



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

GEOLOGIST LICENSING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: December 6, 2011

TIME: 9:00 AM

LOCATION: Hawks Prairie Center
South Puget Sound Community College
Room 118
1401 Marvin Road NE
Lacey, WA 98516

Board Members Present: Dave Norman, Chair
William Ernst, Vice Chair
Gene St. Godard, Secretary
Brian Beaman, Member
Robert Mitchell, Member
Bill Laprade, Member
Ray Brunson, Public Member

Staff Present: Joe Vincent, Jr., Administrator
Lorin Doyle, Assistant Administrator
Autumn Dryden, Administrative Assistant
Erica Hansen, Administrative Assistant
Sherri Lonsbery, Management Analyst
Melinda Lund, Licensing Manager
Bruce Turcott, Assistant Attorney General

Absent:

OPEN SESSION – December 6, 2011 9:00 AM

1. Call to Order 9:02 AM

1.1 Introduction of Visitors

Mr. Vincent gave an overview of the program staff's functional reorganization. He introduced his new administrative assistant, Autumn Dryden and the new Professional Licensing Manager, Melinda Lund.

1.2 Order of Agenda

The agenda was adjusted by moving item 9.1.3, Board Member Website, to item 2.

Mr. Mitchell made a MOTION to approve the order of the agenda as amended. Mr. Brunson seconded the MOTION and it passed.

1.3 Approval of Minutes, September 27, 2011 meeting

The minutes were amended to reflect Mr. Ernst was not present at the meeting and Mr. Laprade was in attendance. Additionally, a sentence was added to item 1.4, clarifying Mr. Twiss's observations.

Mr. Ernst made a MOTION to approve the September 27, 2011 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Mitchell seconded the MOTION and it passed.

Assignment: Ms. Dryden will make the necessary corrections to the September 27, 2011 minutes and forward a corrected copy to Mr. Norman for signature.

1.4 Review Communications

No business.

2. Rule Adoptions/Hearings/ Public Presentations

Ms. Hansen presented a draft of the new board member website. Once the site is complete, each board member will be able to access the site for board information, meeting information, forms, contact information, etc. The site is anticipated to go "live" in approximately three months.

Assignment: Mr. Ernst and Mr. Brunson will test the new board member website when it's ready.

3. New Business

3.1. National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Annual Meeting

Mr. Mitchell reported on the ASBOG Annual Meeting. He was the voting delegate and shared the annual report at the meeting. Concerns were raised about the aging of people in the profession and the need to recruit younger geologists, particularly in engineering geology, as well as ASBOG being reliant on one psychometric company.

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Beaman both attended the Council of Examiners (COE). Mr. Mitchell sat for the fundamentals exam and Mr. Beaman sat for the practice exam. As part of the COE, each exam was thoroughly reviewed with some questions being eliminated and others being refined. Participants further discussed changes needed in order to use the exams internationally.

Mr. Vincent informed the board of former board member Jeff Randall's unexpected resignation from the ASBOG board.

Assignment: Mr. Vincent will contact Mr. Randall and provide appropriate details regarding his resignation to the board.

3.2. Set meetings for 2012

Board meetings were scheduled for the following dates and locations:

March 6, 2012	Eastern Washington University, Cheney
June 12, 2012	South Puget Sound Community College, Lacey
October 9, 2012	Western Washington University, Bellingham
December 19, 2012	South Puget Sound Community College, Lacey

4. Complaint / Investigations

4.1. Items for review

No business

5. Legal Issues and / or Deliberation

5.1. Orders to be presented

5.1.1. Agreed Order, Case # 2010-06-1100-00GEO – John Johnson

Mr. Norman made a MOTION to accept the Agreed Order as presented. Mr. Mitchell seconded the MOTION and it passed.

2010-06-1100-00GEO

In the matter of unlicensed activity

John Johnson

Fined \$1,000.00 and issued permanent Cease & Desist Order

CLOSED SESSION, if necessary

No closed session

6. Disciplinary & Investigation Items

6.1. Closed session deliberation report

No report

6.2. Current cases disciplinary report

Packet item: no action

6.3. Disciplinary sanctions report

Packet item: no action

7. Assistant Attorney General's Report

No report

8. Committee/Staff Reports

8.1. Exams

8.1.1. Study Guide Update

Board members reviewed the study guide, which has been posted online. A request was made to have the publication date added to each document.

Assignment: Staff will add a created/revised date to each document and repost online.

8.1.2. Oregon Geologist Board Meeting Update

Mr. Vincent continued to work with the State of Oregon to set up a meeting of the Washington board and the Oregon board. Due to restrictions on out-of-state travel, he is trying to schedule a conference call and should have a response soon.

8.2. Communications Committee

Mr. Laprade and Mr. Norman attended the American Public Works Association (APWA) Fall Conference in Yakima. The conference was well attended. Mr. Laprade suggested attending an Association of Washington Cities event next.

8.3. Ecology Liaison Report (St. Godard)

Mr. St. Godard reported on Certified Water Rights Examiner (CWRE) work being done by the Department of Ecology (Ecology). Ecology is currently in a holding pattern in the rule-making process while they work with the Legislature to address removing the bonding requirement from the law. The main concern of the Geologist Board is making sure Ecology is clear that holding a CWRE credential does not allow a person to practice hydrogeology. Ecology has agreed to put a statement on the CWRE certificate to this effect.

9. Administrator's Report

9.1. Board Operations

9.1.1. Financial Report

Mr. Vincent presented the current financial report. Projections show the fee balance declining into 2014 and 2015 due to the temporary fee suspension. One potentially large future expense is the hiring of a psychometrician to redo the geology examinations.

9.1.2. Staffing Reorganization

Mr. Vincent reviewed the new staffing structure in the Design, Funeral & Cemetery (DFC) section. The new structure will provide better support for each of the programs under the DFC.

9.1.3. Board Member Website Presentation

Moved to earlier in the agenda.

9.2. Travel

Mr. Vincent told the board about the denial of out-of-state travel for the Funeral & Cemetery program. The Department of Licensing's management is looking very closely at each out-of-state travel request and the program must demonstrate why the travel is necessary.

9.3. Department of Licensing

Mr. Vincent updated the board on the completed transition of Teresa Berntsen into the position of Deputy Director.

9.4. Licensee and Application Statistics

Packet item: no action

10. Old Business

10.1. Scope of Practice

10.1.1. Hydrogeology

The board discussed overlap of scope of practice and specifically discussed an email inquiry received about the Department of Ecology reviewing a hydrogeology report. The board agreed that the current board's current policy sufficiently addresses the issue and that the board did not need to intervene.

Assignment: Mr. Vincent will respond to the email inquiry.

10.1.2. Engineering Geology

The board discussed the overlap of scope of practice between geotechnical engineering and engineering geology. This continues to be an issue since there are no clear lines between the two professions.

10.2. Stamping of Reports

Mr. Ernst questioned the need to stamp a report if the work is done for an academic institution, government entity, etc., noting inconsistencies when reports are stamped and when they are not. The board discussed the need for a clear delineation between when to stamp and when not to stamp.

Assignment: Staff will research past bill reports and look for the intent of RCW 18.220.190(4) and report back to the board.

10.3. ASBOG Exam Registration Timeline

The registration deadline for the March 2012 examination has been moved to December 19, 2011 to allow adequate time for applicants to obtain their transcripts.

10.4. Continuing Education

The board discussed whether or not continuing education should be required of the geology profession. While the board agrees that continuing education is a positive step for the industry, it will not bring forth legislation to require it at this time and will continue to review it. Legislation should be brought forth by the industry itself.

Assignment: Mr. Laprade will meet with the Chair of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) to discuss the possibility continuing education as an initiative to be furthered by the AEG and report back to the board.

10.5. Review Action Items

The printed list of action items was missing from the packet and will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

Assignment: Ms. Dryden will email a copy of current action items to the board.

11. Other Business

11.1. Action Items from this meeting

The action items from this meeting will be added to the master action items list.

11.2. Agenda Items for next meeting

- Stamping of Reports
- Continuing Education
- Review Outreach Efforts

11.3. Any other business

No other business.

12. Adjourn 3:55 PM

Submitted by:

Joe Vincent, Jr.
Administrator

Date

Approved by:

Dave Norman,
Board Chair

Date