



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

TBPG Board Meeting

April 28, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

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

Meeting ID: 845 4992 8584

MINUTES

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was certified. All Board Members were in attendance.
2. Welcome new Board Member. The Board welcomed Ms. LaFawn Thompson as a new Board Member.
3. The minutes from the November 20, 2020 Board Meeting were unanimously approved as edited.
4. Public comment. No comments from the public were given.
5. Chair's Report: TBPG Chair Becky Johnson addressed the new TBPG Committee assignments and Board Member term expirations, reviewed "what geoscientists do" and public outreach.
6. Executive Director's Report: TBPG Executive Director Rene Truan gave an update on the agency's COVID-19 response and planning, the upcoming performance measures evaluation and Strategic Plan, and information related to the 87th Legislative Session.
7. Reports on recent Committee meetings.
 - A. The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee meeting report was given by Committee Chair Fleming. The Licensing Report was given and exam statistics. The Board assigned Director Truan to provide a clear path moving forward on the item regarding alternative license status. The Committee reviewed item of Advisory Committee regarding licensing opportunities; and outreach initiatives.
 - B. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee meeting report was given by Committee Chair Becky Johnson. A presentation was given from the Firm Registration Advisory Committee: Kenneth Tramm, P.G. presented a summary of findings from the Firm Registration Advisory Committee report, which included recommendations from the Advisory Committee regarding the need for firm registration and its role in public safety. Chair Johnson expressed appreciation for the work of the members of the Advisory Committee in producing the final report. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee report continued with a review of compliance numbers. Chair Johnson also covered the Committee's ongoing items regarding implementation of Sunset recommendation regarding elimination of firm registration; and public outreach initiatives.
 - C. The General Issues Committee meeting report was given by Committee Chair Bereket Derie, who reported on the four year rule review and outreach initiatives.
 - D. The Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee meeting report was given by Committee Chair David Prescott. The report covered the Financial Report for FY 2021, the Legislative Session, COVID-19 related expenses, and the Annual Non-Financial Data Report 2020.
8. Applications for P.G. license, including requests for waivers and substitutions.

- A. Jorge Barrios: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waivers unanimously.
- B. Hamed Elmowafy: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waivers unanimously.
- C. Joseph Drew: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waivers unanimously.
- D. Ethan Perry: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waiver unanimously.
- E. Ricki Kobernik: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a substitution of work experience for the education requirement. The Board granted the substitution unanimously.
- F. Jennifer Califf: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waiver unanimously.
- G. James A Golab: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waiver unanimously.
- H. Julie O'Leary: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waiver unanimously.
- I. Charles Willmore: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waiver unanimously.
- J. Antonio Cameron-Gonzalez: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waiver unanimously.
- K. Gavin Hudgeons: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waivers unanimously.
- L. Justin Evans: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waivers unanimously.
- M. Dr. Timothy Meckel: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examinations. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waiver unanimously.
- N. Jeremy Touchy: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a substitution of the qualifying work experience for the education requirement. This item was tabled, no action was taken.
- O. Dr. Mamdouh Shebl: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The applicant met the policy requirements, and the Board granted the waivers unanimously.



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9. Proposed dismissal of complaint from the Complaint Review Team. The Board unanimously approved dismissal of complaint 2021-00006 in a vote of 7-0, with Members Janak and Stowers abstaining.
10. Proposed Agreed Board Order. The Board unanimously adopted the Agreed Board Order for complaint 2021-00005, in a vote of 7-0, with Members Janak and Stowers abstaining.
11. TBPG four-year rule review of 22 TAC Chapters 850 and 851. The Board unanimously readopted their rules in their entirety. The Board did not take action on the proposed amendments or repeals that came out of the Committees.
12. Amendment to 22 TAC 851.22 regarding TBPG's waiver policy. The Board discussed the addition of a waiver request for the Soil Science practice examination. The Board approved the policy, but no action was taken regarding the rule proposal. This item was deferred until the next Board meeting.
13. Amendment to 22 TAC 851.30, regarding firm registration. No action was taken.
14. Amendment to 22 TAC 851.31, regarding temporary firm registration. No action was taken.
15. Amendment to 22 TAC 851.40, regarding Geoscientist-in-Training certification. The Board unanimously approved the proposed amendment to be posted to the Texas Register for public comment.
16. Amendment to 22 TAC 851.41, regarding Geoscientist-in-Training certification requirements and application procedures. The Board unanimously approved the proposed amendment to be posted to the Texas Register for public comment.
17. Amendment to 22 TAC 851.80, regarding fees. The Board unanimously approved the proposed amendment to be posted to the Texas Register for public comment.
18. Agency response related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board unanimously approved granting the Executive Director authority to extend the emergency actions as necessary, for the rest of this fiscal year.
19. Officer elections and Committee assignments. For the office of Vice-Chair, the Board unanimously elected W. David Prescott, II, as Vice-Chair of TBPG. For the office of Secretary/Treasurer, the Board unanimously elected Mark N. Varhaug, P.G., CPG, as Secretary/Treasurer of TBPG. Chair Johnson made new assignments to the Committees.
20. Potential public/private outreach initiatives. No action was taken.
21. Future Board meetings, including dates and agenda items. The next Board Meeting is scheduled on August 13, 2021.
22. Annual Board Member Training for 2021 manual. Assistant Attorney General Melissa Juarez, from the Office of the Attorney General, presented information on antitrust issues and regulatory boards. The annual Board Member training manual for 2021 was given to all Board Members prior to the meeting with an acknowledgement form for signature.
23. The Board meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

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

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