



TBPG Quarterly Newsletter 2018

Sunset Review Information

On August 30, 2018, the Sunset Public Hearing was held. TBPG Board members and staff gave presentations at the Sunset Advisory Commission Hearing held at the state capitol on August 30, 2018. There was good public attendance and the support for licensing of Geoscientists in Texas was evident. The Sunset Advisory Commission will continue to accept public comments until it issues its final recommendation in November. The TBPG continues to provide information to the Sunset Advisory Commission, as requested.

November 14-15, 2018: Sunset Decision Hearing

The Sunset Decision Hearing will be held to determine, based on public input and response received, what the Sunset Advisory Commission will recommend regarding the future of the regulation of geoscience in Texas.

Here is a link to the [Sunset Advisory Commission Website](#) to read the report, view public comments submitted, or for further information about the review.

Frequently Asked Question regarding TBPG's Sunset Review: Should I renew my license?

Geoscience licensure regulation continues *at least* through August 31, 2019. If you plan to offer or perform non-exempt geoscience work for the public in Texas during this time period, **YES**, you should renew your license or registration.

New Board Members appointed. TBPG would like to welcome its newly appointed Board Members. Governor Greg Abbott has reappointed Becky Johnson, PG, and appointed Brandon Stowers and Mark Varhaug, PG, to the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists for terms set to expire on February 1, 2023. Additionally, the Governor appointed Drusilla Knight-Villarreal for a term set to expire on February 1, 2019. Congratulations on your appointments! We look forward to working with you in the coming months!

Farewell to our outgoing Board Members. We would like to take a moment to sincerely thank our outgoing Board Members, Greg Ulmer, JD, and Christopher Mathewson, PhD, PG, PE, for their numerous contributions to TBPG and its mission. They have served TBPG well during their tenure, and have volunteered their time and resources to further the mission of the TBPG. Thank you!

Interim Executive Director appointed. The Board unanimously appointed T. Wesley McCoy, PG, to the office of Interim Executive Director, effective September 1, 2018. Mr. McCoy has served as TBPG's Enforcement Coordinator since March 2012. Mr. McCoy will serve as Interim Executive Director until a permanent Executive Director is hired.

Farewell to TBPG's Executive Director Charles Horton. TBPG's Board and

agency staff would like to say a fond farewell to our Director and friend, Mr. Charles Horton. Thank you, Charles, for all you have done for the agency since January 1, 2009. TBPG has truly benefited from your knowledge and experience as a Public Administrator. We will miss you!

Recent Board Meeting Highlights

Here are some highlights of the August 17, 2018 Board Meeting.

Applications for PG licensure.

- **Lisa Marinangel.** No action was taken.
- **Steve Wells:** The Board unanimously approved his request for substitution of experience for the education requirement.
- **Rex Crick:** The Board unanimously approved his request for waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology exams.
- **Daniel Gorski:** The Board unanimously approved his request for waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology exams.
- **Jesus M. Gallegos:** No action taken.
- **Keith Linton:** No action taken.
- **Geoffrey Leking:** The Board unanimously approved his request for waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examination.
- **Dr. Friend:** The Board unanimously approved his request for waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination.

Strategic Plan 2019-2023 and Customer Service Report. The Strategic Plan was submitted timely.

Legislative Appropriations Request for FY 2020-2021. The Legislative Appropriations Request for FY 2021 was completed and submitted timely.

Request for Advisory Opinion. A request was submitted to TBPG regarding PG stamps on Phase II Environmental Site Assessment reports prepared in accordance with ASTM standards. The Board unanimously approved the Executive Director to respond to the request with a letter as presented and amended by the committee.

Proposal of amendment to 22 TAC 851.43. An amendment regarding clarification of the renewal of an expired Geoscientist-in-Training certification. The Board approved posting the proposed amendment to the Texas Register for public comment by unanimous consent.

Adoption of amendments and new rules. The Board unanimously adopted new rules 22 TAC 851.22 and 851.85, and amendments to §§850.82, 851.10, 851.20, 851.21, 851.23, 851.24, 851.25, 851.28, 851.29, 851.30, 851.32, 851.40, 851.41, 851.43, 851.80, 851.101, 851.103, 851.104, 851.106, 851.109, 851.111, 851.112, 851.113, 851.156, 851.158, 851.203, and 851.204 as published in the Texas Register.

Proposed Default Orders. The Board adopted Complaint Cases 2014027, 2014032, 2014042, in a vote of 6-0, with Members Hallmark and Mathewson recused. The Board adopted Complaint Case 2017001, in a vote of 6-0, with Members Bradford and Mathewson recused. The Board adopted Complaint Case 2017040, in a vote of 6-0, with Members Bradford and Johnson recused. The Board adopted Complaint Cases 2018019 and 2018023, in a vote of 6-0, with Members Bradford and Mathewson recused.

Proposed Agreed Board Orders. The Board adopted Complaint Case No. 2014020 in a

vote of 6-0, with Members Hallmark and Mathewson recused. The Board adopted Complaint Case No. 2015042 in a vote of 6-0, with Members Johnson and Mathewson recused. The Board adopted Complaint Case No. 2017033 in a vote of 6-0, with Members Bradford and Johnson recused. The Board adopted Complaint Case No. 2018020 in a vote of 6-0, with Members Bradford and Mathewson recused.

The employment, evaluation and salary of the Executive Director. The Board unanimously appointed T. Wesley McCoy, PG, as Interim Executive Director, effective September 1, 2018, until a permanent Executive Director is appointed. Additionally, the Board unanimously approved posting the permanent Executive Director position, and appointing a Search Committee to review applications, and if appropriate, bring finalists to the Board for consideration. Chairman Hallmark appointed Board Members David Prescott, Becky Johnson, and Steven Fleming to the Search Committee.

Sunset Advisory Commission review of TBPG and Sunset Staff Report and Recommendation. The Board received legal counsel from its Assistant Attorney General Melissa Juarez, regarding Board Members and their role during the Sunset Review process. The Board was advised that each Board Member has a right as an individual to speak to their legislator, but one cannot represent the TBPG Board in doing so, nor use any state resources for that purpose.

Current Licensing Numbers

3845 Professional Geoscientists
167 GITs
348 Registered Firms



Upcoming TBPG Meetings

The next Committee meetings will be held on November 29, 2018.
The next Board meeting will be held on November 30, 2018.

Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists
P. O. Box 13225
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 936-4400