



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

TBPG Board Meeting

August 14, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Videoconference call – Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>)
333 Guadalupe St,
Austin, Texas 78701

MINUTES

- A. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists was called to order at 1:09 p.m. on August 14, 2020. Roll was called, and a quorum was certified. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Becky L. Johnson, P.G., Vice-Chair W. David Prescott, P.G., Dr. Bereket Derie, P.G., Margon Dillard, Public Member, Ed Janak, P.G., Mark Varhaug, P.G., Lindsey Lee, Public Member, and Brandon Stowers, Public Member.
- B. The minutes from the April 24, 2020 Board Meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
- C. Public comments. There were no public comments.
- D. Chair's Report: Board Chair Johnson reported on outreach opportunities, and the importance of utilizing Advisory Committees.
- E. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Rene Truan discussed the agency's COVID-19 response, the pending release of the Fundamentals of Geophysics Exam, the submission of the agency's SORM report, the budget, and the upcoming Legislative Appropriations Request.
- F. Ongoing Board Member training. Attorney Melissa Juarez, AAG, reviewed important points regarding agency rule making and the requirements of the four year rule review.
- G. Reports on recent Committee meetings.
 - 1. The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee meeting report from August 13, 2020 was given by Licensing Coordinator Elsa Paynes, who discussed current licensing numbers and exam statistics; discussion regarding the Waiver Policy; the upcoming four year rule review; setting up of an Advisory Committee; and outreach opportunities.
 - 2. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee meeting report from August 14, 2020 was given by Committee Chair Becky Johnson. Rebecca Funderburg, TBPG Compliance Coordinator gave the Compliance Report. Chair Johnson addressed the Committee's recent work on the penalty matrix; the status of the Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendation regarding firm registration, and the Advisory Committee that is being developed to advise the Board on this issue; the upcoming four year rule review; and outreach opportunities.
 - 3. The General Issues Committee meeting report from August 14, 2020 was given by Committee Chair Dr. Derie, who reported on the upcoming four year rule review, and outreach opportunities.
 - 4. Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee meeting report from August 14, 2020, was given by Committee Chair David Prescott. He addressed the agency's Financial Report for FY 2020; the LAR; the request for a budget reduction; COVID-19 Expenses; and the upcoming four year rule review.
- H. Applications for P.G. license received from the following individuals.

- A. Kimberly Tapia: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. The candidate met the Board policy requirements for this waiver, and the Board unanimously approved the request for waiver in a vote of 8-0.
- B. Hernando Martinez-Sacristan: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The candidate met the Board policy requirements for both waivers. The Board unanimously approved the requests for waiver in a vote of 8-0.
- C. Dr. Richard A MacKenzie: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The candidate met the Board policy requirements for both waivers. The Board unanimously approved the requests for waiver in a vote of 8-0.
- D. Chris Armistead: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Practice of Geology examination. The candidate met the Board policy requirements for this waiver. The Board unanimously approved the request for waiver in a vote of 8-0.
- E. Lauren A Cassel: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. The candidate met the Board policy requirements for this waiver. The Board unanimously approved the request for waiver in a vote of 8-0.
- F. Marcus Guidry: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The candidate met the Board policy requirements for both waivers. The Board unanimously approved the requests for waiver in a vote of 8-0.
- G. Brian David: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. The candidate met the Board policy requirements for this waiver. The Board unanimously approved the request for waiver in a vote of 8-0.
- H. Walter Bloxsom: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The candidate met the Board policy requirements for both waivers. The Board unanimously approved the requests for waiver in a vote of 8-0.
- I. Emergency rules, policies and agency responses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent months and due to the pandemic, the Executive Director has taken certain actions in cooperation with the Board Chair: 1) TBPG has enacted a temporary CE policy for PG licensees whose licenses expire in the months of March through August 2020; and 2) TBPG has on a case by case basis extended certain license expiration dates to defer licensing renewal payments on a case by case basis through August 2020, as authorized by 22 TAC 851.85. The Board reviewed these agency responses that were enacted to assist licensees and unanimously approved to continue these actions taken by the Executive Director through January 1, 2020.
- J. Legislative Appropriations Request. This item was discussed under the Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee report; no action was taken.
- K. Overview of upcoming TBPG four year rule review of 22 TAC 850 and 851. This item had been reviewed thoroughly in each of the Committees; no action was taken.
- L. Potential public/private outreach initiatives. The Board discussed some upcoming opportunities for outreach.



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- M. The next Committee and Board meetings are scheduled for November 19-20, 2020.
- N. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Becky L. Johnson".

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