

MINUTES
South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors
9:30 a.m., January 14, 2025
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Midlands Conference Room
Columbia, SC

Call to Order

Chairperson Dinkins called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Statement of Public Notice

Chairperson Dinkins 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 Gene Dinkins, PE, PLS, Chairperson; Henry Dingle, PLS, Vice Chairperson; D. Mack Kelly, PE, PLS, Secretary; Jimmy Chao, PE; Timothy Rickborn, PE; Peter Strub, PE; and Angela Musselwhite, PE.

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 Wattie Wharton, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; and Billie Chambers, Division of Operations Technology and Security.

Kathy Boone (Creel Court Reporting) served as the court reporter.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Counsel Grote informed the board the disciplinary matter was continued.

MOTION: Mr. Dingle made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to approve Mr. Cleveland's absence. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the November 12, 2024 meeting.

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

Reports

Office of Investigations and Enforcement

Wattie Wharton, Office of Investigations and Enforcement, presented the OIE report. From January 2, 2024 until December 31, 2024: 113 complaints received, five active investigations, and 49 closed cases.

Investigative Review Conference Report

Mr. Wharton presented the IRC report. The IRC was held on December 16, 2024 with the following recommendations: three dismissals and three formal complaints.

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to approve the IRC report. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Mr. Elliott presented the ODC report. As of January 8, 2025, there were 29 open cases, one appeal, 10 cases closed since the last report and 53 cases closed since January 1, 2024.

Administrative and Financial Reports

Mrs. Miles presented the Administrative and Financial reports. As of January 14th, there were 20,022 engineers, 875 surveyors, and 99 dual licensees current through 2026. Firm renewals opened on January 2nd with 3,557 firms and 1,262 branch offices active in renewal. 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 January thru March testing window, there were a total (including scheduled and delivered) of 219 FE, nine FS, 88 PE, two PS, and one SE exam. The Board has received 2,800 Early PE exam applications and 1,870 have passed the exam. There have been 41 Early PS applicants and 24 have passed. The November cash balance was \$5,005,204.89 and the Education and Research Fund balance was \$831,003.22.

Effective January 1st, the mileage reimbursement rate increased to 70 cents per mile.

Funding Request

- a. The Board considered a funding request from The Citadel School of Engineering for \$6,000 to support the Order of the Engineer Induction Banquet on February 4, 2025. Engineering seniors will be inducted into the Order of the Engineer, signifying passage from student to professional. Dr. John Peeples, PE, will present the keynote address entitled "The Engineering Profession" that focuses on the procedures for and importance of professional licensure.

MOTION: Mr. Dingle made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- b. Adam Jones presented a \$12,000 funding request for the 2025 SCSPE Environmental Policy and Infrastructure Conference (EPIC) to be held February 12, 2025 in Columbia, SC. EPIC is a partnership between the engineering community and public agencies. An environmental infrastructure and environmental policy track will be offered.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Chao seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

NCEES Structural Examination (Executive Session)

MOTION: Mr. Rickborn made a motion to enter executive session to discuss confidential exam information. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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

MOTION: After exiting executive session, Mr. Chao made a motion that the board authorize Mr. Rickborn to attend the structural engineering exam discussion meeting and report back to the board. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Review of Action items

The Board reviewed the action items from the November 12, 2024 meeting.

NCEES UK Mutual Recognition Agreement - Mr. Chao reported there is no additional information at this time and this item can be removed from the report.

Construction Experience - Mr. Chao contacted several state boards for information on how they review construction experience. No additional information at this time.

Surveyor Education – Counsel will review the current education consultant contracts to determine if changes are needed prior to implementing the new process. Castro and Gowdy will review the four-year degrees for surveyor applicants and Eliadorani will review the 12-hours of surveying specific content.

NCEES SZ Funded Delegates – Delegate information was submitted to NCEES on December 6, 2024.

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to include new member Angela Musselwhite as a first-time attendee to be funded by NCEES. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Allison King welcomed new member Angela Musselwhite.

Notice of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Chao seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenesha Wilson
Administrative Coordinator I