



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING
GEOLOGIST LICENSING BOARD
SPECIAL
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: June 1, 2022
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION: Virtual – Microsoft Teams
JOIN: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
PHONE: 1.564.999.2000
CONFERENCE ID: 832 712 666#

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: James Struthers, LG/EG, Chair
Casey Hanell, LG/EG, State Geologist, Vice Chair
Carla Brock, LG/HG, Secretary
Eileen Webb, LG, Chair

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Tebb
Dr. Kathy Troost

STAFF PRESENT: Debra Allen-Ba, Assistant Administrator
Shari Honeywell, Program Specialist
Star Boone, Customer Service Specialist
Elizabeth Lagerberg, Assistant Attorney General
Tanya Hessler, Program Manager
Cathy Naegeli, Administrator
Bill Dutra, Assistant Administrator
Keith Peterson, Investigator

1. Call to Order 9:04 A.M.

1.1. Introductions

Program Specialist Shari Honeywell conducted roll call for board members and staff.

1.2. Order of agenda

MOTION: Board Member Webb made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda as presented.

Board Member Brock seconded the **MOTION**, and it passed.

1.3. Approval of minutes: March 2, 2022.

MOTION: Board Member Webb made a **MOTION** to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Board Member Brock seconded the **MOTION**, and it passed.

1.4. Review Communications

None.

2. Old Business

2.1. Washington State Hydrogeology Symposium Report

Board Member Brock, Board Member Dr. Troost, Board Member Webb and Board Member Tebb all helped at the booth sponsored by Department of Licensing during various times throughout the event.

2.2. Master Action Items List

Ms. Honeywell reviewed the master action items list with the board.

3. New Business

3.1. ASBOG Annual Meeting 2022

Assistant Administrator Debra Allen-Ba and board members discussed the need for a board member to attend the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) annual meeting to be held October 25 – 29, 2022, in Wilmington, NC. Traditionally, one board member and one staff member will attend this meeting. Board Member Webb stated that she would attend, Board Member Brock would like to attend as well.

Action Item: Both Board Member Webb and Board Member Brock volunteered to attend.

Action Item: Reach out to ASBOG about the 2023 Annual Meeting in Spokane to see if they need support from the board.

3.2. Spring Exam Results

Spring examinations were held on March 18, 2022, at the Tacoma Convention Center. The testing consisted of Fundamentals of Geology, Practice of Geology, and specialty examinations Washington State Engineering Geologist and Washington State Hydrogeologist. DOL staff members Assistant Administrator Bill Dutra, Program Specialist Shari Honeywell, and Customer Service Specialist Star Boone assisted in proctoring the examinations. Ms. Allen-Ba presented the examination pass rates from 2019 – 2022. The statistics for the fundamental examination showed that the pass rate for Washington State in spring of 2022 was 76.4%, while the pass rate for jurisdictions across the country were 68.8%. The statistics for the Practice of Geology examination showed Washington pass rate was 90.3%, while other jurisdictions across the country were 79.0%. Both examinations showed that Washington was above average. Regarding the pass rate for the specialty exams, they proved to be below average with Engineering Geologist at 25% with 8 examinees, and 50.0% with 10 examinees for

Hydrogeologist. Ms. Allen-Ba suggested reviewing the specialty examination questions to gather information as to why the passing rate was so low.

Ms. Allen-Ba also presented a communication received from Oregon pertaining to specialty examinations. With the move to “computer based” testing for the national examination in 2023 the Oregon Board is asking whether Washington would like to continue offering our specialty examinations on the same date as the national examination or schedule them on a different date. Cost, time, and resources should be considered.

Action Item: Check on specialty exam; frequency to administer, cost and budget.

4. Complaint Cases for Review*

None

5. Legal Issues for Deliberation*

None

6. Disciplinary & Investigation Items

6.1. Disciplinary Cases Report

Ms. Allen-Ba shared the status of geologist complaints.

Action Item: What are the complaints about when we receive them.

7. Assistant Attorney General’s Reports

None

8. Committee/Task Force Reports

8.1 Board Charter Update

Ms. Allen-Ba shared that she and Administrator Rick Storvick received feedback on edits of the draft and there are concerns of the board overstepping the DOL’s authority. The purpose of the charter is now being rethought with the key points being directions on how to be a case manager, setting expectations of what the duties are, having a document that defines what the board does, and what it means to serve on a subcommittee. Board Chairperson James Struthers asked Ms. Allen-Ba to have support staff form an outline of what authority the board does have involving the charter and to share it with Board Member Casey Hanell and Board Member Eileen Webb.

8.2 Student Outreach

Board Member Webb shared there are no updates at this time.

9. Board Executive’s Report

9.1 Program Operations

Ms. Allen-Ba shared licensing statistics with the board.

- There are 1,820 active geologists, 7 cancelled, 384 expired, 8 inactive, 24 retired, and 171 in training for a total of 2,414.
- The age brackets for licensees showed 459 are aged 65 and above, 810 are between ages 55-64, 516 are between ages 45-54, 336 are between ages 35-44, 271 are between ages 25-34, and 22 are less than 25 years old.

Active licensee endorsement counts are as follows:

- 259 engineering geologists, 96 engineering geologists and hydrogeologists, and 501 hydrogeologists.

9.2 Department of Licensing

Mr. Dutra provided an update on the Centralized Investigations and Audit Unit and broke down the unit's new alignment while highlighting that the investigators and auditors will still support their subject of expertise.

10. Other Business

10.1 Any Other Business

None

10.2 Action Items from this Meeting

- Email suggestions for outreach to Shari
- Schedule time for exam review
- List Eileen and Carla for ASBOG Annual Business Meeting
- Reach out to ASBOG for Oct 2023 Annual Business Meeting
- ASBOG frequency to administer exam and cost for specialty exams
- Charter draft

10.3 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- ASBOG Annual Meeting

11. Public Comment Opportunity

There were no comments from the public

12. Adjournment

10:41 A.M.

Submitted by: Debra Allen-Ba
Debra Allen-Ba, Assistant Administrator

9/1/2022
Date

Approved by: James Struthers
James Struthers, Chair

9/1/2022
Date

Next Board Meeting:

TEAMS-Virtual
September 1, 2022, at 9:00 AM