



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING
GEOLOGIST LICENSING BOARD
MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: September 13, 2016

TIME: 8:00 AM

LOCATION: ESD 113 / Capital Event Center
Mason Room
6005 Tyee Drive SW
Tumwater, WA 98512

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Mitchell, LHG; Chair
Dave Norman, LEG, LHG; Vice Chair
Brian Beaman, LEG, LHG Secretary
Greg Wessel, LEG; Member
Eileen Webb, LG, Member

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Thomas Tebb, LHG, LEG; Member

STAFF PRESENT: Lorin Doyle, Administrator
Rick Storvick, Assistant Administrator
Jenni Lingle, Administrative Assistant
Michael Villnave, Assistant Administrator
Shanan Gillespie, Regulatory Program Manager
Troy Lincoln, Management Analyst
Yvonne Brumfield, Board Support Supervisor

GUESTS PRESENT: Ken Neal

1. Call to Order 8:01 AM

1.1 Introductions

Board members and staff introduced themselves. Troy Lincoln and Yvonne Brumfield were introduced as new board staff.

1.2 Order of Agenda

Mr. Norman made a MOTION to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Beaman seconded the MOTION, and it passed.

1.3 Approval of Minutes: June 7, 2016

Ms. Webb made a MOTION to accept the minutes. Mr. Beaman seconded the MOTION and it passed.

1.4 Review Communications

No business.

2. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comment.

3. New Business

3.1. Geologist Report Writing Guidelines:

Mr. Beaman recommended adding a section on technology. Guest Ken Neal offered background on the original document and cautioned about making it too specific. Mr. Norman suggested reviewing the Forest Practices Manual Section 16 as an example.

Action Item: Mr. Beaman and Mr. Tebb will provide a list of suggested changes to the Guidelines to be reviewed at the next board meeting.

3.2. Outreach Opportunities with the Oregon Board of Geologist Examiners

Ms. Doyle reported the Board Administrator for Oregon, Christine Valentine, and the Oregon board would like to know if Washington's board would be interested in writing an article to be published in their newsletter about scope of practice of geology in Washington.

The Oregon board is also interested in a potential partnership for outreach to local governments. Mr. Mitchell would like the collaboration to include how we could align education requirements. Mr. Norman mentioned the experience equivalence relating to what counts, not just how long which would count toward licensing as well.

Action Item: Ms. Doyle, Ms. Webb, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Norman will work with Oregon's board regarding future outreach partnership.

3.3. ASBOG Council of Examiners attendance

Eileen Webb will attend the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) conference in November.

4. Old Business

4.1. Outreach document edits

Mr. Norman proposed the document be formalized in rule, not limited to local government. Ms. Doyle offered two options: send the document to the Rule Committee or finalize it as a white paper.

The board discussed possible outreach methods, including electronic distribution, a mailing to county planners, Public Works Association, associations of city and county government, Department of Commerce and planning forums.

Action Item: Ms. Webb and Mr. Wessel will finalize outreach document edits and determine next steps. Ms. Brumfield will assist with the outreach component.

4.2. Master Action Items List

The master action items list was reviewed and progress updated.

5. Complaint Cases for Review*

No business.

6. Legal Issues for Deliberation*

No business.

7. Disciplinary and Investigation Reports

7.1. Closed Session Deliberation Report (only necessary if closed session is held)

No business.

7.2. Disciplinary Cases Report

Packet item; No action.

Ms. Doyle reported there are two cases being investigated and may be assigned shortly.

8. Assistant Attorney General's report

Rule questions: Experience in lieu of education and reciprocity.

Eric Sonju, the board's legal advisor, was asked to research and report on whether the board has authority to adopt a policy or a rule permitting accepting experience in lieu of education in order to make licensing standards more flexible. Mr. Sonju stated the board does not have that authority.

The board has the authority to establish minimum qualifications for applicants for licensure as provided by the geology statutes. The statutes require applicants to meet certain experience requirements and certain educational requirements; these

are treated as distinct, separate concepts by the legislature when they wrote the statute.

Within the general requirements of education and experience, the statute allows some flexibility within each category. For example, the board, through rule, can determine the types of experience or the types of educational requirements, but cannot substitute across categories (i.e., education in lieu of experience).

9. Committee/Task Force Report

Ms. Doyle will ask the Department of Licensing to look into a statute update. Ms. Gillespie will send draft language to Ms. Webb and Mr. Beaman who will review and edit and bring back to the December meeting.

10. Board Administrator's Report

10.1. Program Operations

The agency is looking at significant technological upgrades to our online licensing systems which will impact our licensing applicants. We should see upgrades to our online renewal applications in 2017, to be followed by the ability to apply online. Staff is in the middle of requirement gathering and soon we will be testing. Costs for the new system will impact the geologist board budget to some degree.

10.2. Department of Licensing

Ms. Doyle reported on demographic information provided in packet, including information relating new licensees.

Ms. Doyle announced with the new program representative David Henry's hiring, the program is now completely staffed.

10.3. Other Items

No business.

11. Other Business

11.1. Action Items From This Meeting

Action items were reviewed and will be added to the master action items list.

11.2. Agenda Items For Next Meeting

Agenda items for the next meeting include:

- Geologist Report Writing Guidelines.

11.3. Any Other Business

No business.

12. Adjourn Business Meeting 9:26 AM

Submitted by: _____
Lorin Doyle, Administrator

Date

Approved by: _____
Robert Mitchell, Board Chair

Date