

North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists
Minutes
Wednesday, December 8, 2023
Meeting Held via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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 and staff member Jenna Miller were also in attendance. Christine Ryan served as Board Counsel. NCBLG Lead Investigator Neil Gilbert was also present. 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 virtually. Dr. Spruill introduced Dr. Emily Klein, newly appointed public member of the Board. Dr. Klein gave a brief overview of her background and Board members introduced themselves to her individually.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2023 meeting as presented was made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Stadelman and carried.

Financial Report

Dr. Taylor presented the second quarter to-date 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 1134 active individual licensees and 225 active corporate licenses.

Periodic Review of Existing Rules

Following discussion regarding the required periodic review of existing rules, Dr. Spruill appointed a Rules Review Task Force with members to include Dr. LaPoint, Dr. Taylor, Ms. Ryan and Jenna Miller. Dr. LaPoint made the **motion** to authorize Christine Ryan to chair the task force. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stadelman and carried unanimously.

2024 Meeting Schedule

The 2024 meeting schedule was reviewed with February 7, 2024 chosen for the next meeting to be held at East Carolina University. The Board asked Ms. Geiger to reach out to UNC Charlotte to see if they would have interest in hosting the November 2024 meeting of the Board.

Legal Report and Training

Ms. Ryan gave a general overview of 21 NCAC 21, the rules of the Board.

Continuing Education Report Approval of Committee Report

The Committee reviewed a total of 5 activities. Of those, two activities were approved as submitted and three activities were approved for a different number of hours. Ms. Kirkman made note that the number of applications for review is because of the success of the self-assessment form. Ms. Miller proposed that the Board approve (2) hours of CE for the hazardous waste workshop, on a perpetual basis. Following discussion, **Motion** was made by Dr. LaPoint and seconded by Dr. Stadelman to approve the hazardous waste workshop for two hours as an ongoing activity. **Motion** to approve the report of the Continuing Education Committee as presented was made by Dr. Stadelman, seconded by Dr. LaPoint and carried.

ASBOG®

October Exam Stats

Administrative Assistant Jenna Miller gave an overview of the October 2023 exam. Ms. Miller reported that results of the exam were received on November 17, 2023. A total of 48 candidates took the exam over the two-day period - October 6 & October 9. There were thirty-two candidates who sat for Part 1 (FG) of the exam with 20 passing scores and 12 failing scores. There were sixteen candidates who sat for Part 2 (PG) of the exam with 14 passing scores and 2 failing scores. All candidates who passed the (PG) qualified for license and as of the meeting date, twelve of those individuals have already obtained licensure. Ms. Miller noted that none of the exam candidates took both parts of the exam during the October administration of the exam. Dr. LaPoint noted that the passing rate of the ASBOG® exam in NC is better than the overall passing rate.

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

Dr. Spruill gave an overview of the ASBOG® organization, for the benefit of the Dr. Klein. Those who attended the meeting each gave a report, with all expressing appreciation of the opportunity to attend and to represent the Board. All who attended felt that the meeting was successful and worthwhile. Ms. Kirkman, who assumed the role of President of the Association during the meeting, shared with the Board that ASBOG® is seeking suggestions for session topics for the ASBOG® 2024 Administrator's Workshop, Annual Meeting and COE Workshop scheduled for Cheyenne Wyoming, October 22-27, 2024. Ms. Kirkman also informed the Board that ASBOG® debuted a prep course for Part 1 (FG) of the exam, that would launch in the immediate future.

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

Following discussion, **Motion** was made by Ms. Kirkman and seconded by Dr. LaPoint that the Board sponsor two members, in addition to Ms. Kirkman, to attend the COE Workshop in Dallas. Dr. Spruill and Dr. LaPoint will attend.

There was discussion regarding a document which could be used to educate the public regarding the practice of geology. The importance of licensure and why it matters can be shown through stories and instances where a geologist "stepped in and saved the day". This document could be shared with those seeking knowledge of the profession as well as to educate the public. It could also be a tool for those seeking a career in geology.

Old Business

Curriculum Issues • Geology Course Guidelines Document

The Board reviewed the current course guidelines document posted on the Board website as a guide for potential exam candidates and determined that the document continues to be current and a good reference.

There was also discussion regarding the changing landscape of the geology curriculum in programs across the nation and the potential effect on the public health, safety and welfare of the public. There was concern that the migration is leading to a less demanding degree that does not prepare students to take and pass the exam.

The Board discussed drafting a letter to be sent to geology department heads with suggestions regarding the promotion of the profession and licensing with links to the Board and ASBOG® websites.

The concern regarding the low number of licensed academic geologists was discussed. Dr. Spruill asked that this subject be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Ms. Geiger was asked to contact ASBOG® and/or to reach out to other State Boards to inquire of their experiences in dealing with the matter.

Lithium “boom” in North Carolina

Ms. Geiger shared an article regarding the lithium “boom” in North Carolina. Board members noted that there is a limited area in the Western part of the state where there has been a renewed interest in the mining of lithium.

New Business

Solid Waste & Materials Management Plan Survey

Ms. Geiger shared a survey that she received from the NC Department of Environmental Quality regarding their solid waste and materials management plan. It was determined that it would be acceptable to share the survey with licensees.

Mr. Gilbert inquired if the Board would consider holding the April meeting in Asheville during the GSA Southeastern Conference. Dr. Spruill asked that the matter be placed on the agenda for the February meeting.

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 by Ms. Kirkman to resume the open session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stadelman and carried unanimously. **Motion** to approve eighteen applications for exam, one of those conditional upon additional education, fourteen applications for comity, one of those conditional upon receipt of verification of employment and three of those conditional upon verification of question #9 and three applications for corporate license, was made by Dr. LaPoint, seconded by Ms. Kirkman and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, on **motion** and second the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Kenneth B. Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer