

MINUTES
South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors
9:30 a.m., March 11, 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 9:30 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; Angela Musselwhite, PE; and J. Baker Cleveland.

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 Ryan Belton, Division of Operations Technology and Security.

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

Review and Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Excused Absences

All members were present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the January 14, 2025 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, 2025 until March 7, 2025: 14 complaints received, two active investigations, and two closed cases.

Investigative Review Conference Report

Mr. Wharton presented the IRC report. The IRC was held on February 25, 2025 with the following recommendations: four dismissals, four letters of caution and three formal complaints.

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

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Mr. Elliott presented the ODC report. As of February 24, 2025, there were 32 open cases, two pending hearings and agreements, one appeal, four cases closed since the last report and eight cases closed since January 1, 2025.

Administrative and Financial Reports

Mrs. Miles presented the Administrative and Financial reports. As of February 19th, there were 20,182 engineers, 874 surveyors, and 99 dual licensees current through 2026. Firm renewals opened on January 2nd with 1,837 firms and 457 branch offices active through March 2027. 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 246 FE, 12 FS, 86 PE, three PS, and two SE exams. The Board has received 2,858 Early PE exam applications and 1,899 have passed the exam. There have been 43 Early PS applicants and 26 have passed. The January cash balance was \$4,975,904.44 and the Education and Research Fund balance was \$816,708.22.

Members are reminded that Statement of Economic Interests Reports are due March 30th and must be filed electronically with the State Ethics Commission.

In accordance with LLR's updated travel policy, effective January 17, 2025, board members no longer receive meal reimbursements for day trips.

Mrs. Miles informed the board of an email, from a South Carolina licensed architect, petitioning the board for changes in the regulations to include construction/contract administrator roles similar to those in the architect regulations. The Board received this as information. No action was taken.

Disciplinary Hearing

- a. The board held a hearing in Case 2024-107 (MOA). The respondent appeared and was not represented by counsel, and did not have any witnesses. This matter was recorded by a court reporter to provide a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

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

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

MOTION: After exiting executive session, Mr. Strub made a motion to accept the MOA and issue a Letter of Caution. Mr. Chao seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Application Hearing

- a. Bernard Pettiford appeared before the board seeking comity licensure consideration with an engineering technology degree. He was not represented by counsel and he did not have any witnesses. This matter was recorded by a court reporter in order to provide a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

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

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

MOTION: After exiting executive session, Mr. Rickborn made a motion to deny the application based on evidence that the education does not meet the requirements of Section 40-22-220. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Review of Action items

The Board reviewed the action items from the January 14, 2025 meeting.

Construction Experience - Mr. Chao requested this matter be tabled until the after the NCEES Southern Zone meeting in April.

Surveyor Education – This matter is still pending.

NCEES Southern Zone Interim Meeting – The meeting will be held April 24-26 in Little Rock, AR. The board voted on travel during the November 2024 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to request funding from LLR for new member Musselwhite to attend the meeting. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

New Business

NCEES Development of the PS Mapping Science (non-boundary) Exam

Mr. Dinkins informed the board that NCEES is seeking a support in the possible development of the new exam.

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to approve the letter of support. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Surveyor Education Guidelines

The Board's Surveyor Education Consultant requested clarification from the board regarding the science core curriculum content requirement. Discussion ensued. The Board recommended revising the science core curriculum to indicate a minimum of three semester hours in physics, chemistry, geology, biology,

earth sciences, GIS or mapping sciences. Higher-level science courses, such as university or calculus-based physics would meet core requirements. Mrs. Miles will revise the Education Guidelines for review during the May meeting.

NCEES Annual Meeting Funded Delegates

The meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA, August 19-22, 2025. NCEES will provide funding for the board administrator, qualified first-time attendees, and three delegates. Dinkins and Chao are also funded by NCEES.

MOTION: Mr. Dingle made a motion to approve Dingle, Kelly, and Strub as the three funded delegates. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Rickborn made a motion to designate Angela Musselwhite as the first-time attendee funded delegate. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Kelly made a motion to request funding from LLR, above the GSA rate, for Wattie Wharton, Ely Grote, Chris Elliott, Baker Cleveland, and Tim Rickborn. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Other Business

NCEES Credential Evaluations with General Deficiencies

Mrs. Miles addressed the Board concerning reviews with regards to applicants with only general education deficiencies (humanities/social science courses) in their NCEES credential evaluations. The Board will review this matter during the May meeting.

Public Comments

Mr. Floyd Sweatt commented that the meeting was very informative and he appreciates the work done for South Carolina.

Notice of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenesha Wilson
Administrative Coordinator I