



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

Board Meeting

February 1, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

William P. Hobby, Jr. Building
333 Guadalupe Street, Tower III, Room 102
Austin, Texas 78701

MINUTES

- A. The meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was certified. Members present were Becky Johnson, PG, Board Chair, W. David Prescott, II, PG, Vice-Chair, Steven Fleming, PG, Secretary/Treasurer, Bereket M. Derie, PhD, PG, C. Thomas Hallmark, PhD, PG, Lindsey Lee, and Mark N. Varhaug, PG, CPG. Members Brandon Stowers and Drusilla Knight-Villarreal arrived at 9:17 a.m.

The Board went into closed session at 9:09 a.m. to discuss **Agenda Item L** per Texas Government Code Ch. 551, regarding the vacant position of Executive Director.

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:15 a.m. No action was taken in closed session. Vice-Chair David Prescott made the motion to offer the position of Executive Director to Mr. Rene Truan, with a start date of February 15, 2019, and an annual salary of \$96,386. It was seconded by Member Knight-Villarreal. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. The minutes from the November 30, 2018 Board Meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
- C. Public comment. There were no comments from the public.
- D. Chairman's Report: TBPG Chair Becky Johnson outlined some short term and long term goals for TBPG, to include tracking enforcement penalties, obtaining enforcement actions on more serious complaints, increasing the licensing numbers, and increased outreach activities.
- E. Executive Director's Report: Interim Executive Director Mr. T. Wesley McCoy, PG, outlined the upcoming Senate Finance Committee hearing, an inquiry by Senator Royce West, and implementation of the non-statutory recommendations by the Sunset Advisory Commission.
- F. Reports on recent Committee meetings and activities
1. Application Review and Continuing Education Committee meeting report (1/31/19), given by Committee Chair Steven Fleming, included the update regarding Texas Geophysics exam, and potential actions to strengthen the TGE. Also addressed was the discussion regarding an Environmental Science license.
 2. Compliance and Enforcement Committee meeting report (1/31/19), given by Committee Chair Becky Johnson, addressed implementation of the recommendations from Sunset Advisory Commission, the issue of litigation liability for Advisory Committee members, reviewing options for an "Emeritus" license status of a PG license, and additional outreach activities.
 3. General Issues Committee meeting report (1/31/19), given by Committee Chair Bereket Derie, included adding additional ethics resources for TBPG's website, and the development of an annual Board Member training manual.
 4. Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee report (2/1/19), given by Committee Chair David Prescott, reviewed Sunset recommendations impacting TBPG revenue

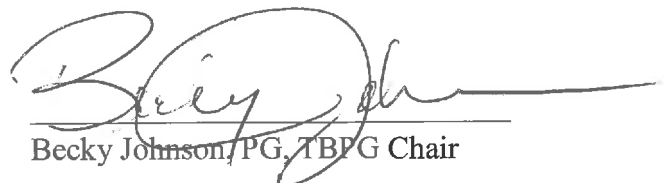
(i.e. discontinuation of firms fees), outlined the exceptional items requested in the Legislative Appropriations Request for FY 2020-2021, and discussed the possible financial impact regarding upcoming upgrades for IT purchases.

G. Staff Reports:

1. Licensing Report, given by Licensing Coordinator Elsa Paynes, addressed licensing data, ASBOG and TGE examination statistics, and a new reciprocity agreement with Wyoming.
2. Financial Report, given by Chief Financial Officer Lisa Stockton, included revenues, expenditures, and travel updates.
3. Enforcement Report, given by Enforcement Coordinator T. Wesley McCoy, PG, outlined enforcement numbers, recent and upcoming outreach opportunities, enforcement penalties assessed.

H. Applications for P.G. license received from the following individuals:

- a. Dusten Russell: Applicant for PG licensure requesting waiver of the Soil Science examinations or the ASBOG examinations. The Board unanimously approved a waiver of the Soil Science Fundamentals examination for Mr. Russell.
 - b. Sanjay Sharma: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG® Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The Board unanimously approved a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice examinations for Sanjay Sharma.
 - c. Jon Gilbert: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the education requirement or substitution of the experience for the education. The Board unanimously granted the waiver of the education requirement for Mr. Gilbert.
 - d. Michael Nibert: Applicant for PG licensure requesting licensure by reciprocity, a waiver of education requirement, and waiver of the ASBOG® Fundamentals of Geology examination. The Board unanimously denied licensure by reciprocity for Mr. Nibert.
- I. Proposed dismissal of Complaint from the Complaint Review Team. Complaint Case No. 2019001 was dismissed unanimously in a vote of 8-0, with Member Johnson recused.
- J. Proposed Agreed Board Orders. Agreed Order for Complaint Case No. 2018032 was adopted unanimously in a vote of 8-0, with Member Lee recused.
- K. Proposed Default Orders. Default Order for Complaint Case No. 2018042 was adopted unanimously in a vote of 8-0, with Member Johnson recused.
- L. Item L was addressed directly after Item A on the agenda.
- M. Date for upcoming meetings and agenda items for next meeting. The next meetings are scheduled on April 25 and 26, 2019.
- M. The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.



Becky Johnson, PG, TBPG Chair