



Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

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MINUTES

Board Meeting
April 17, 2025

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was held on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at the University of South Alabama, 320 Student Center Circle in Mobile, Alabama. The following members attended: Mr. Chris Bryant (Board Chair), Ms. Leslie Noble (Board Vice Chair), Dr. David King (Secretary/Treasurer attending virtually), Dr. Scott Brande (member), Mr. Brad Jackson (new member), Mr. Griffin Gatschet (new member), and Mr. Alex Owen (new member). Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Secretary), Mr. Dan Wisniewski (Assistant Attorney General-Legal Counsel attending virtually), Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator attending virtually), Mr. Brannon Littleton (CFO attending virtually), and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary attending virtually) and guests.

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.

Mr. Warren, Executive Secretary, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and thanked the staff of the University of South Alabama's Earth Sciences Department for hosting the Board meeting on the University's campus. He reported that three new members had been appointed to the Board, along with members who had been reappointed, and one vacancy existed on the Board. He called the Board member roll and indicated that a quorum was present to conduct business.

Mr. Warren administered the oath of office to the following new Board members, Mr. Alex Owens, Mr. Brad Jackson, Mr. Griffin Gatschet, and reappointed members, Ms. Leslie Noble, Dr. Scott Brande, Mr. Chris Bryant, and Dr. David King.

Mr. Warren reported that the election of officers was due, with the vacancy of the Board Chair position. Mr. Warren opened the floor for nominations. Ms. Noble nominated Dr. King as Board Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Warren called for further nominations for the position of Secretary/Treasurer and there were none. Dr. Brande nominated Ms. Noble as Board Vice Chair. Mr. Warren called for further nominations for the position of Vice Chair and there were none. Ms. Noble nominated Mr. Bryant for the position of Board Chair. Mr. Warren called for further nominations for the position of Board Chair and there were none.

MOTION: Dr. Brande made the motion to accept the nominations as presented with Mr. Bryant as Board Chair, Ms. Noble as Vice Chair and Dr. King as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Chairman Bryant presented a copy of the April 17, 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. Mr. Wisniewski requested that discussions of the Coast Permit letter, Board of Adjustment settlement, and Administrative Services Contract renewal be moved on the agenda prior to the adoption of minutes.

MOTION: Ms. Noble made the motion to accept the meeting agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande and, following a roll call vote, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Coastal Permit Letter: Mr. Wisniewski reported that the Board had approved for a letter be prepared to ADEM and submitted annually requesting the ADEM rules be modified to correct the inconsistency, compared to the Board's rules, that would allow Professional Geologists to do groundwater well logs for coastal permits and the letter would be signed by the Board Chairman.

Board of Adjustment: Mr. Wisniewski presented, for the Board's approval a motion, for resolution of claim by consent by the Board concerning the payment of \$9,200 for administrative services provided between contract periods by Smith Warren from April 1, 2024 to June 20, 2024.

MOTION: Dr. Brande made the motion to approve the claim for administrative services as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Administrative Services Contract Renewal: Mr. Wisniewski reported that the Administrative Services Contract would expire on June 20, 2025. Mr. Warren left the meeting at 10:22 a.m. during the Board's discussion of the contract renewal. Mr. Wisniewski explained that a contract renewal would go through the Contract Review Committee for the Governor's signature, and a Request for Proposal (RFP) was not required for a renewal.

MOTION: Ms. Noble made the motion to approve the renewal of the Administrative Services contract with the same terms and conditions as the current contract. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren rejoined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Legal Counsel Services: Mr. Wisniewski reported that he would be leaving the Attorney General's office, and a new legal counsel will be assigned, with no gap in legal services.

Mr. Littleton, CFO at Smith Warren, reported on the financial activities of the Board. He presented a report on FY 2025 second quarter (January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025) receipts and expenditures and reported an ending cash balance:

1. Revenue	\$ 18,250.00
2. Expenditures	\$ 13,072.90
3. Cash Balance	\$ 33,030.23

A detail of expenditures by category and receipts was also provided (report available in the Board's official Book of Minutes). He presented the anticipated expenditures and receipts for FY 2025 and reported a projected ending cash balance for FY 2025 of \$42,802.85, which did not include the adjusted revenue from the license fee increase beginning in January 2025.

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

Mr. Warren commented on the recent approval by the Board to remove the moratorium on Board member travel reimbursement and compensation. He also commented on discussions by the Sunset Committee about geographical and racial representation on the Board and the Board's report on its outreach to universities regarding licensure awareness and anticipated board meetings to be held on universities' campuses.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Bryant presented for Board approval a copy of the Board's minutes from the January 9, 2025 regular meeting. A copy of the minutes was provided to the members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Ms. Noble made a motion to approve the January minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson 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 (copy in official Book of Minutes). He reported a drop in the number of licensees since the last Board meeting:

1. Professional Geologists (PGs):	505
(comprised of 206 Alabama licensees and 299 out-of-state licensees)	
2. Licenses not renewed (September 2024 through March 2025)	40
3. Geologist-In-Training (GITs)	7
4. Retired	18
5. Temporary License (current)	2

Mr. Warren reviewed the new licensing fee structure. He indicated that exam fees were paid directly to ASBOG. Mr. Warren introduced Ms. Deana Sneyd, Executive Director with ASBOG attending virtually and commented on the ASBOG exam process and the Council of Exams. Ms. Sneyd commented that the Board could consider licensure incentives for new graduates focusing on outreach to universities and graduation schedules. She reported that some universities were incorporating the Fundamental of Geology exam as an assessment exam rather than an exit exam that included scoring as part of the student's curriculum. She indicated that an analysis of ASBOG exam scores by students was provided to the academic institution by request-only and not intended for competitive-academic data.

MOTION: Mr. Griffin made a motion to accept the Executive Director report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Owen and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously accepted by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

2025 Neathery Award: Dr. Brande reported on the recognition of Thornton L. "Tony" Neathery's service on the Board and professional achievements in the naming of the Outstanding Student in Geology in Alabama award by the Board. He indicated that the Board sought nominations from the three universities with graduate programs in Alabama and reported that one nomination was received from Auburn University. He recommended the approval of Mr. Nathan Deese for the Neathery award and presented letters of nomination for the Board's review (copy in official Book of Minutes). He indicated that there was no monetary award included, and the Board discussed other options and acknowledgements to benefit the recipient.

MOTION: Dr. King made the motion to accept the nomination of Nathan Deese for the 2025 Neathery Award for the Outstanding Student in Geology in Alabama. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noble and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported that he would prepare a commendation on behalf of the Board for Dr. King to present to the Neathery recipient at an upcoming event at Auburn University.

NEW BUSINESS

Board-Sponsored Annual Continuing Education Program: Mr. Warren reported that previously Mr. Troy Perry and Ms. Leslie Noble had co-chaired the CE Committee. Dr. Brande and Ms. Noble volunteered to serve on the committee and Dr. Brande encouraged the involvement of the full Board to benefit from the members' expertise and professional contacts.

MOTION: Ms. Noble made the motion to approve Dr. Brande and Ms. Noble as the CE Committee co-chairs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson, and following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

MOTION: Ms. Noble made the motion to rename the Board's CE program honoring former Board chairman, Mr. Troy J. Perry, Jr. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. King left the meeting at 11:30 a.m. due to a conflict in schedule.

The Board discussed the location and date of the 2025 CE program.

MOTION: Ms. Noble made the motion to schedule the CE program on September 24, 2025, tentatively at the Pelham Civic Complex and extend an invitation to the universities' Geology students and department faculty. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Fall 2025 Board Meeting held on AU Campus: Mr. Warren commented on the quorum requirements for conducting Board meetings, with a minimum of three members onsite and a full quorum of members attending overall. He indicated that requests by Board members to attend virtually must be submitted to him in a timely manner to allow virtual access to the meetings to be advertised for public awareness.

ASBOG Annual Meeting and Council on Exams: Mr. Warren presented a copy of the ASBOG proposed meeting calendar for 2025 through 2028, which indicated that the 2025 annual meeting was scheduled on October 15, 2025 in Utah, followed by the Council on Exams meetings scheduled October 17-18, 2025 (copy in official Book of Minutes).

ASBOG Exam Review: Mr. Warren commented on Troy Perry's communications regarding a preparation guide for the ASBOG examinations. He indicated that he would follow up with Ms. Syned at ASBOG and Mr. Perry's correspondence contact about the feasibility of an exam preparation guide.

Review and Approval of Applications for Licensure: Mr. Warren presented four applications for Professional Geologist (PG) for the Board's review and approval.

MOTION: Mr. Jackson made the motion to approve the four PG applications for licensure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Owen and unanimously approved by the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Warren reported that the financial statement would be amended with projected income to include the fee increase that began January 2025.

Mr. Warren distributed copies of the Board of Examiners of Public Accounts Training Manual to the Board and reminded members about the April 30, 2025 deadline to submit a Statement of Economic Interest online to the Ethics Commission.

Next Board Meeting: Chairman Bryant announced that the Board was scheduled to meet on July 10, 2025 at the Board's office in Montgomery.

Board Travel Reports: The Board accepted the travel expense reports submitted by the members for attending the Board meeting in Mobile.

Mr. Warren reminded the Board members about attending the question-and-answer session with students, following the Board meeting, that was scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Earth and Life Science building on USA campus.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bryant 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 unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Bryant adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Bryant
Board Chair

Keith E. Warren
Executive Secretary

/rr _____/Minutes Approved on _____(date).