



# **TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS**

## **General Issues Committee Meeting**

July 21, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.  
William P. Hobby Building  
333 Guadalupe Street, Tower III, Room 102  
Austin, Texas 78701

### **MINUTES**

- A. The meeting was called to order at 1:14 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was certified. In attendance were Committee Chair Christopher Mathewson, PhD, PG, PE, Bereket Derie, PhD, PG, Steven Fleming, PG, and alternate member David Prescott, PG. Member Joseph DeWoody was absent.
- B. The minutes from General Issues Committee meeting held on April 28, 2016 were approved as edited.
- C. Public comment. No comments were given.
- D. Proposal of new rule, 22 TAC 851.35, regarding Voluntary Surrender of a License, Registration or Certification. The Committee recommended the proposal unanimously as amended for presentation to the full Board for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- E. Description and development of a standing advisory committee that would inform the TBPG regarding opportunities to comment to any federal or state agency regarding the need to include Professional Geoscientists as individuals qualified to perform work that includes the public practice of geoscience in relevant agencies' proposed rules. The Committee determined that it would be desirable that professional associations have an input in this process and should be able to recommend volunteers to participate in these committees as advisory committee members.
- F. Regarding communications to TBPG about proposed rules for state or federal agencies that need to include Professional Geoscientists as individuals qualified to perform work that includes the public practice of geoscience, this item was reviewed by the Committee. No action was needed.
- G. Development of consumer information/publications and flyers to be available on the website and general distribution in other settings. This item was reviewed by the Committee and development of consumer related publications will be ongoing.
- H. Report on status of "The Value of Professional Geoscience Licensing in Texas" document. Dr. Mathewson reported that he is working to update the document with input from the authors and professional associations.
- I. Review of staff proposed Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) regarding the role of an Authorized Official of a Firm (AOF). The Committee reviewed the inquiry and rule 851.30, in light of the inquiry received regarding firm registration and the role of the AOF. Dr. Mathewson will work on a write up as an answer to the license holder and for use as an FAQ for the website.
- J. Date and agenda items for next meeting. Look into whether TBPG's statute allows for an inactive status. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2016.
- K. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.