



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

BOARD MEETING

May 12, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 7.800
Austin, Texas 78701

Videoconference call – Zoom

MINUTES

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists was called to order at 10:31am, Roll was called, and a quorum certified. Board Members in attendance were TBPG Chair W. David Prescott, III, P.G., Vice Chair Becky L. Johnson, P.G., Secretary/Treasurer Mark N. Varhaug, P.G., CPG, and Board Members Margon Dillard, Steven Fleming, P.G., Ed Janak, P.G., Bereket Derie, Ph.D, P.G., and Brandon Stowers. LaFawn Thompson was absent.
2. Minutes from the February 10, 2023 Board Meeting were approved unanimously as presented.
3. No public comments were received.
4. Chair's Report: Chair Prescott reported on business continuity, Board goals/objectives including building on the success of previous Board Chairs and expanding TBPG's license base and committee Assignments.
5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Rene Truan spoke about ongoing operations, the ongoing updates to our website, staff updates, TBPG's recent audit results and the 88th legislative session.
6. Chair Prescott moved up the Waiver request for Yomari E. Soto Lopez as the only Waiver request attending the meeting. Agenda Item 7.E 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.

Break was announced at 11:10am

Meeting resumed at 11:20am



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7. Reports on recent Committee meetings.
 - A. The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee Meeting Report from 02/09/23 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. Mr. Varhaug and Rene Truan also reported on the discussion the AR/CE committee had regarding license qualifications and criteria for determining cross-discipline licensing. Outreach activities were also reported.
 - B. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee Meeting Report from 05/11/2023 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; a recent CRT, and enforcement penalties collected for General Revenue. Chair Prescott also addressed the ongoing item related to the review of Firm Registration, and the advisory committee to be created to research licensing requirements in the area of carbon capture. Outreach activities were also reported.
 - C. The General Issues Committee Meeting Report from 05/11/23 was given by Committee Chair Ed Janak. He reported on the ongoing discussion of nontraditional licensing activities and the public comment regarding carbon capture. Outreach activities were also reported.

8. Review of applications for exam, work experience, and education waivers received prior to the date of the committee meeting, including:
 - A. Yuliya Dunaway: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Practice of Geology Examination. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request for the Practice of Geology Examination.
 - B. Robert Keirstead: 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 Examination.
 - C. Oscar Ramirez: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the Texas Geophysics Examination. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request for the Texas Geophysics Examination.
 - D. Leandro Addarich Martinez: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology Examinations. Applicant met the all licensing requirements and no waiver was required. No action required.
 - E. Max Laracuente: 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. Anthony Rios: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination. No Action was taken



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- G. Alexander Hermann: Application for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the education requirement. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request for the education requirement. Chair Prescott recused himself.

Break was announced at 12:19pm

Meeting resumed at 12:25pm

9. The Board discussed and unanimously approved Adoption of amendment to 22 TAC §851.43 GIT Certification Period and Renewal as posted in the Texas Register.
10. The Board discussed and unanimously approved Adoption of amendment to 22 TAC §851.10 regarding Definitions as posted in the Texas Register.
11. The Board discussed and unanimously approved Adoption of amendment to 22 TAC §851.156 regarding Professional Geoscientist Seals and Geoscience Firm Identification as posted in the Texas Register.
12. The Board discussed and unanimously approved Proposed amendment to 22 TAC §851.21 regarding Licensing Requirements to be posted to the Texas Register for public comment as edited.
13. The Board discussed and unanimously approved Proposed amendment to 22 TAC §851.22 regarding Waivers and Substitutions: Policy, Procedures, and Criteria for posting to the Texas Register for public comment as edited.
14. The Board discussed Default Board Order for Complaint 2023-00017. Compliance Investigator Brycen Arnold reported the background of the complaint and the Complaint Review Team recommendation. The Board unanimously approved the Default Board Order for Complaint 2023-00017.
15. Proposed Agreed Board Order for Complaint 2020-00007. No action was taken
16. Potential public/private outreach initiatives were discussed and reported.
17. Future Board meetings, including dates, arrangements, and agenda items. Chair Prescott asked all members to check their calendars so TBPG's 2024 meetings can be scheduled at the August Board meeting.
18. Meeting adjourned at 12:57pm

Mark Varhaug, PG, CPG, Presiding Officer