

**MINUTES**  
**South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors**  
**9:30 a.m., September 24, 2024**  
**Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Midlands Conference Room**  
**Columbia, SC**

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**Call to Order**

Chairperson Chao called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**Statement of Public Notice**

Chairperson Chao stated that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, on the Board's website, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**Introduction of Board Members and Other Persons Attending**

Board members participating included Jimmy Chao, PE, Chairperson; Baker Cleveland, Vice Chairperson; Henry Dingle, PLS, Secretary; Gene L. Dinkins, PE, PLS; D. Mack Kelly, Jr., PE, PLS; and Timothy Rickborn, PE.

Chairman Chao noted Dr. Johnston Peebles, Ph.D., PE; was delayed due to traffic and would be joining the meeting.

Staff members participating included: Lenora Addison-Miles, Board Executive; Ely Grote, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Kenesha Wilson, Administrative Coordinator; Chris Elliott, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Charles Turkal, and Donnell Jennings, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; and Josh Shannon, Division of Operations Technology and Security.

Others participating included: Stewart Hill, David Simms, and Nadine Garrett (Creel Court Reporting).

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Mr. Rickborn made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dinkins seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Approval of Excused Absences**

**MOTION:** Mr. Dinkins made a motion to approve Mr. Strub's absence. Mr. Cleveland seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The board reviewed the minutes from the July 9, 2024 meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Dingle made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## Reports

### **Office of Investigations and Enforcement**

Charles Turkal, Office of Investigations and Enforcement, presented the OIE report. From January 2, 2024 until September 19, 2024: 79 complaints received, nine active investigations, and 28 closed cases.

### **Investigative Review Conference Report**

Mr. Turkal presented the IRC report. The IRC was held on September 10, 2024 with the following recommendations: Dismiss cases: 2021-44, 2024-3, 2024-9, 2024-35, 2024-54. Formal Complaint cases: 2024-4, 2024-46, 2024-52, 2024-53

**MOTION:** Mr. Rickborn made a motion to approve the IRC report. Mr. Dinkins seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

### **Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report**

Mr. Elliott presented the ODC report. As of September 17, 2024, there were 28 open cases, two appeals, nine cases closed since the last report and 35 cases closed since January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Administrative and Financial Reports**

Mrs. Miles presented the Administrative and Financial reports. As of September 12, 2024, there were 19,554 engineers, 848 surveyors, and 97 dual licensees current through 2026. There were 3,904 firms and 1,312 branch offices current through March 2025. Meeting materials also contain information regarding the number of in state and out-of-state early PE/PS exam candidates each year. According to the NCEES CBT Summary for the July thru September testing window, there were a total (including scheduled and delivered) of 194 FE, ten FS, 82 PE, ten PS exams. The Board has received 2,752 Early PE exam applications and 1,830 have passed the exam. There have been 38 Early PS applications and 21 have passed. The July cash balance was \$5,192,019.63 and the Education and Research Fund balance was \$826,323.22.

## Application Hearings

- a. Stewart M. Hill appeared before the board seeking renewal of his professional engineer license. He was not represented by counsel. He did not have any witnesses. This matter was recorded by a court reporter in order to provide a verbatim script should one be necessary.

**MOTION:** Mr. Cleveland made a motion to hold the hearing in closed session due to potential personal privacy information. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Dinkins made a motion to enter executive session. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Rickborn made a motion to exit executive session. Mr. Dinkins seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Cleveland made a motion not to renew the license. The license may be granted upon completion of terms and conditions known to applicant and the

board, and proof of continuing education for review and acceptance by the Board. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Dr. Peeples joined the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rickborn made a motion to come out of closed session. Dr. Peeples seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

#### **Legal Advice Regarding Case 2019-72 / 2022-101 – Executive Session**

**MOTION:** Mr. Dinkins made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rickborn made a motion to exit executive session. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### **Review of Action items**

The Board reviewed the action items from the July 9, 2024 meeting.

CE Audit Procedures – Mr. Rickborn provided revised audit notices, CE activity log, and updated CE FAQ's that was reviewed by counsel.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rickborn made a motion to accept the changes to the CPC audit forms and FAQ's with the exception of question 14. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rickborn made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the CE Log form. Mr. Dinkins seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Education and Research Fund Spending – Mr. Chao indicated the USC Department of Mechanical Engineering is resurrecting The Order of the Engineer, and suggested this as an option for the Board to provide financial support and encourage licensure. The Board will invite representatives from each institution to attend a board meeting to discuss this option.

Requirement for FE/FS Coupon Program - Mr. Chao reported that NCEES has developed a report for the Board that provides the candidates that have utilized the FE/FS coupon voucher to take the FE/FS exam. Only two S.C. institutions have utilized the coupons. Five institutions have signed Statements of Work.

Construction Experience - Mr. Chao is still working on obtaining information.

Surveyor Education – The Board reviewed proposed procedures and requirements for evaluating education for surveyor applicants. Education consultants Castro and Gowdy will evaluate the four-year degrees and Eliadorani will continue to evaluate the 12-hours of surveying specific content. Dr. Peeples will contact Castro and Gowdy regarding additional revisions to the process and requirements and report back to the Board at the November meeting.

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**New Business**

**NCEES UK Mutual Recognition Agreement and UK Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with South Carolina - Chao**

The Board reviewed the agreements as information. Twenty-six state boards have signed the UK agreement. The Board would like a more condensed summary of the details for consideration. Mr. Chao will reach out to NCEES for assistance.

**Nomination of NCEES Southern Zone Vice President – Chao**

Mr. Chao requested the Board’s endorsement and support in his candidacy for the SZ VP position.

**MOTION:** Mr. Dinkins made a motion to support and endorse Mr. Chao. Dr. Peoples seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Expungement Procedure - Chao**

The Board reviewed and discussed the Expungement Procedures that were approved in 2022.

**S.C. Office of School Facilities Chapter 1 Inspections – Chao**

The Board reviewed information regarding changes to the Preferred Chapter 1 Inspector form that would have required architects/engineers to provide an “attestation” regarding the inspection and resolution of all deficiencies. The form has since been revised to remove the attestation requirement.

**2025 Board Meeting Dates**

The reserved meeting dates are: January 14, March 11, May 6, July 8, September 9, September 10 (hearing date if needed), and November 18.

**Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

**Notice of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rickborn made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenesha Wilson  
Administrative Coordinator I