



## TBPG Fall Newsletter - September 2022

### **From Chairman Becky Johnson:**

As the end of my second term on TBPG looms closer (Feb 2023), I think a lot about the next issues that we, as an agency, need to tackle, especially with the next Sunset Review coming in 2025. Over my 12 years on the board, we have worked hard to revise and streamline our regulations, listen to and act on licensee suggestions, and create a reasonable set of standard operating procedures for the agency.



When new issues are brought to our attention, the board and staff take the time to research it, determine our ability to address it (jurisdiction, statutory authority, etc.), and then determine what, if any action, should be taken. Two of our committees are currently working issues that have arisen in the last few months, either through public comment or relatively routine activities that have a new twist.

An example of this kind of issue is the recent change from Sole Proprietor as defined by the Secretary of State, to Sole Practitioner that provides more flexibility to our licensees and moves us away from trying to enforce SOS regulations. While it took quite a bit of time and some input from an external advisory committee, we have already received some positive responses for this change. If you keep up with our committee meeting agendas, you'll notice that we have also added a standing item called "Ongoing review of Firm Registration" to the Compliance and Enforcement Committee.

The purpose is two-fold:

- 1) to monitor the effects of the change to Sole Practitioner, and
- 2) to monitor the status of Firm Registration as recommended by the Advisory Committee.

As you can see, some of the issues brought by our licensees require careful thought and consideration, input from external advisory committees, and long-term attention and tracking to ensure that TBPG is serving our licensees to the best of our ability. We must abide by our statutory authority, but we must also regulate geoscience in Texas to protect public health and safety in parallel with standard industry practice and licensure across the U.S.

Another aspect to the work of TBPG is setting our performance measures in the Strategic Plan that is updated every four years. You can find the current strategic plan here ([this a hyperlink](#)). This is where the staff and the executive board members really come together to set the agency's course for the next four years, including the

operational goals as aligned with statewide objectives, our performance measures (how the state will review our agency's performance), and our self-report on customer service. You may have recently seen the customer service survey sent to all licensees – this is part of how we assess and report on TBPB's customer service, as required in the strategic plan. The Strategic Plan also lists redundancies and impediments to our mission, which is crucial to help the state help us, especially if improvement would require updates to the statute under which we operate. If you haven't taken the time to review this document, and you want a little more insight to how a state agency works, then this is the document for you! It's relatively short, but it is the key to our ability to succeed as a state agency.

It's hard to believe that my time is almost up. I've enjoyed serving you, our licensees, and I would encourage any and all that are interested to apply for a position on the Board. Our terms are staggered, with 2 PG terms expiring every 2 years. Think about how you can have a positive impact on our community and continue to ensure the health and safety of Texans and the protection of our natural resources.

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## ESG, Sustainability, and Geoscience

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Recently, a Texas PG called our attention to how Texas geoscientists can become involved in ESG and sustainability efforts. In addition to being one of the “right things to do”, ESG and sustainability have become larger topics in global and Texas public policy and finance. These topics and policies will affect Texas geoscientists and the companies and agencies they work for.

Because we have a deep understanding of earth processes, including carbon cycles, water, and resources, Texas geoscientists can help provide the correlation of earth sciences and sustainability. By educating ourselves in the concepts and vocabulary of ESG and sustainability, Texas geoscientists can play a role in addressing important environmental challenges, and in the science-based determinations that will help policymakers and the public make informed decisions. The Board is exploring ways we can help Texas geoscientists participate in these areas by utilizing their geoscience discipline, experience, and expertise. As we do this, Texas Geoscientists can begin to learn more about these topics.



TBPB Board Secretary - Mark Varhaug, PG, CPG

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Here are links to some papers that show how the geosciences can participate in helping achieve sustainability goals.

[Soil science contributions towards Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation: Linking soil functions with ecosystem services by Johan Bouma](#)

[Groundwater and Global Palaeoclimate Signals](#)

[Geophysics](#)



At our August Board meeting, the Geoscientists Board adopted amendments to TAC 851.22; Waivers and Substitutions policy, to allow for waivers of the Texas Geophysics exam.

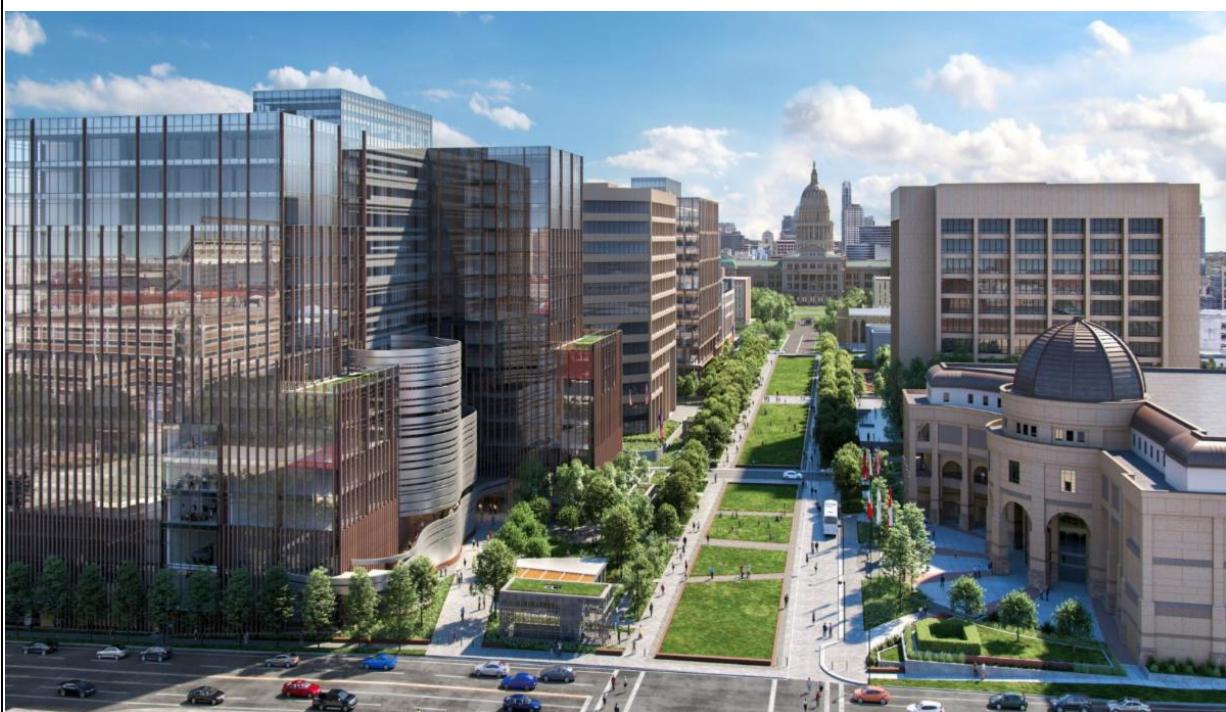
Applicants in the Geophysics Discipline are now able to apply for a waiver of the exam requirements.

An applicant must meet Minimum Criteria of education and work experience to qualify.

Please see our waiver policy for more details

**TBPG Waiver Policy**

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TBPG has completed the move our physical office to the new George H.W. Bush building in the Capitol Complex.

Any mail sent to us should be sent to our post office box:

Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists  
P.O. Box 13225  
Austin, TX 78711

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**TBPG IS HIRING!!!!**

TBPG is looking to fill our Agency Financial Officer position. The Financial Officer

(Accountant) performs moderately complex work specifically in the preparation, processing, and reconciliation of accounts payables/receivables, budget preparation, purchasing, payroll, and travel.

The complete job posting can be viewed on our website [HERE](#)

If you are interested, please submit a [State of Texas Application](#) to Executive Director, [Rene Truan](#)

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## **Opportunities to Volunteer**

TBPG wants to continue to build our database of volunteers to serve as Subject Matter Experts on Workgroups and Advisory Committees when opportunities come up.

We recognize that our license holders can provide valuable input and guidance on various licensing and registration issues throughout the year.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and share your knowledge, experience and expertise with a minimal time requirement.

If you are interested in being considered, please send a message to: [volunteer@tbpg.texas.gov](mailto:volunteer@tbpg.texas.gov),

and please include a current CV or resume and your area(s) of expertise so we can match you with future opportunities.

Thank you!

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## **TBPG and Board Chair Becky Johnson are pleased to be able to provide a new Ethics video on our website**

A minimum of one hour of Professional Ethics is required for renewal of a P.G. license or GIT certification. Watching this video will offer one hour of ethics credit on your CE Activity log. Please note that there is no quiz or certificate of completion; therefore, you must track this activity on your personal CE Activity log.

TBPG would like to thank Chair Johnson, P.G., for creating and providing access to these ethics videos.

[TBPG 2022 Ethics video by Chair Johnson, PG](#)

Please note that the videos and the information provided therein are the personal property of TBPG Chair Becky Johnson, P.G.

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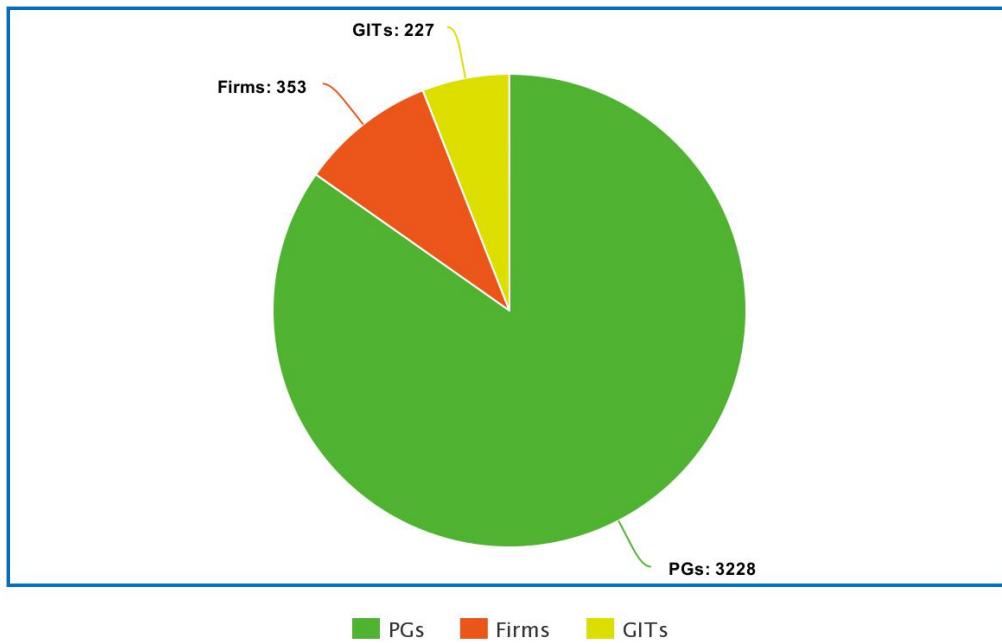
## **The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is pleased to welcome our new Compliance Investigator, Mr. Brycen Arnold, to our team.**

Brycen has a Bachelors in Geoscience from Midwestern State University and comes to us from the Red River Authority of Texas where he supervised technicians conducting

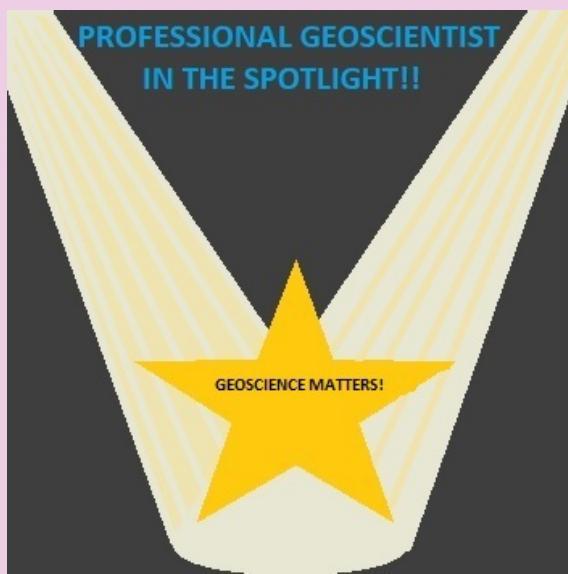
field sampling activities and watershed monitoring and analysis across Texas for the Clean Rivers Program.

If you have questions about Continuing Education or Compliance, you can contact him directly at: (512) 936-4410 or [compliance@tbpg.texas.gov](mailto:compliance@tbpg.texas.gov)

## CURRENT LICENSING, REGISTRATION, AND CERTIFICATION NUMBERS AS OF 07/31/2022



meta-chart.com



Are you, or do you know a licensed Professional Geoscientist with an interesting story? Is there a PG you think needs recognition for the valuable work they've done?

We are now taking submissions for "PG in the spotlight!"

TBPG plans to feature a PG in each Quarterly Newsletter to tell their story and encourage interest in the Geoscience field.

If you want to submit a story, please email it to: [licensing@tbpg.texas.gov](mailto:licensing@tbpg.texas.gov)

## ASBOG Examinations



The next ASBOG examination will be held:  
**October 7, 2022** in Austin, Texas

The deadline to submit your request to TBPG for the October exam has passed, we will begin reviewing applications for the March 2023 examination date after the October exam has been completed.

#### ASBOG ANNOUNCES UPCOMING MOVE TO COMPUTER BASED TESTING!!

TBPG is excited to announce that ASBOG® is converting from paper and pencil examinations for the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) examinations to a Computer Based Testing (CBT) model that will allow these examinations to be administered at various sites across the state. This move will drastically improve accessibility to the examinations as we anticipate over 45 testing locations in 24 cities across the state of Texas.

**We expect this change to begin with the March 2023 examinations** but TBPG is still waiting on final details and we will share more information on our website as it becomes available.

*For more information about the ASBOG examinations, please visit:*

**[Exam Information](#)**



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### **Highlights from the August 12, 2022 Board Meeting**

#### **Requests For Waiver of Examination**

The Application Review Committee considered 6 applications for waivers, and recommended all 6 to the Board.

The full Board approved all 6 of the waiver requests as recommended by committee.

#### **Proposed Agreed Board Orders**

Proposed Agreed Board Orders are disciplinary orders that are proposed by TBPG's

Complaint Review Team and, subsequently, agreed to by the Respondent of a Complaint. 1 proposed order was on the agenda but was not presented for action by the Board.

## **Proposed Amendments**

There were no proposed amendments on the agenda

## **Adopted Amendments**

Adopted amendment to 22 TAC 851.22, regarding Waivers and Substitutions: Policy, Procedures, and Criteria.

The Board unanimously adopted this amendment regarding a waiver for the Texas Geophysics Examination, with the minor, non-substantive changes made by staff for the clarity and consistency of wording.

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## **Upcoming TBPG Meetings Austin, Texas**

### **November 16, 2022**

Application Review and Continuing Education Committee

General Issues Committee

Financial Review and Strategic Planning Committee

Compliance and Enforcement Committee

### **November 17, 2022**

TBPG Board Meeting

*Meeting agendas will be available on the TBPG website at least one week prior to the meetings.*

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## **Agency Contact Information:**

Subject	Information	Phone	E-mail
General	General questions on renewing a license, token numbers	512 936-4408	licensing@tbpg.texas.gov
Complaints	File a complaint, Complaint inquiries	512 936-4408	compliance@tbpg.texas.gov
Continuing Education	CE program, CE requirements, CE audits	512 936-4408	compliance@tbpg.texas.gov
Outreach	Outreach Opportunities	512 936-4401	volunteer@tbpg.texas.gov
Finance	Accounts Payable, Receivables, Purchasing, ITVs	512 936-4404	finance@tbpg.texas.gov
Licensing	New license inquiries, Applications, Examinations, Qualifications, Waiver requests	512 936-4408	licensing@tbpg.texas.gov
Open Records	Open Records Requests, Public information, Advisory Opinions	512 936-4401	rtruan@tbpg.texas.gov
Online assistance	Assistance with online license services	512 936-4408	licensinghelp@hpc.state.tx.us
Service Issues	Customer service issues	512 936-4408	licensing@tbpg.texas.gov

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**Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists**  
 P. O. Box 13225  
 Austin, Texas 78711  
 (512) 936-4408

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