



# **TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS**

## **Board Meeting**

*November 20, 2020, 1:00 p.m.*

333 Guadalupe Street,  
Austin, TX 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 1:08 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was certified. Board members present were TBPG Board Chair Becky Johnson, P.G., Vice-Chair W. David Prescott, II, P.G., Secretary/Treasurer Steven Fleming, P.G., Bereket Derie, Ph.D., P.G., Margon Dillard, Public Member, Ed Janak, P.G., Brandon Stowers, Public Member, and Mark Varhaug, P.G.
2. The minutes from the August 14, 2020 Board Meeting were approved as edited.
3. Public comment. There were no comments from the public.
4. Chair's Report: TBPG Chair Becky Johnson reported on outreach, status of Advisory Committees, and gave an overview of the recent ASBOG meeting.
5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Rene Truan discussed TBPG's FTE Status, its COVID-19 response with employees working partially remotely, Legislative planning, and the Legislative Appropriations Request.
6. Reports on recent Committee meetings.
  - A. The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee meeting report from 11/19/2020 was given by Committee Chair Steven Fleming. Elsa Paynes gave an overview of the Licensing Report, including the licensing data, and exam statistics. Chair Fleming addressed the Committee's review of the PG application for Robert Stuetzle; the discussion regarding an emeritus license status; and the Committee work session regarding the four-year rule review TBPG rules; the ongoing item related to setting up an Advisory Committee related to licensing opportunities; and recent outreach initiatives.
  - B. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee meeting report from 11/20/2020 was given by Committee Chair Becky Johnson. The Compliance Report was outline by Elsa Paynes, who reviewed current compliance program statistics. Chair Johnson reviewed the Committee's approval of the updated penalty matrix and Standard Operating Procedures revisions, and the Board unanimously approved the updates. Also discussed were the firm registration filing requirements for out of state companies; the implementation of Sunset recommendation regarding firm registration and possible future proposed rule amendments and repeals related to remove the firm registration requirement; the Committee's work session regarding the four-year rule review of 22 TAC 850 and 851; and recent and upcoming outreach initiatives.

- C. The General Issues Committee meeting report from 11/20/2020 was given by Mark Varhaug, who mentioned the Committee's work session for the four-year rule review; and outreach initiatives.
  - D. Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee meeting from 11/20/2020 was given by Committee Chair David Prescott, who reviewed the Financial Report for FY 2021, Legislative Session, and COVID-19 related expenses. Also addressed were the Legislative Appropriations Request, and the Committee's work session for the four-year rule review.
7. Applications for P.G. license received from the following individuals.
- A. Alberto Gaudio: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals examination. The applicant met the policy guidelines for this waiver. The Board unanimously approved a waiver of the FG exam in a vote of 8-0.
  - B. Guido Paparoni: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The applicant met the policy guidelines for the two waivers. The Board unanimously approved waivers of the FG and PG examinations in a vote of 8-0.
  - C. Nathan Peterson: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The applicant met the policy guidelines for the two waivers. The Board unanimously approved waivers of the FG and PG examinations in a vote of 8-0.
  - D. Patrick Grubbs: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations and waiver of the education requirement. The applicant did not meet the waiver policy requirements; the Board did not grant the waivers.
  - E. Desmond Powell: P.G. licensee requesting a waiver of the CE requirement. The Board considered this request, and determined that it currently does not have rules in place to provide for a waiver of the CE requirement. The Board took no action on this request.
8. Agency responses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board's emergency response actions are due to expire on January 1, 2021, unless extended. The Board unanimously approved extending the temporary provision of the policy through May 1, 2021. This extension allows for the Executive Director to extend license expiration dates and to defer licensing renewal payments for all license types on a case by case basis through May 1, 2021, as authorized by 22 TAC 851.85 and the continuing of the temporary CE policy, which grants a credit of nine hours to PG licensees whose licenses expired on or before May 1, 2021.
9. TBPG four-year rule review of 22 TAC 850 and 851. The Board discussed the four-year rule review in each of the Committee reports previously; no action was taken.
10. Potential public/private outreach initiatives. Outreach opportunities were discussed.
11. Future Board meetings, including dates and agenda items. The next Board meeting is scheduled on February 19, 2021.
12. Adjournment. The Board meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.



Becky L. Johnson, P.G.  
TBPG Chair