board. A copy of the agenda was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review. Mr. Katz made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. King. Chairman Perry called for a roll call vote and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Warren reported that a roll call vote had been established for future Board action during this meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Perry presented for the Board's approval the Board meeting minutes from July 15, 2021 regular meeting of the Board. A copy of the minutes was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review. Mr. Griebel made a motion to approve the July minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Executive Secretary Report: Mr. Warren presented the Executive Secretary's Report to the Board. He reported on the financial activities as of September 30, 2021, which included a line-item report of expenditures for this same end of the fiscal year period. He commented on the cost-saving measures approved by the Board:

#### FY 2021 Financial Information:

- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Revenue              | \$58,225.00 |
| 2. Expenditure Vouchers | \$37,914.42 |

3. Cash Balance \$28,016.89

Mr. Warren also reported on the number of licensees for this same period:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Professional Geologists (PGs):                                   | 507 |
| (comprised of 198 Alabama licensees and 309 out-of-state licensees) |     |
| 2. Licenses not renewed (April 2021 thru September 2021)            | 52  |
| 3. Geologist-In-Training (GITs)                                     | 13  |
| 4. Retired  | 17  |
| 5. Temporary License (current)                                      | 1   |

Old Business:

Mr. Warren indicated that he was working with Mr. Griebel in preparing communications to licensees about the Board's effort to increase the number of licenses and improving the Board's financial situation. The Board discussed the low number of licensees renewing in 2021 and the effect on the Board's financial condition. The Board was reminded that licensing fees had not been increased since the inception of the Board in 1997.

Mr. Warren recommended that the Administrative Management fee be reduced during the upcoming year, following a low renewal period. Dr. King made the motion to approve the reduced Management fees for the next 12 months. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren presented a matrix provided by ASBOG on licensure requirements and exemptions in other states. The Board discussed proposed changes to its statute and reviewed the type of exemptions in its own statute and the benefits in licensure, along with potential opposition, by creating a licensure path for these categories rather than remaining as exemptions.

The Board also discussed going to the individual universities and speaking with graduates about licensure and the Board agreed to develop, for review at the next Board meeting, an outline and talking points to universities.

The Board discussed several strategies to increase the number of licensees, e.g., review licensing data on GIT who had become PGs, gathering data on the number of graduates annually who are eligible to become GITs, encourage university Deans to require licensure examination, and proposing a rule change to waive GIT fees toward becoming PG, etc.

Continuing Education Committee: Dr. Brande provided a list of organizations providing CE opportunities. Mr. Warren reported that a list of organizations and an electronic link to contact information for CE programs would be placed on the Board's website. He encouraged the other members to submit to the Board Administrator, by the end of October, a list of CE opportunities that would also be posted on the Board's website.

Neathery Award for Outstanding Student: Dr. King led discussion about seeking nominations for outstanding geology students and expanding the program. He reminded the members that no nominations were received in 2021. He recommended a name change to Outstanding Geology Students in the State of Alabama, along with soliciting nominations from the Geology Department

staff, which would allow more nominations from a single department. Dr. Brande made a motion to approve the name change and adjustment to the letter as discussed. The motion was seconded by Dr. King. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Dr. King explained the changes would not change the original intent in honoring Mr. Neathery.

Coastal Permits: Mr. Warren reported that he had not received a reply from ADEM and would contact Ms. Dorothy Malaier about assistance and would update the Board's new legal counsel on this matter.

Proposed 2022 Board Meeting Calendar: Chairman Perry presented a list of 2022 dates for the Board to meet. Mr. Griebel made a motion to approve the following 2022 meeting dates: January 20, April 21, July 21 and October 20, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Katz. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Annual Election of Board Officers: Mr. Katz made a motion that the Board officers remain the same with Mr. Perry as Board Chair, Dr. Brande as Board Vice Chair and Dr. King as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nobel. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Childers presented nine (9) applications for the Board's approval, which consisted of eight (8) PG applications and one (1) GIT application for licensing. Following a review of the applications by Mr. Perry, Dr. Brande made the motion to approve the 9 applications, pending receipt of additional information as discussed by the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Griebel. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previously established roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board (a list of the approved applications is available for viewing in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

Dr. King left the meeting (virtually) at 11:15 a.m. due to a conflict in scheduling.

Mr. Warren requested that the Board review the Rule concerning Seals and Stamps (Rule 364-X-11) and assign the cost to the licensee. He indicated that the cost had increased through the new State vendor. Upon further review of the Board statute, § 34-31-14, Mr. Griebel made the motion to increase the Board's fee to cover the cost of the stamp and seal from \$75 to \$100. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande. Chairman Perry called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Dr. King had left the meeting. Chairman Perry stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairman Perry announced that the Board's next meeting was scheduled January 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Warren indicated that he expected the Board to meet at the Board's office with the lifting of the State of Emergency at the end of October. He would keep the Board advised of plans to have the January meeting in-person at the Board's office.

There being no further business of the Board, Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 11:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Troy J. Perry, Jr.  
*Board Chair*

Keith E. Warren  
*Executive Secretary*

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