



Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

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MINUTES

Board Meeting
July 11, 2024

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was held on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama. The following members attended: Mr. Troy Perry, Jr. (Board Chair attending virtually), Ms. Leslie Noble (member), Mr. Richard Katz (member), and Mr. Chris Bryant (member), Mr. Russell Griebel (Board Vice Chair attending virtually) and Dr. David King (Secretary/Treasurer attending virtually) and Dr. Scott Brande (member attending virtually). Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Secretary), Mr. Dan Wisniewski (Assistant Attorney General-Legal Counsel), Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator), and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary).

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.alabama.gov), in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Chairman Perry called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Mr. Warren called the Board member roll and indicated that a quorum was present to conduct business. Chairman Perry welcomed board members and staff. Chairman Perry indicated that he would vote on matters before the Board to maintain a quorum.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Chairman Perry presented a copy of the July 11, 2024 meeting agenda for the Board's approval. A copy of the agenda was provided to the members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Dr. Brande made the motion to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Katz and, following a roll call vote, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Perry presented for Board approval a copy of the Board's minutes from the March 28, 2024 regular meeting and May 9, 2024 special meeting. A copy of the minutes were provided to the members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Mr. Katz made a motion to approve the March minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Katz made a motion to approve the May special meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board

Executive Secretary Report: Mr. Warren presented the Executive Secretary's Report to the Board.

Mr. Warren reported on the number of licensees:

1. Professional Geologists (PGs):	515
(comprised of 218 Alabama licensees and 297 out-of-state licensees)	
2. Licenses not renewed (October 2023 through May 2024)	21
3. Geologist-In-Training (GITs)	8
4. Retired	18
5. Temporary License (current)	3

Mr. Warren commented on other activities performed by the staff since the last Board meeting held in March (report available in official Book of Minutes). He reported on the audit exit review conducted prior to the Board meeting and the audit findings. He explained that the Board was aware of the previous finding concerning Board expenditures exceeding revenue and the decrease in cash balance during the years reviewed in the audit. The members discussed the actions of the Board to increase revenue and reduce expenses (actions covered in prior Board meeting minutes) and to stabilize the finances of the Board. He also reported about the findings concerning timely deposits and the State's reduction in the number of days to deposit funds and the Board procedures to deposit checks twice a week and to consider other changes in collecting and depositing fees. He reported that the expired Board terms were to be posted on the Secretary of State website and the Board was working to submit nominations and request appointments to the Board. The Board discussed significant issues arising from questionnaire responses from licensees and Board members regarding the declining number of licensees facing the profession and mandatory continuing education not relevant to the profession. Further discussion continued about Board activities to offer free continuing education hours, polling of licensees prior to increasing licensing fees and visiting university campus to promote the profession and awareness of licensure exams through ASBOG. Chairman Perry commented on his discussions with members of the Contract Review Committee during consideration of the management contract with Smith Warren. Mr. Warren asked the members to notify him about attending the Sunset Committee scheduled on August 22, 2024. Chairman Perry commented on the importance of Board member attendance at these meetings to interact with legislative committee members.

Mr. Warren introduced Brannon Littleton, CFO at Smith Warren, who reported on financial activities of the Board. He presented a report on third quarter receipts and expenditures:

1. Revenue	\$ 11,425.00
2. Expenditure Vouchers	\$ 5,906.26
3. Cash Balance	\$ \$31,784.34

He also reviewed the anticipated revenue and expenditures for the fourth quarter of FY 2024, with a projected cash balance of \$13,721.44, and indicated that the remaining cash balance from FY 2024 would roll into FY 2025 budget.

MOTION: Mr. Bryant made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Katz and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Coastal Permits: Chairman Perry reported that the Board never received a substantial answer from ADEM about coastal drilling activities being reviewed by a PG, with specific concerns about risks of contamination of aquifers, saltwater intrusion, etc. affecting the coastal areas. Mr. Wisniewski indicated that he would inquire with ADEM about meeting to discuss this matter.

Mr. Griebel left the meeting at 11:17 a.m. due to a conflict in scheduling.

Planning for Board-Sponsored Continuing Education: The Board discussed current plans for sponsoring the continuing education program on September 10, 2024, and adopting a budget for renting the venue and seeking sponsors to cover other costs not allowed through the use of state funds.

MOTION: Dr. Brande made the motion to approve a budget for the CE event not to exceed \$3,000 to cover the cost of the facility and equipment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Bryant indicated that he would coordinate sponsorships of the event and asked that a solicitation notice to licensees be posted on the Board's website.

Dr. King at 11:28 a.m. due to a conflict in scheduling.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Terms: Mr. Warren reviewed the terms of the Board members indicating that Mr. Perry was not eligible for reappointment.

MOTION: Dr. Brande made the motion that the Board send a request to licensees to nominate and submit notice of interest to fill the governmental agency representative position on the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren left the meeting at 11:43 a.m. due to a conflict in scheduling.

Review and Approval of Applications for Licensure: Ms. Childers presented six (6) Professional Geologist (PG) applications for the Board's approval. Chairman Perry called for a motion to approve the applications (a copy available in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

MOTION: Ms. Noble made a motion to approve the 6 PG applications as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Board Meeting: Chairman Perry announced that the Board was scheduled to meet on October 10, 2024, and requested that Mr. Warren inquire with the University of South Alabama Geology Program about holding the October Board meeting on USA campus and inviting students and faculty to the Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Katz made the motion to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Troy J. Perry, Jr.
Board Chair

Keith E. Warren
Executive Secretary

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Approved on _____(date)/_____