

North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists
Minutes
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Board Chair Richard Spruill. Dr. Spruill read the conflict of interest statement. Other Board members present included Rachel Kirkman, Emily Klein, Dennis LaPoint, Kenneth Taylor, and Steve Stadelman. Executive Director Barbara Geiger was also in attendance. Christine Ryan, Board Counsel joined the meeting via Zoom. 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. In attendance from East Carolina University was Dr. Eric Horsman, Associate Professor of Geology. Following a brief welcome, Dr. Horsman departed the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2023 meeting as presented was made by Dr. LaPoint, seconded by Dr. Klein and carried.

Financial Report

Dr. Taylor presented the second 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 Dr. LaPoint and carried.

Administrative Report

Individual and Corporate Licensees Stats

Ms. Geiger reported that there are 1143 active individual licensees and 229 active corporate licenses. There was discussion regarding the number of licensees of retirement age and the number of Inactive Status licensees and the potential affect that may have on the Board's financial position. Ms. Geiger was asked to provide historical information in graph form at the next meeting, in order that the Board remain "ahead of the curve". It was suggested that this information be published in the next newsletter.

Investment of excess funds was discussed. Motion was made by Dr. LaPoint to invest up to \$200K, leaving at least one year of operating funds accessible, into a higher yield account. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stadelman and carried unanimously.

A survey that the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) has done or may do regarding rules of the various state geology licensing boards was mentioned. It was suggested that a survey of NC licensees could be done to include questions regarding licensees and retirement. Ms. Geiger was asked to reach out to the SC geology board regarding a CE/age related rule. Dr. Klein suggested that the value of the geology license be more vigorously promoted and encouraged by the geology departments of institutions of higher learning and to target those institutions who are placing students in geology related positions. There was conversation regarding licensing of faculty of those institutions having geology programs and modification of rules regarding licensure of those in academia. Dr. Stadelman suggested a focus on the

education of undergraduate counselors of geology at the university level, reminding the Board that any action taken must be defensible and must uphold the standard of the Board's mission to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Dr. Spruill suggested that the previously discussed letter be sent to the geology departments regarding the importance of licensure and of educating students of geology of the requirement for license in at least 32 states.

Legal Report and Training

The legal report and training were deferred to the April meeting of the Board.

Periodic Review of Existing Rules

The Rules Review Task Force met and determined that all the current rules of the Board, 21 NCAC 21, are necessary and recommended that no changes be made at this time. **Motion** was made by Dr. Taylor to accept the recommendation of the Task Force and to proceed with readoption of the rules of the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. LaPoint and carried unanimously.

Ms. Ryan informed the Board that the Task Force would meet in the future to discuss potential changes and additions to the current rules. She asked that staff submit a copy of the current rules with suggested changes along with a list of suggested new rules and that Board members submit their suggestions as well.

Continuing Education Report

Approval of Committee Report

The Committee reviewed a total of 4 activities. Of those, two activities were approved as submitted and one activity was approved for a different number of hours. One activity was deferred to the applicant suggesting that the self-assessment form be utilized. **Motion** was made by Dr. Stadelman and seconded by Dr. Taylor to approve the report of the Continuing Education Committee as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ASBOG®

Rachel Kirkman reported that the FG Examination Prep Course was successful and that ASBOG® was able to recoup their investment sooner than anticipated.

ASBOG® COE Workshop - April 5-6, 2024 - Dallas, Texas

Ms. Kirkman reported on the COE Workshop scheduled for April 5-6 in Dallas, Texas.

Old Business

Curriculum Issues • Geology Course Guidelines Document

Old Business was covered earlier in the meeting, therefore, there was no further discussion.

New Business

Peer Reviewers/Contracts

Ms. Geiger shared with the Board the need for peer reviewers to review the most recent investigation. It was suggested that she contact Tex Gilmore, Jay Zimmerman and Jim Stroud.

GSA 2024 Southeastern Section Meeting, April 14-16, 2024 – Asheville, NC

Dr. Taylor informed the Board that staff members from the NC Geological Survey would attend the meeting in Asheville. Dr. Stadelman will also attend.

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

Motion was made by Ms. Kirkman to resume the open session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stadelman and carried unanimously. **Motion** to approve twenty-seven applications for exam, was made by Dr. LaPoint, seconded by Dr. Klein and carried unanimously.

The date of the next meeting was changed to Friday, April 19, 2024.

There being no further business, on **motion** by Dr. Stadelman and second by Ms. Kirkman, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Kenneth B. Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer