



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

Board Meeting


November 15, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m., roll was called, and a quorum was certified. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Becky Johnson, P.G., Vice-Chair W. David Prescott, II, P.G., Secretary/Treasurer Steven Fleming, P.G., and members Bereket Derie, PhD., P.G., Lindsey Lee, Brandon Stowers, and Mark N. Varhaug, P.G., C.P.G. Member Drusilla Knight-Villarreal was not present. Mr. Edward F. Janak, Jr., P.G., was sworn in as a new Board Member for TBPG.
- B. The minutes from the August 23, 2019 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 addressed the recent Board Appointments; that current Board Chair Becky Johnson has been recently appointed by the Governor as TBPG Chair, and serves at the pleasure of the Governor; and the importance of outreach.
- E. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Rene Truan reported on the agency's current staffing shortage, licensing and compliance activities, and the ongoing goal of process improvement.
- F. Ongoing Board Member training. Board Chair Johnson covered information about the process to form Workgroups, select SMEs, and form Advisory Committees.
- G. Reports on recent Committee meetings and activities.
 1. The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee meeting report from 11/14/19, was given by Committee Chair Steven Fleming, who gave updates on the Advisory Committees discussion, and potential outreach initiatives. He also mentioned the recent update of the Texas Geophysics Exam. Based on the recommendations of the TGE workgroup and Jay Bowermeister from Gainesville Independent Testing Service, the Board unanimously passed three motions:
 - To lower passing rate of current exam to 68% based on statistical analysis provided to the Board as of 10/31/2019
 - To authorize TBPG staff review the statistics for the current exam to determine the applicants that received 68% or above will be considered to have passed the exam
 - To authorize the creation of the Fundamentals of Geophysics exam as recommended by the TGE workgroup
 2. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee meeting report from 11/14/19, was given by Committee Chair Becky Johnson. Discussed: update of penalty matrix; implementation of Sunset recommendations, including the elimination of firm registration; Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations; proposed amendments and repeals related to the removal of the firm registration requirement; options

- regarding “Emeritus” or other license status of a PG license; potential outreach initiatives.
3. The General Issues Committee meeting report from 11/14/19, was given by Committee Chair Bereket Derie. Discussed: implementation of sunset recommendation and statutory change to TOC 1002.060, concerning a training manual for board members; continuing education options in ethics; potential outreach initiatives.
 4. The Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee meeting report from 11/15/19 was given by Committee Chair David Prescott. Discussed: staff financial report; financial overview of FY 2019 revenue and expenditures; financial report for FY 2020; financial update for IT upgrades; agency vacancies, postings, and related budget.
- H. Staff Reports:
1. Licensing Report, including licensing data, examination statistics.
 2. Finance Report, including revenues, expenditures, travel updates.
 3. Compliance Report, including current enforcement numbers, Complaint Review Team (CRT) meetings, staff dismissed complaints, enforcement penalties collected.
- I. Applications for P.G. license received from the following individuals.
- a) Michael L Everts: Applicant requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The Board unanimously approved the waiver of both examinations for Mr. Everts in a vote of 8-0.
 - b) Chris Armistead: Applicant requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The Board unanimously approved the waiver of the FG examination only for Mr. Armistead in a vote of 8-0.
- J. Proposed Agreed Board Orders.
1. The Board unanimously approved the Board order for Complaint #2019014 in a vote of 7-0, with Member Lindsey Lee recused.
 2. The Board unanimously approved the Board order for Complaint #2019015 in a vote of 7-0, with Member Lindsey Lee recused.
- K. Proposed Default Order. The Board unanimously approved the default order for Complaint #2019011 in a vote of 6-0, with Members Stowers and Fleming recused.
- L. Status of Advisory Committees.
- M. Potential public/private outreach initiatives.
- N. Employment of the Executive Director, including duties, evaluation, and salary. The Board went into Executive Session at 12:32 p.m. regarding this item. The Board came back in to open session at 12:55 p.m. No action was taken in closed session. The Board unanimously approved to raise the salary of the Executive Director to the cap amount of \$109,157, as recommended by the state legislature in the Legislative Appropriations Act, effective December 1, 2019.
- O. Dates for next meetings are February 20 and 21, 2020.
- P. The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.


Becky L. Johnson, P.G., Chair
Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists