



Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

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MINUTES

Board Meeting
January 9, 2025

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was held on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama. The following members attended: Mr. Troy Perry, Jr. (Board Chair), Mr. Russell Griebel (Board Vice Chair attending virtually), Mr. Chris Bryant (member), Dr. Scott Brande (member), Dr. David King (member attending virtually), Ms. Leslie Noble (member) and Mr. Richard Katz (member). 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 10:06 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 not vote on matters before the Board unless in case of a tie vote.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Chairman Perry presented a copy of the January 9, 2025 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: Mr. Katz made the motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande 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 October 10, 2024 regular meeting. A copy of the minutes was provided to the members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Mr. Griebel made a motion to approve the October minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande and, following a roll call vote, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Executive Secretary Report: Mr. Warren presented the Executive Secretary's Report to the Board and reported on the number of licensees:

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|---|-----|
| 1. Professional Geologists (PGs): | 524 |
| (comprised of 218 Alabama licensees and 306 out-of-state licensees) | |
| 2. Licenses not renewed (January 2024 through November 2024) | 36 |
| 3. Geologist-In-Training (GITs) | 6 |
| 4. Retired | 18 |
| 5. Temporary License (current) | 0 |

Mr. Warren reported that renewal applications were available online and he reminded the Board that a license could be renewed late with a penalty fee up to 90 days after the license expired and thereafter the applicant would have to reapply with a new application. He reported to the Board about the 5-day deposit requirement by the State Comptroller's office. Mr. Warren present also presented a list of activities performed by the staff since the last Board meeting held in October.

Board Terms: Mr. Warren presented the list of Board terms that had expired and members who were eligible to be reappointed. The Board discussed appointment recommendations for the government representative position, and the other Board members indicated that they had notified the Governor's office about their interest in continuing to serve on the Board.

Mr. Littleton, CFO at Smith Warren, reported on the financial activities of the Board. He presented a report on first quarter receipts and expenditures and ending cash balance:

1. Revenue	\$ 13,025.00
2. Expenditures	\$ 17,500.17
3. Cash Balance	\$ 27,853.13

He presented the anticipated expenditures and receipts for the second quarter of FY 2025, with a projected cash balance of \$32,702.45. A detail of expenditures by category and receipts was also provided (report available in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

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

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Coastal Permits: Mr. Wisniewski reported that he had contacted ADEM about groundwater extraction permits for coastal plains area. He indicated that one permit had been granted in the last five (5) years and several permits had been renewed. The Board reviewed a copy of the permit, noting that a licensed geologist was associated with the engineering firm. Mr. Wisniewski commented that the Board may wish to send a letter to ADEM annually about having uniform rules requiring an Alabama licensed professional geologist (PG) for these projects. The Board agreed that the letter would include that a licensed geologist should review the geological matters that are derived from the project, along with onsite evaluation, and the Board expected to have a qualified Alabama PG on these projects. The Board asked Mr. Wisniewski to draft a letter to send to ADEM, noting one new project in five years and that the responsible-party be licensed, as discussed by the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Katz made the motion to authorize the Board Chair to sign the letter to ADEM on behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board thanked Mr. Wisniewski for his work on the matter in identifying a path in resolving the matter for the Board. The Board discussed the importance in being mindful of projects undertaken without proper PG oversight and for protection of the public.

Board Terms: Chairman Perry called for further comments regarding Board terms, which had been discussed earlier in the meeting, and there were none.

Review and Approval of Applications for Licensure: Chairman Perry deferred review and approval of applications until the end of the business discussions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board-Sponsored Continuing Education: The Board discussed forming a committee regarding the Board hosting the 2025 CE Program and commented on pending Board member appointments.

MOTION: Mr. Bryant made the motion to table the appointment of a CE committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Travel Reimbursement: The Board reviewed the budget as it pertained to reimbursement to Board members when attending Board meetings, Board-sponsored programs and activities, etc.

MOTION: Mr. Bryant made the motion to remove the moratorium on travel and compensation and be reinstated on an as-requested basis. The motion was seconded by Mr. Katz and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

2025 Neathery Award: Mr. Warren recommended that a nomination deadline be established to receive nominations for the annual Neathery Award. Dr. King offered to serve on the committee, and recommended an April 1st deadline for nominations, with a reminder sent to the faculty members.

MOTION: Dr. King made the motion to establish a committee with Dr. King as committee chair and Dr. Brande, with a nomination deadline of April 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Katz offered to assist the Neathery Committee and to contact organizations that may have recognition award that may benefit the Neathery Award recipient, such as the two scholarships offered by the Alabama Geological Society and the SME organization. The Board was in agreement.

Neathery and Elmore County: Dr. King reported that an unnamed creek flows through the Wetumpka Crater and a dedication is being planned to name the creek honoring Tony Neathery. Mr. Warren asked on behalf of the Board that he be advised as additional information about the dedication ceremony became available.

Dr. King and Mr. Griebel left the meeting at 11:18 a.m. due to a conflict in schedule.

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

MOTION: Dr. Brande made the motion to approve the six (6) PG applications as reviewed by the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Next Board Meeting: Chairman Perry announced that the Board was scheduled to meet on April 17, 2025. Mr. Warren reported that plans were underway with the University of South Alabama (USA) Geology Program staff about holding the Board meeting on USA campus on April 17th and inviting students and faculty to the Board meeting. The Board inquired about hotels arrangements and Mr.

Warren indicated that additional information about the exact location of the meeting would be sent to the Board members and indicated that per diem and mileage reimbursement was allowed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Perry called for other business and there were none.

MOTION: Dr. Brande made the motion to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith E. Warren
Executive Secretary

/rr_____/Minutes Approved on _____(date).