



# **TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS**

## **Board Meeting**

333 Guadalupe Street

Austin, Texas 78701

Videoconference call – Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>)

*April 24, 2020, 10:00 a.m.*

## **MEETING MINUTES**

- A. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists was called to order via videoconference at 10:03 a.m. on April 24, 2020. 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., Bereket Derie, PhD., P.G., Public Member Margon Dillard, Ed Janak, P.G., Public Member Lindsey Lee, Public Member Brandon Stowers, and Mark N. Varhaug, P.G., C.P.G.
- B. Roll call of public participants. None were in attendance. Lance Kinney, Executive Director of TBPELS joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m.
- C. Approval of minutes from the February 21, 2020 Board Meeting. The minutes from the February 21, 2020 Board meeting were unanimously approved as written.
- D. Public comment. There were no comments from the public.
- E. Chairman's Report: TBPG Chair Becky Johnson presented her report and welcomed new TBPG staff, and new Board member Margon Dillard. She also mentioned that she and Executive Director Rene Truan met with TBPELS on April 23 to re-establish communication between the two agencies; and she addressed outreach opportunities.
- F. Executive Director's Report: TBPG Executive Director Rene Truan gave the Executive Director's Report, introducing TBPG's newest Board Member Margon Dillard and two new staff members. He also addressed the agency's COVID 19 response and impact to Agency Operations, the upcoming Strategic Plan, Legislative Appropriations Request, and Four-Year Rule Review.
- G. Staff Reports.
  1. The Licensing Report, given by Licensing Coordinator Elsa Paynes, addressed licensing data, ASBOG exam statistics, and TGE exam statistics.
  2. The Compliance Report, given by Compliance Coordinator Rebecca Funderburg, presented compliance program statistics, complaints dismissed by staff; enforcement penalties collected for General Revenue; and outreach.
- H. Application for P.G. license received from John Tackett. The Board unanimously granted the waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination for Mr. Tackett, in a 9-0 vote.
- I. Emergency rules and responses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board reviewed agency responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included providing a 9-hour credit for the continuing education requirement for all PG licenses that expire in March, April, and May 2020. The Board unanimously approved to continue the actions of the Executive

Director through the end of August 2020. The Board also unanimously approved allowing the agency to extend license expiration dates and to defer licensing renewal payments for all license types on a case by case basis through August 2020, as authorized by 22 TAC 851.85.

- J. Strategic Plan. Chair Johnson noted that the due date for the Strategic Plan submission is June 1; if Board members have any suggested changes or updates to the draft that was sent out, please submit to staff by May 1.
- K. Future meetings, including tentative dates and agenda items: August 13 and 14, 2020.
- L. The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.



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