



# TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

## **BOARD MEETING**

*November 17, 2023, 8:30 a.m.*  
1801 Congress Avenue, Room 7.102  
Austin, Texas 78701

### **Minutes**

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists was called to order at 8:36 am, roll was called, and a quorum certified. Board Members in attendance were TBPG Chair W. David Prescott, II, P.G., 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 August 11, 2023 Board Meeting were approved as presented.
3. No public comments were received.
4. Chair's Report: Chair Prescott reported on TBPG's Role and Responsibility, Outreach, and P.G. Contributions in Texas.
5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Rene Truan spoke about the FY 2023 Review, Agency Annual Reporting, Operations and Staff Updates.
6. Reports on recent Committee meetings.
  - A. The Application Review and Continuing Education Committee Meeting Report from 11/16/2023 was given by Committee Chair Ed Janak. 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.
  - B. The Compliance and Enforcement Committee Meeting Report from 11/16/2023 was given by Committee Chair Steven Fleming. 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.
  - C. The General Issues Committee Meeting Report from 11/16/2023 was given by Committee Chair Mark Varhaug. He reported on the ongoing discussion of nontraditional licensing activities and the public comment regarding carbon capture. Mr. Varhaug also reported on the committees ongoing outreach discussion and efforts, and proposed the Board approve forming a work group from University contacts to study what TBPG and the Board can do to reach out to more students. The Board approved this work group unanimously.



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- D. The Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Report from 11/16/2023 was given by Financial Officer Genikca Williams.

The Board took a break at 9:25am, meeting resumed at 9:36am.

7. Review of applications for exam, work experience, and education waivers/substitution received prior to the date of the committee meeting, including:
  - A. J Gary Mitchell: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). No action was taken.
  - B. Alberto Rodriguez-Natal: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
  - C. Edward S. Feragen: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
  - D. Richard Lang: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
  - E. Keith Baily: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of ASBOG Examination(s). No action was taken.
  - F. Paul Bauman: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the Texas Geophysics Examination. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
  - G. Ahmed Ismail, PhD.: Applicant for PG licensure requesting a waiver of the Texas Geophysics Examination. The Board unanimously approved the applicant's waiver request.
8. Adoption of 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 adoption as posted in the TX Register.
9. Adoption of amendment to 22 TAC §851.22 Waivers and Substitutions: Policy, Procedures, and Criteria. The Board unanimously approved the adoption as posted in the TX Register.
10. Adoption of TBPG guidance policy regarding PG license multidiscipline designation. The Board unanimously approved the guidance policy.
11. Public/private outreach initiatives. Current, past and future outreach initiatives were discussed, as well as ways to expand the outreach of TBPG.
12. The Board went into closed session at 10:45am to consult legal counsel regarding Agenda item 12: Discussion Related to Agency/Board Legal Representation and Liability

The Board resumed open session at 11:20am. No action was taken in closed session.



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13. The Board went into closed session at 11:24am to consult legal counsel regarding Agenda item 13: Executive Director Compensation and Responsibilities.

The Board resumed open session at 11:42am. No action was taken in closed session.

14. Future Board meetings dates were discussed; the next Board meetings are scheduled for February 15 and 16, 2024.
15. Adjournment: the Board meeting was adjourned at 11:53am.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. David Prescott", is written over a horizontal line.

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