

TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

BOARD MEETING

March 28, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

Summary of Minutes

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.
- B. Secretary/Treasurer Lowenstein called roll and certified a quorum. Members present were Tom Hallmark, PG, Kelly Krenz Doe, PG, Ron Kitchens, Barbara Roeling, PG, Gordon Ware, PG, Glenn Lowenstein, PG, Vice Chair Rene Peña, CPA, and Chairman Y. Lynn Clark, PG. Member Greg Ulmer was absent.
- C. The minutes of the November 30, 2007 Board Meeting were approved unanimously as written.
- D. Two members of the public were present. Comments were given by Mr. Matthew Cowan, PG, representing the Texas Association of Professional Geoscientists. Ms. Amy S. Hennard, a license applicant requesting a waiver of exam, also spoke.
- E. The Executive Director's Report was given by Acting Executive Director Vincent Houston, who addressed upcoming agency reports, the status of Executive Director LTC Hess, the upcoming Joint Committee meeting with the Texas Board of Engineers (TBPE), the completion of agency changes in response to the audit of Performance Measures, and staff priorities.
- F. Staff Reports were given:
- Licensing- Ms. Annita Herrera, Director of Licensing, addressed the recent ASBOG® exam, the completion of reciprocity with Mississippi and future reciprocity with Idaho and California, firm registration, and future approval of Continuing Education (CE) vendors and activities. Also addressed were in-house credit card transactions, and licensee retention.
 - Enforcement- Mr. Albert Jimenez, PG, Investigator, addressed retention for PGs whose licenses are in danger of permanently expiring. He also addressed current outreach activities with colleges and universities.
 - Finance- Ms. Leticia Kappel, Accountant, addressed the expenditures for TBPG through February 2008; TBPG is within budget for the current fiscal year.
- G. Committee Reports were given:
- The Application Review Committee Report was presented by Dr. Hallmark, who addressed the exam waiver request by Stacy Burgess, which will be discussed at a future Application Review Committee meeting. Continuing Education course approval was addressed; the committee proposed to abstain from individual course approval and to set up guidelines for CE course providers. The committee favors a reduced fee based on age with maintenance of CE requirements, but more study is needed before a position on inactive status is recommended.
 - The Compliance and Enforcement Committee Report was given by Member Krenz-Doe, who addressed the issue of public versus private practice of geoscience, and the development of statutory language changes to be presented to the Legislative committee. Mr. Robert Fieseler, with Blanco County Ground Water Conservation District, attended the meeting and spoke on groundwater issues; there is a need for a position paper to address whether PG seals are necessary on work performed at ground water conservation districts. More outreach will be scheduled for Texas water-well drillers and TDLR to resolve what is water-well drilling versus geoscience. Compliance and Enforcement terms have been adopted in reference to performance measures. Letters will be sent out to those with expired licenses. Member Roeling discussed her recent surveys with oil and gas companies. Member Lowenstein discussed the outreach surveys that were conducted with the colleges and universities, and future strategies for outreach.

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- The Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee Report was given by Member Kitchens. The committee had not met yet because they were waiting on receipt of the strategic plan instructions, which were received this week. The Strategic Plan is due June 27, 2008 and the committee will meet soon to discuss suggested updates.
- The General Issues Committee Report was presented by Member Roeling who addressed the possible reduction of fees to senior citizens and the disabled. They are currently looking into the ways this might affect revenue and how it may be affected by the statute. The wording had been reviewed in Section 851.156 and there were no necessary changes at this time.
- The Legislative Committee Report was presented by Chairman Clark who addressed the Geoscientist-In-Training (GIT) program; opening the statute to obtain the authority to create the GIT program will be needed. Draft bills must be prepared and acceptable to sponsors by early fall. Member Kitchens suggested that the GIT program be added to the strategic plan initiatives. Also it was addressed that geoscience was not included in the recognized list of professions in the TX Government Code Chapter 2254.
- The report from the Joint Committee with TBPE was presented by Chairman Clark. The committee has not met since the last Board meeting; the next meeting will be April 10, 2008.

H. Executive Session – Per section 551.074 of the TX Government Code, the Board met in closed session from 10:45 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. regarding personnel matters.

Item J was next addressed:

- J. The waiver of exam request per Section 1002.259 for Amy S. Hennard was unanimously approved by the Board.
- I. Discussion regarding the Strategic Plan included required dates for changes to be submitted, the date for submission of the report, and suggested changes.
- K. The updated policy regarding the waiver of the exam requirement was unanimously approved as written.
- L. The Reciprocity Agreement with Mississippi was adopted unanimously as written.
- M. The amendment 22 TAC 850.63, Responsibilities of the Board and Executive Director, was adopted unanimously as written.
- N. The next Board meeting will be June 6, 2008. Future agenda items will include a discussion of personnel matters regarding Executive Director Hess, and Board consideration of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TBPE.
- O. The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Y. Lynn Clark, Chairman