



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

General Issues Committee Meeting

October 27, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.
William P. Hobby Building
333 Guadalupe Street, Tower I, Room 1264
Austin, Texas 78701

MINUTES

- A. The meeting of the General Issues Committee of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists was called to order at 1:02 p.m., roll was called and a quorum was certified. Board Members present were Committee Chair Christopher Mathewson, PhD, PG, PE, Lindsey Lee Bradford, Public Member, and Steven Fleming, PG. Member Bereket Derie, PhD, PG, was absent.
- B. The minutes from General Issues Committee meeting on July 21, 2016 were approved as edited.
- C. Public comment. There were no comments from the public.
- D. Regarding new rule, 22 TAC 851.35, regarding Voluntary Surrender of a License, Registration or Certification, no public comments were received regarding the proposed rule. The Committee unanimously recommends new rule §851.35 to the Appointed Board for adoption as published in the Texas Register.
- 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 their proposed rules and the need to include Professional Geoscientists as individuals qualified to perform work that includes the public practice of geoscience, the Committee determined that no action was needed at this time.
- F. Regarding the review of progress and development of consumer information/publications and flyers to be available on the website and general distribution in other settings. The Committee determined that the publication regarding the topic "What is soil science?" would best be handled by Dr. Hallmark, Soil Scientist and TBPG Chair; and the topic, "what is geophysics?" would best be handled by Dr. Derie, Geophysicist and TBPG Board Member. Dr. Mathewson was tasked with requesting their assistance in developing the publications.
- G. Regarding the status of the document, "The Value of Professional Geoscience Licensing in Texas" and communication with the document's authors, Dr. Mathewson recommended that the Committee review the draft for technical edits, and that the publication be available as an information document for the public.
- H. Consideration of an inquiry regarding rule 851.30, Firm Registration, and the role of an Authorized Official of a Firm, Dr. Mathewson was tasked to contact the individual; no further action was taken.
- I. Discussion of recent professional engineering licensure issues and considerations. No action was taken.
- J. Consideration of whether TBPG may offer an inactive status for a license, registration, or certification. The Committee discussed the complexity of this item. The Committee determined not to investigate this issue further. No action was taken.
- K. Date and agenda items for next meeting. Next Committee meeting is February 23, 2017.
- L. The meeting was adjourned at 2:47.