



# **TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS**

## **BOARD MEETING**

*August 11, 2023, 9:00 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 9:09 am, roll was called, and a quorum certified. Board Members in attendance were TBPG Chair W. David Prescott, III, P.G., Interim Vice-Chair Steven Fleming, PG, Presiding Officer, Secretary/Treasurer Mark N. Varhaug, P.G., CPG, and Board Members Margon Dillard, Ed Janak, P.G., Bereket Derie, Ph.D, P.G., Sam McGee and Danny Kingham, PG.
2. Minutes from the May 12, 2023 Board Meeting were approved as edited.
3. No public comments were received.
4. Chair's Report: Chair Prescott reported on New Board Member Introductions, TBPG Board Objectives, Strategies and Outcomes; Committee Roles, Board Member Roles, Strategic Outreach and PG Advisory Committees
5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Rene Truan spoke about ongoing operations, future Sunset preparations, the ongoing updates to our website, and staff updates.
6. Officer Elections. Chair Prescott nominated Steven Fleming, PG for Vice-Chair and Mark Varhaug, PG, CPG for Secretary/Treasurer. No other nominations were made. The Board elected the nominees unanimously.
7. Committee Assignments. Chair Prescott assigned the committees and Committee Chairs.

At 9:35am the Board took a break. Meeting resumed at 9:42am

8. Reports on recent Committee meetings:
  - A. The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee Meeting Report from 08/10/2023 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, and the CSSE exam. Mr. Varhaug and Rene Truan also reported on the discussion the AR/CE committee had regarding licensing numbers and how to improve them. The committee recommended to the Board that the Board draft a policy that allows for recognition of multiple disciplines on a license consistent with the current statutes and rules. The Board unanimously approved this motion and instructed TBPG staff to draft language for this policy for the ARCE Committee to review and consider at the November meeting.



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- B. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee Meeting Report from 08/10/2023 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 reported on the committee's discussion regarding qualifying supervisors of work experience.
  - C. The General Issues Committee Meeting Report from 08/10/23 was given by Committee Chair Ed Janak. He reported on the ongoing discussion of nontraditional licensing activities and the public comment regarding carbon capture.
  - D. The Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Report from 08/10/2023 was given by Financial Officer Genikca Williams.
9. Review of applications for exam, work experience, and education waivers/substitution received prior to the date of the committee meeting, including:
- A. David Correll: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
  - B. Adam Haecker: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
  - C. Michael Kenney: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
  - D. Craig Kissock: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). No action was taken.
  - E. Christine Peters: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
  - F. Robert Keirstead: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). Member Varhaug recused himself. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
  - G. Dr. Gordon Holmes: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the Texas Geophysics Examination. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
  - H. Arun Neupane: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the Education requirement. No action was taken.
  - I. Zhipeng Liu: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver/substitution of a licensing requirement. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.



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10. Adoption of amendment to 22 TAC §851.21 Licensing Requirements: Examinations. No public comments were received. Adoption of this amendment was approved unanimously by the Board.
11. Adoption of amendment to 22 TAC §851.22 Waivers and Substitutions: Policy, Procedures, and Criteria. No public comments were received. Adoption of this amendment was approved unanimously by the Board.
12. Proposed amendment to 22 TAC §851.22 Waivers and Substitutions: Policy, Procedures, and Criteria. The Board unanimously approved this Proposed Amendment for posting to the TX Register as presented.
13. Compliance and Enforcement Committee recommended to the Board that the Board direct TBPG staff to form a work group to research and report on “Activities related to Carbon Capture and Sequestration” and approve a charge for that work group. The Board unanimously approved the Work Group and Charge.
14. Proposed new subchapter and new rule in 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 850: Subchapter E: Miscellaneous Board Procedures and Requirements; and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §850.221 Procurement and Bid Protest Procedures. The Board unanimously approved the Proposed new Subchapter for posting to the TX Register as presented.
15. Public/Private Outreach Initiatives: Current, past and future outreach initiatives were discussed, as well as ways to expand the outreach of TBPG.
16. Future Board meetings dates were discussed; the next Board meetings are scheduled for November 16 and 17, 2023.
17. Adjournment: The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.