



# **TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS**

## **TBPG BOARD MEETING**

*August 12, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.*  
1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 7S-800  
Austin, Texas 78701

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

## **MINUTES**

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists was called to order at 10:41AM. Roll was called and a quorum was certified. Board Members in attendance were Chair Becky Johnson, P.G., Vice-Chair W. David Prescott II, P.G. Secretary/Treasurer Mark N. Varhaug, P.G., CPG, and Board Members Margon Dillard, Bereket Derie, Ph.D, P.G., Brandon Stowers, Steven Fleming, P.G., Ed Janak, P.G., and LaFawn Thompson.
2. Minutes from the April 29, 2022 Board Meeting approved unanimously.
3. Public comment (limited to five minutes per person; more or less time may be allotted as needed at the discretion of the Board Chair). No Public Comments received.
4. Chair's Report: Chair Becky Johnson emphasized the importance of outreach and discussed the Strategic Plan, highlighting performance measures and the results of our recent Customer Service Survey.
5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Rene Truan updated the Board on the recent move to new office space, staffing changes, and introduced TBPG's new team member, Compliance Investigator Brycen Arnold. Director Truan also reported on outreach efforts to encourage PGs to maintain their licenses, and the importance of licensure.
6. Reports on recent Committee meetings.
  - A. The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee Meeting Report from 04/28/22 was given by Committee Chair Mark Varhaug; The Licensing Report was outlined by TBPG's Licensing Coordinator Elsa Paynes, who reviewed licensing data, TGE exam statistics, CSSE exam and the upcoming ASBOG move to Computer Based Testing. Retaining Firm Registrations was also discussed.
  - B. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee Meeting Report from 08/11/2022 was given by Committee Chair David Prescott. The Compliance Report was summarized by Elsa Paynes, who reviewed current compliance program statistics; complaints dismissed by staff; and enforcement penalties collected for General Revenue. Public comment regarding digital seals and signatures was discussed, Executive Director Truan reported on the results of his research into what policy other Texas state agencies were following. Committee will continue to review digital signatures.

- C. The General Issues Committee Meeting Report from 04/28/22 was given by Committee Member Mark Varhaug. There was discussion related to the public inquiry related to licensing, education, and how current trends may affect future geoscience sustainability, regulations and activities. Committee will continue to discuss ways to increase outreach in these areas.
- D. The Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Report from 08/11/22 was given by Committee Chair Brandon Stowers. The Financial Report for FY 2022 was given by Financial Officer Pamela Parks. Also discussed at Committee was the 2022 Strategic Plan and performance measures.

Chair Johnson announced a break at 11:45AM, meeting resumed at 11:58AM.

- 7. Applications for P.G. license, including requests for waivers and substitutions.
  - A. Elizabeth McConnell: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the Education requirement. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's Education waiver request.
  - B. James Fluker: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the Texas Geophysics Examination (TGE). The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request for the Texas Geophysics Examination.
  - C. Anthony Zak: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology Examinations. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request for the Fundamentals and Practice of Geology Examinations.
  - D. Lauren Robinson: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology Examinations. The Board unanimously voted to approve the applicant's waiver request for the Fundamentals of Geology, and deny the waiver request for the Practice of Geology.
  - E. James Levy: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology Examinations. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request for the Fundamentals and Practice of Geology Examinations.
  - F. Leah Parker: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology Examination. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request for the Fundamentals of Geology Examinations.
- 8. Adoption of Amendments to 22 TAC §851.22, Waivers and Substitutions: Policy, Procedures, and Criteria posted to the Texas Register. No public comments were received during the 20 day period after posting in the Texas Register. The Board unanimously adopted this amendment, with the minor, non-substantive changes made by staff for consistency and clarity of wording.
- 9. Proposed Agreed Board Order for Complaint 2020-00007. No action was taken.



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10. Potential public/private outreach initiatives. Recent and upcoming outreach was discussed.
11. Future Board meetings, including dates, arrangements, and agenda items. The next Board Meeting is scheduled to be on November 18, 2022.
12. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:27PM

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Becky Johnson, PG, TBPG Chair  
Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists