

North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists
Minutes
Wednesday, August 16, 2023
NC State University Club Raleigh, NC

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 am by Board Chair Richard Spruill. Dr. Spruill read the conflict of interest statement. Other Board members present included Rachel Kirkman, Kenneth Taylor, Steve Stadelman and Robert Mensah-Biney who joined by Zoom. Executive Director Barbara Geiger and staff member Jenna Miller were also in attendance. Christine Ryan served as Board Counsel. Dennis LaPoint was absent. Dr. Taylor noted that, as the State Geologist and employee of the NC Department of Environmental Quality, he would refrain from participating in the deliberation or taking any action by the Board with respect to any matter involving an employee of the Department.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Spruill welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023 meeting as presented was made by Dr. Stadelman, seconded by Dr. Taylor and carried.

Financial Report

Dr. Taylor presented the first quarter profit and loss statement and balance sheet. **Motion** was made by Dr. Stadelman to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kirkman and carried.

Administrative Report

Individual and Corporate Licensees Stats

Ms. Geiger reported that there are 1104 active individual licensees and 213 active corporate licenses.

License Renewal Stats

Ms. Miller reported that the 2023-2024 renewal process had gone smoothly with 97% of licensees renewing. There was discussion regarding the number of retiring licensees and licensees requesting inactive status.

Board Member Appointment Update

Ms. Geiger reported that Governor Cooper had appointed Dr. Emily Klein, Professor of Earth Science at Duke University, as the public member of the Board, replacing Dr. Mensah-Biney whose term expired June 30, 2023. Drs. LaPoint and Stadelman were reappointed to serve through June 30, 2026. Both initially filled unexpired terms and were eligible for reappointment, per statute.

Per Diem meal rate increase

Ms. Geiger reported that the NC State per diem rate for meals was revised for 2023-2024. Board members will be provided with the updated expense form.

November 2, 2023 Meeting

The November 2, 2023 quarterly meeting of the Board will be held at the geology department of East Carolina University. Students in the geology program, along with department faculty will be invited for lunch where a presentation on the ASBOG® exam and licensing will be made.

Dr. Stadelman made the motion per NC GS § 143-318.11(3), that the Board move into closed session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kirkman and carried.

Ms. Kirkman made the motion to return to the open session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stadelman and carried.

Legal Report and Training

Ms. Ryan reviewed the State Government Ethics Act, Article 1 § 138A. The Act establishes standards of ethical conduct and standards regarding conflicts of interest for elected and appointed State agency officials.

Continuing Education Report

Approval of Committee Report

The Committee reviewed a total of 40 activities. Of those, twenty-six activities were approved as submitted and six activities were approved for a different number of hours. Four activities were deferred for additional information and/or it was recommended that the licensee complete the self-assessment form. Four activities were denied, as those activities were not geological in nature, as required by the rules of the Board. **Motion** to approve the report of the Continuing Education Committee as presented was made by Ms. Kirkman, seconded by Dr. Taylor and carried.

ASBOG®

March Exam Stats/October Exam

Administrative Assistant Jenna Miller gave an overview of the March 16 & 17, 2023 exam. Ms. Miller reported that a total of 46 candidates took the exam over the two-day period. There were twenty-four candidates who sat for Part 1 (FG) of the exam with 16 passing scores and 8 failing scores. There were twenty-three candidates who sat for Part 2 (PG) of the exam with 16 passing scores and 7 failing scores. Fifteen individuals earned the GIT designation while 16 individuals qualified for license.

Ms. Miller informed the Board that registration for the October 6 & October 9, 2023 ASBOG® exam would open immediately following the Board meeting.

ASBOG® 2023 Administrator's Workshop, Annual Meeting, Field Trip and COE Workshop

The ASBOG® annual meeting and related activities are scheduled for October 23-28, 2023 in Spokane, WA. **Motion** was made by Dr. Stadelman and seconded by Ms. Kirkman to register up to four Board members, including one staff member, to attend the various activities. The motion carried unanimously.

GSA Conference Registration Discount for ASBOG® Members – October 15-18, 2023

Ms. Geiger shared a communication regarding a registration discount for the GSA Connects 2023 event to be held in Pittsburgh, PA. The registration deadline is September 13, 2023.

ASBOG® Executive Committee Report

Rachel Kirkman, President-Elect of ASBOG® gave a report of the July 20, 2023 Executive Committee meeting held in Carrollton, GA. She reported on the various activities of the Executive Committee, including updates for several State Boards, exam updates and CPAT data stats. ASBOG® has launched a review prep course for Part 1 (FG) of the exam, currently available for registration on the ASBOG® website. There was discussion regarding the Board notifying exam candidates of the availability of the prep course. Ms. Geiger will check with Board Counsel regarding the matter and the appropriate method of giving notice of the availability of the course to exam candidates. Ms. Kirkman reminded Ms. Geiger of the disciplinary database and encouraged use of that tool.

Old Business

Rules Review and Updates

Ms. Geiger reminded the Board of the ongoing rules review and updates, urging Board members to review Board rules and to suggest any edits, the need for new rules and/or the removal of rules that are no longer relevant.

Request to Amend CE Guidelines

The Board reviewed a request from a licensee regarding an amendment to the CE Guidelines, specifically the statement “Training that is outside the scope of geology, such as construction or engineering course may not be used to fulfill the CE requirement”. Following discussion of the request, it was determined that the Board would not revise the guidelines but would continue to review those activities submitted by licensees on a case by case basis, to determine the relevance to the practice of geology. Ms. Geiger was asked to communicate to the licensee that the Board would continue to review this type of activity and would allow a proportional amount of CE as appropriate.

Well Contractor Law Updates

The Board discussed an update to the well driller law regarding an employee of a business working on a well for the purpose of irrigation, located on land owned or leased by the business.

New Business

There was no new business for discussion.

Per NC GS § 143-318.11(6), **motion** was made by Dr. Stadelman to move into closed session to review applications for license. The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor and carried.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to resume the open session. **Motion** to approve forty-nine applications for exam, three of those conditional upon receipt of information, two for special accommodations and three to take after multiple failed attempts, twelve applications for comity, seven applications for individual reinstatement, one application for corporate reinstatement and seven applications for corporate license, was made by Dr. Stadelman, seconded by Dr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, on **motion** and second the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Kenneth B. Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer