

North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists
Minutes
Thursday, January 12, 2023
NC State University Club, Raleigh, NC

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 am by Board Chair Richard Spruill. Dr. Spruill read the conflict of interest statement. Other Board members present included Rachel Kirkman, Dennis LaPoint, Robert Mensah-Biney, and Kenneth Taylor. Steve Stadelman joined the meeting by Zoom. Executive Director Barbara Geiger and Jenna Miller, Board Staff were also in attendance. Christine Ryan served as Board Counsel. 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 gave a brief background of and welcomed Christine Ryan as geology Board Counsel.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2022 meeting as amended was made by Dr. LaPoint, seconded by Dr. Taylor and carried.

Financial Report

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

Administrative Report

Individual and Corporate Licensees/Renewal Stats

Ms. Geiger reported that there are currently 1125 active individual licenses and 220 active corporate licenses.

Dr. LaPoint suggested ways of informing graduating students regarding the requirement for and benefits of licensure. **Motion** was made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. LaPoint to acquire lists from NC Universities having a geology degree, of graduating individuals, and for the Board to send those students a congratulatory letter along with information regarding the ASBOG® exam and licensing. He added to the motion the alternative of offering the option for the department to disseminate the information. The motion carried unanimously. There was further discussion regarding a similar effort of reaching out to mining companies to encourage licensing for employees, even though some may be exempt from licensing per NC GS § 89E-6. Discussion ensued with the question: Do geologists who are employed by mining companies offer geological services to the public? It was noted that those geologists who are exempt from the licensing act should be aware of the rules of the Board and maintain protection of the public at all times.

The Board asked the Executive Director to provide ASBOG® exam trends of NC candidates, i.e. number who took each part and pass/fail numbers and rates.

Legal Report and Training

Ms. Ryan reviewed NC GS § 89E (1-15), the chapters of the licensing law identifying the purpose, composition and functions of the Board, along with minimum qualifications, the application process and seal requirement.

Old Business

Continuing Education

Approval of Committee Report

Motion to approve the report of the Continuing Education Committee as presented, approving two activities as submitted, two activities for a different number of hours, deferral of two activities for additional information, along with perpetual approval of the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers Geology and Geotechnical Engineering and Materials Community of Practice Conference, made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. LaPoint and carried.

ASBOG®

March 17, 2023 ASBOG® Exam – CBT

Staff member Jenna Miller gave an overview of the process for exam candidates' registration for the spring exam.

Spring COE Workshop

The spring Council of Examiners Workshop (COE) is scheduled for April 13-15, 2023 in Greenville, SC. **Motion** was made by Dr. LaPoint, seconded by Ms. Kirkman to send up to three Board members to the COE as subject matter experts (SME). Ms. Kirkman asked the Board to refer any potential SMEs to Deana Sneyd. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

EHC

The Environmental Hydrogeologic Consultants (EHC) matter is closed as communication was received from EHC that they are satisfied with the recent letter from the Board.

Rules Review and Updates: Ms. Geiger reminded the Board of the ongoing rules review and updates. Dr. Spruill expressed his opinion regarding the importance and consideration of an Emeritus status.

Newsletter

Ms. Miller continues as time allows, work on a newsletter communication. Among other articles and topics, a message from the Chair will be included as well as information on the exam and CBT. Exam candidates will receive the newsletter along with licensees and recently expired licensees.

New Business

Upton Associates Contract Renewal

Upton staff was asked to step out of the room so that the Board could discuss contract renewal. Per NC GS § 143-318.11(5), the Board moved into closed session to review the management contract with Upton Associates.

Once back in open session, Ms. Geiger was advised that the Board approved renewal of the management contract with Upton Associates for a period of three years, at the monthly rate of \$7500. The effective date of the contract is retroactive to January 1, 2023.

Next meeting @ NCSU Jordan Hall 4/5/2023

Ms. Kirkman suggested that Deana Sneyd, Executive Director of ASBOG® be invited to the April 5, 2023 meeting scheduled for the geology department at NC State University.

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 Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. LaPoint and carried unanimously to resume the open session. **Motion** to approve thirty-two applications for exam, two of those conditional upon receipt of information, seven applications for comity, two of those conditional upon receipt of information, three applications for individual reinstatement, one of those conditional upon receipt of documentation of attendance, two applications for corporate reinstatement and two applications for corporate license, was made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Kirkman and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, on **motion** and second the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Kenneth B. Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer