



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

Board Meeting

August 24, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

William P. Hobby, Jr. Building
333 Guadalupe Street, Room 100
Austin, Texas 78701

MINUTES

- A. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists on August 24, 2012 was called to order at 10:03 a.m. in room 100 of the William P. Hobby Building, in Austin, Texas. Members present were Board Chair Ron Kitchens, Vice-Chair Charles Knobloch, P.G., J.D., Secretary/ Treasurer Kelly Krenz-Doe, P.G., Tom Hallmark, P.G., PhD, Becky Johnson, P.G., Chris Mathewson, P.G., P.E., Ph.D., Justin McNamee, and Barbara Roeling, P.G. Member Greg Ulmer was absent.
- B. The minutes from the May 18, 2012 Board Meeting were approved as written.
- C. Comments were offered from Dr. Elizabeth Catlos, Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, Department of Geological Sciences. Dr. Catlos invited the Board's participation in the Geological Society of America's South Central Section meeting in Austin, April 4-5, 2013.
- D. Chairman's Report. Chairman Ron Kitchens mentioned TBPG's upcoming meeting with the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) on August 28, 2012, regarding TBPG's budget; the agency submitted its Legislative Appropriations Request; TBPG is currently being reviewed by the LBB Performance Review Team regarding how efficiently the agency is operating; the Railroad Commission of Texas is undergoing another Sunset Review; and geoscientist licensing is one of the areas for public discussion on Representative Callegari's "Texas Red Tape Challenge" website. Dr. Hallmark was reappointed as TBPG's delegate to the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®); Dr. Chris Mathewson will also attend the ASBOG® annual meeting on behalf of TBPG.
- E. Executive Director's Report. Director Charles Horton welcomed Dr. Mathewson to the Board. Mr. Horton mentioned the recent outreach opportunity at the American Geoscience Institute (AGI) Executive Committee Meeting at the Michigan Institute of Technology regarding the development of an accreditation/ career classification system for geosciences; the recent LBB Performance Review Team inquiries related to TBPG enforcement data; the lack of complaints TBPG receives from other state agencies; and a current complaint which is under review involving a license holder that works in an exempt setting; and upcoming Board meeting dates will be scheduled to coordinate with the ASBOG® examination schedule.
- F. Committee Reports:
- The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee Report, given by Committee Chair Tom Hallmark, included information regarding current applicant requests for waiver, and the upcoming review and proofing of the Texas Geophysics Exam.
 - The Compliance and Enforcement Committee Report, given by Committee Chair Barbara Roeling, included the recent review of the FAQs on the TBPG website, a draft Guidance Document, and upcoming outreach to the academic community.
 - The Financial Review and Strategic Planning Committee had not met since the last Board meeting; Member Justin McNamee mentioned that the Strategic Plan had been prepared and submitted.
 - The General Issues Committee Report, given by Committee Chair Kelly Krenz-Doe, included items related to firm registration and the requirement of a full-time PG on staff, and an upcoming review and possible modification of the electronic seal requirements.

- The Legislative Committee had not met; Chairman Kitchens mentioned the possibility of upcoming legislative changes to the TBPG statute.
- The Joint Committee with TBPE had not met; Member Roeling mentioned that items may be forthcoming for the committee to meet and discuss.

G. Staff Reports:

- The Licensing Report, given by Licensing Coordinator Elsa Wofford, included the current licensing numbers, which have stabilized in recent months, and the upcoming ASBOG® examination on October 5, 2012.
- The Financial Report, given by CFO Leticia Kappel, included the recent submission of the Legislative Appropriations Request; a recent completion of a Post-Payment Audit of TBPG by the Comptroller's office; agency expenditures through the end of FY 2012; and revenue numbers. Ms. Kappel mentioned that TBPG will be contacting the Comptroller's office soon regarding projected agency revenues and the upcoming Biennial Revenue Estimate.
- The Enforcement Report, given by Enforcement Coordinator Wesley McCoy, included current enforcement numbers, and the upcoming cases to be reviewed by the Complaint Review Team.

H. Regarding requests for waiver of the following applicants:

- Anol Mukhopadhyay- The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee did not approve his request for waiver of the PG exam; it was not discussed at this time.
- Alan Izard- The Board reviewed and unanimously approved Mr. Izard's request for waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam only.
- Yuliya Dunaway- Her request to sit for the ASBOG exam was approved by the Committee; no Board action was necessary.
- Dipakkumar Patel- His request to sit for the ASBOG exam was approved by the Committee; no Board action was necessary.

- I. Regarding 22 TAC §851.104, regarding Dishonest Practice, the Board unanimously adopted an amendment to 851.104, as published in the Texas Register. No public comments were received.
- J. Regarding 22 TAC §851.152, regarding Firm Compliance, the Board unanimously adopted an amendment to 851.152, as published in the Texas Register. No public comments were received.
- K. Regarding 22 TAC §851.156, regarding Professional Geoscientist's Seals, the Board unanimously adopted an amendment to 851.156, as published in the Texas Register. No public comments were received.
- L. Regarding 22 TAC §851.25, regarding the Education requirement, the Board unanimously approved a proposal of amendment to 851.25, for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- M. Regarding 22 TAC §851.45 regarding the Relationship of Geoscientists-in-Training Certification to Licensure of Professional Geoscientists, the Board unanimously approved a proposal of amendment to 851.45, for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- N. Regarding 22 TAC §851.30, regarding Firm Registration, the Board unanimously approved an amendment to 851.30 as edited for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- O. Regarding proposed Agreed Board Order for Complaint Case No. 2012-014; no action was taken.
- P. The next Board meeting was scheduled for January 11, 2013. Future agenda items include the election of Board officers.
- Q. The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.


 Ron Kitchens, TBPG Chairman