**Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists**
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# MINUTES

Board Meeting
January 15, 2026

A meeting of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists was held on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at the Board's office located at 2740 Zelda Road, Montgomery, Alabama. The following members attended: Mr. Chris Bryant (Board Chair), Ms. Leslie Noble (Board Vice Chair), Dr. Scott Brande (member), Mr. Griffin Gatschet (member), Mr. Alex Owen (member) and Mr. Brad Jackson (member). Member absent was Dr. David King (Secretary/Treasurer. Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Secretary), Mr. Matt Duggin (Assistant Attorney General-Board's 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 Bryant called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Warren called the Board member roll and indicated that a quorum was present to conduct business and Chairman Bryant welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Agenda:
Chairman Bryant presented a copy of the January 15, 2026 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. Gatschet made the motion to approve the January meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of Minutes:
Chairman Bryant presented for Board approval a copy of the minutes from the October 16, 2025 regular Board meeting. A copy of the minutes was provided to the members prior to the meeting for their review.
MOTION: Dr. Brande made a motion to approve the October minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Owen and unanimously approved by the Board.

Executive Secretary Report:
Mr. Warren presented the Executive Secretary's Report and reported on the number of licenses as of December 31, 2025 (copy of report in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

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| 1. | Professional Geologists (PGs):<br>(comprised of 202 Alabama licensees and 290 out-of-state licensees) | 492 |
| 2. | Licenses not renewed (May 2025 through December 2025) | 21 |
| 3. | Geologist-In-Training (GITs) | 6 |
| 4. | Temporary License (current) | 1 |
| 5. | Retired PGs | 20 |

Mr. Warren presented a list of licenses that had expired as of December 31, 2025. The members commented on the number of active licenses remaining below 500 and discussed monitoring the lapsed time between Board meetings held on university campuses and having an impact on increased licensure. The Board discussed including a student section on the Board's website with FAQ and resources to incentivize students toward licensure.

Mr. Warren reported that no consumer complaints had been received and he reviewed the activities performed by staff since the last Board meeting held in October (copy of report in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

Financial Report

Mr. Warren reported on the financial activities of the Board (copy in the official Book of Minutes), and presented a report on beginning cash balance at the end of FY 2025, along with FY 2026 receipts and expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2025:

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| 1. | Revenue | $ 18,650.00 |
| 2. | Expenditures | $ 18,926.96 |
| 3. | Cash Balance | $ 37,915.45 |

He commented on anticipated receipts to be low in FY 26 due to low number of licenses to be renewed compared to the odd-numbered years. A list of expenditures by category and receipts was also provided.

MOTION: Mr. Gatschet made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Owen and the motion unanimously approved by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on ASBOG meeting held in October 2025:

Mr. Gatschet reported on attending the ASBOG meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah and national topics covered at the conference. The Board discussed the Council of Examiners (COE) review process in creating the ASBOG examination and value gained in participating in future conferences based on availability of Board funds.

Update on 2025 Board-Sponsored Annual Continuing Education Program:

Dr. Brande reported on the Board-sponsored CE program held in November and interest by some attendees to serve on the Board. The Board considered polling the licensees about holding the 2027 CE program in a different month rather than in the Fall or having the CE program in conjunction with the ADEM conference held in August.

Discussion of Proposed Inactive License Rule:

Chairman Bryant reported that the licensees polled during the CE Program about creating an inactive license rule was positive and the Board discussed

- Inactive fee equal to half of the active license fee.
- No CE requirements while license in inactive status.
- Reactivation of license would include full licensure fee and fulfill current CE requirements.
- Length of time that license allowed to remain inactive was undetermined. The Board asked to review data of lapsed licenses over the last 5 years.

The Board discussed reducing the GIT fee and removing the application fee or requiring no application fee while in school. Mr. Warren indicated that he would research the matter further for the Board's consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

2026 Thornton L. (Tony) Neathery Outstanding Geology Student in the State of Alabama Award:
MOTION: Ms. Nobel made the motion to appoint Dr. King and Dr. Brande to serve as co-chair on the 2026 Neathery Award Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brande and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board agreed to a nomination deadline of April 3, 2026 and nominations would be considered at the April Board meeting.

Discussion of the Administrative Services Contract:
Mr. Warren reported that the Administrative Services Contract would expire June 20, 2026, and the contract was subject to review by the Legislative Contract Review Committee.
MOTION: Mr. Gatschet made the motion to approve the renewal of the Administrative Services Contract with Smith Warren Management Services for another 12 months, with no changes and at the same contracted rate. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nobel and unanimously approved by the Board.
Mr. Warren indicated that a Board member was required at the Contract Review Committee meeting.

Review and Approval of Applications for Licensure:
Mr. Warren presented, for the Board's review and approval, 11 applications for Professional Geologist (PG) and 1 application for Geologist In-Training. The individual applications were reviewed by the Board.
MOTION: Mr. Jackson made the motion to approve for licensure the eleven (11) PG applications and one (1) GIT applications as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Owen and unanimously approved by the Board.

Board Terms
Chairman Bryant indicated that Board member terms would be discussed at the April Board meeting, noting that 4 members' terms were scheduled to expire in September 2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Board Travel Reports: Four travel expense forms for attending the January 15, 2026 Board meeting were submitted and approved by the Board.

Next Board Meeting:
Chairman Bryant reminded the members that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled April 16, 2026 and tentatively to be held on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa.

The Board discussed meeting with Mr. Bob White's group in early afternoon on the same date following the Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bryant called for other business and there were none.
MOTION: Mr. Owen made the motion to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Bryant adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Bryant
*Board Chair*

Keith E. Warren
*Executive Secretary*

KR rr/*Minutes Approved on* May 21, 2026 *(date).*