



# **TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS**

## **BOARD MEETING**

*November 18, 2022, 10:30 a.m.*  
1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 7.800  
Austin, Texas 78701

### **Minutes**

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists was called to order at 10:39 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was certified. Board Members in attendance were TBPG Chair Becky L. Johnson, P.G., Vice Chair W. David Prescott, III, P.G., Secretary/Treasurer Mark N. Varhaug, P.G., CPG, and Board Members Margon Dillard, Steven Fleming, P.G., Ed Janak, P.G., LaFawn Thompson, Bereket Derie, Ph.D, P.G., and Brandon Stowers.
2. Minutes from the August 12, 2022 Board Meeting unanimously approved as written.
3. No Public comments were received.
4. Chair's Report: Chair Johnson spoke about continuity of Board operations, with her term expiring in February 2023 and the upcoming Sunset review. She also addressed the subject of outreach and continuing to seek PGs who are willing to serve or volunteer for workgroups.
5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Rene Truan spoke about business continuity, building the team and TBPG growth. He announced TBPG's new Finance Coordinator Genicka Williams and reported on his current preparations for the upcoming 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.
6. Reports on recent Committee meetings.
  - A. The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee Meeting Report from 11/17/22 was given by Committee Chair Mark Varhaug. The Licensing Report was outlined by TBPG's Licensing Coordinator Elsa Paynes, who reviewed licensing data, ASBOG exam statistics, TGE exam statistics, CSSE exam. The upcoming ASBOG transition to Computer Based Testing was discussed. There were no updates on the status of Advisory Committee related to licensing opportunities. Potential outreach initiatives were discussed.
  - B. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee Meeting Report from 11/17/22 was given by Committee Chair David Prescott. The Compliance Report was summarized by Brycen Arnold, who reviewed current compliance program statistics; complaints dismissed by staff; and enforcement penalties collected for General Revenue. Chair Prescott reported on the workgroup on Digital signatures and seals and recommended the Board accept the final report of that work group. Workgroup Leader Rusty Branch's final report was unanimously accepted by the Board. Committee instructed to look at creating the necessary rule changes to allow Digital signatures to be used.



## TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

Chair Prescott also addressed the ongoing item related to the review of Firm Registration, it will continue to be reviewed by the Compliance and Enforcement Committee. Potential outreach initiatives were also discussed.

- C. The General Issues Committee Meeting Report from 11/17/22 was given by Committee Chair Ed Janak. He reported on the discussion of a Public Comment previously received regarding Environmentally Sustainable Geoscience and the plan going forward to incorporate some of the ideas in our ongoing outreach initiatives, as well as drafting a Committee response to the Public Comment.
- D. The Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Report from 11/18/22 was given by Committee Chair Brandon Stowers. The Financial Report for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 2023 and Annual Financial Report for FY 2022 was given by Executive Director Rene Truan. Also discussed was the moving expenses from the agency move in July.

Break was taken at 11:28 a.m. Meeting resumed at 11:46 a.m.

- 7. Applications for P.G. license, including requests for waivers and substitutions.
  - A. Ravindra Tipnis: 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 both exams.
  - B. Pavel Galperin: 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 both exams.
  - C. Henry Naumann: 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 both exams.
  - D. William Farrar: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology Examinations. No action was taken.
  - E. Larry Quandt: 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 both exams.
  - F. Calvin Chapman: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology Examinations, and the education requirement. No action was taken.
- 8. Proposed Agreed Board Order for Complaint 2022-00014. (Member Stowers was recused) The Board adopted the Proposed Agreed Board Order as written by unanimous consent.
- 9. Proposed Agreed Board Order for Complaint 2020-00007. No action was taken.



## **TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS**

10. Potential public/private outreach initiatives were discussed.
11. Future Board meeting dates were announced.
12. Meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

---

W. David Prescott, PG, Chair  
Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

The Board may meet in closed session on any agenda item listed above as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Gov. Code Chapter 551. If you require auxiliary aids, services or material in an alternate format contact the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists, at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting date. Listed below are helpful numbers should assistance be needed. Phone: (512) 936-4408, email: [licensing@tbpg.texas.gov](mailto:licensing@tbpg.texas.gov), 1-800-relay-VV (for voice), 1-800-relay-TX (for TDD).