



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

Board Meeting

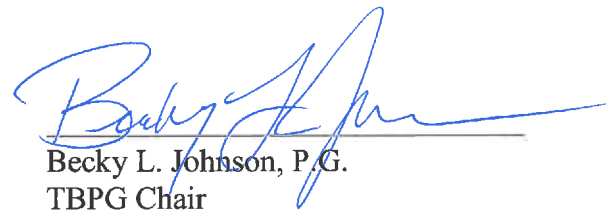
August 23, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

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 TBPG Chair Becky Johnson, P.G., Vice-Chair W. David Prescott, II, P.G., Secretary/Treasurer Steven Fleming, P.G., and Board Members C. Thomas Hallmark, Ph.D., P.G., Lindsey Lee, Brandon Stowers, and Mark N. Varhaug, P.G., C.P.G. Member Drusilla Knight-Villarreal arrived at 9:04 a.m.
- B. The minutes from the April 26, 2019 Board Meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
- C. Public comment. There were no public comments.
- D. Chairman's Report: TBPG Chair Becky Johnson discussed the importance of TBPG partnerships, outreach, and TBPG goals.
- E. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Rene Truan reviewed information about fiscal matters and agency operations; upcoming agency IT upgrades; streamlining agency processes; Sunset updates; ongoing training for Board members.
- F. Ongoing Board Member training. The Board went into closed session at 9:20 a.m. for specific Board Member training presented by Melissa Juarez, Assistant Attorney General for the Office of the Attorney General. The Board came out of closed session at 9:50 a.m. No action was taken.
- G. Committee Reports:
 - 1. The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee Meeting Report (8/22/19), given by Committee Chair Steven Fleming, addressed potential actions to strengthen the Texas Geophysics Exam, modifications of TBPG forms to coincide with rule changes, the formation of Advisory Committee, and potential outreach initiatives.
 - 2. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee Meeting Report (8/22/19), given by Committee Chair Becky Johnson, noted recent updates to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP); updates to the penalty matrix; Board implementation of Sunset recommendations, including firm registration; consideration of rule-making actions related to firm registration; options regarding "Emeritus" or other license status of a PG license; and outreach initiatives.
 - 3. The General Issues Committee Meeting Report (8/22/19), given by Member Mark Varhaug, included information on additional continuing education options for ethics, and outreach initiatives.
 - 4. The Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Report (8/23/19), given by Committee Chair David Prescott, summarized the analysis of expenditures for FY 2019, the completion of the CAPPs training and implementation, the financial impact regarding upcoming IT upgrades, and outreach initiatives.
- H. Staff Reports:
 - 1. Licensing Report, including licensing data, examination statistics.

2. Financial Report, including revenues, expenditures, travel updates.
 3. Enforcement Report, including current enforcement numbers, Complaint Review Team (CRT) meeting highlights, recent outreach opportunities, enforcement penalties.
- I. Applications for P.G. license received from Sebastian Saavedra, who requested a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. The Board reviewed the request, and unanimously granted the waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals exam contingent upon receipt of verification of employment through December 1, 2019 for proof of having met 15 years of qualifying work experience.
 - J. Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations. The Board unanimously adopted amendments to 22 TAC 851.20, 851.22, 851.23, 851.40, 851.41, and repeal of 851.24. These amendments were adopted to implement recent changes to Texas Occupations Code 1002.
 - K. Proposed Agreed Board Orders. Complaints #2019002 and #2019003 were adopted unanimously, with Members Lee and Johnson recused.
 - L. Formation of Advisory Committees. The Board unanimously granted staff the authority to proceed to form an Advisory Committee to advise the Board regarding the impacts of the elimination of firm registration under the Board's guidelines. The Board also unanimously granted authority to form an Advisory Committee regarding the identification of potential licensing opportunities.
 - M. Potential public/private outreach initiatives. This item was covered under Committee reports; no action was taken.
 - N. Date for upcoming meetings and agenda items for next meeting.
 - O. The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.



Becky L. Johnson, P.G.
TBPG Chair