

MINUTES
South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors
9:30 a.m., July 8, 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 9:37 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 Kent T. Stair.

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; Billie Chambers, Division of Operations Technology and Security.

Tina Behles (Capital City Reporting) served as the court reporter.

Review and Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Excused Absences

Angela Musselwhite was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

MOTION: Mr. Rickborn made a motion to excuse the absence. Mr. Chao seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the May 27, 2025 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Strub 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 June 1, 2025: 37 complaints received, three active investigations, and 12 closed cases.

Investigative Review Conference Report

Mr. Wharton presented the IRC report. The IRC was held on June 24, 2025 with the following recommendations: one dismissal, and one formal complaint.

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

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Mr. Elliott presented the ODC report. As of June 27, 2025, there were 35 open cases, two pending hearings and agreements, one pending closure, six cases closed since the last report and 20 cases closed since January 1, 2025.

Administrative and Financial Reports

Mrs. Miles presented the Administrative and Financial reports. As of June 26th, there were 20,730 engineers, 887 surveyors, and 100 dual licensees current through 2026. There were 3,766 firms and 1,321 branch offices active through March 31, 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 April thru June testing window, there were a total (including scheduled and delivered) of 342 FE, nine FS, 103 PE, three PS, and two SE exams. The Board has received 2,926 Early PE exam applications and 1,965 have passed the exam. There have been 45 Early PS applicants and 28 have passed. The May cash balance was \$4,948,649.55 and the Education and Research Fund balance was \$759,608.22.

Funding Request

- a. Trotter Roberts presented a funding request for the USC Spring 2025 Order of the Engineer Induction Ceremony, held on April 3, 2025, for graduate students.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to approve the \$1,568 request. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Application Hearing

- a. Mark Christian Atkinson appeared before the board seeking licensure as an engineer by examination. 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. Stair made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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

MOTION: After exiting executive session, Mr. Chao made a motion, based on the evidence and testimony presented, to approve licensure. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- b. Jack Faragallah appeared before the board seeking licensure as an engineer by comity. 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. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION: After exiting executive session, Mr. Strub made a motion to approve licensure. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

S.C. Administrative Law Court Order of Remand (Case Nos. 2019-101; 2019-98 (Executive Session for Legal Advice

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Members Stair, Strub and Rickborn were recused from this matter.

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

NCEES Institution Reports (Executive Session)

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to enter executive session to review confidential NCEES Institution Reports. 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 May 27, 2025 meeting.

Construction Experience – This matter is still pending.

Surveyor Education – This matter is still pending. Ms. Miles requested clarification regarding this process. Mr. Dinkins indicated the Board would like anyone who has obtained a four-year degree to be able to submit their transcript for evaluation, to determine if the degree meets the requirements for surveyor licensure. There are no prerequisites for the evaluation. This does not apply to the 12-hours of

discipline specific surveying coursework. Ms. Miles advised the Board that this would involve licensing database changes and may also require consultant contract revisions.

SCSPE Licensure Awareness Initiative Funding Request is pending submittal of the required invoice.

Education and Research Fund Spending – The Board reviewed information from NCEES regarding the FE/FS Coupon/Voucher program. FY24 there were 503 examinees with a 61% pass rate. FY25 there were 680 examinees with a 62% pass rate. The Board will review requests for voucher increases during the September meeting.

New Business

NCEES Annual Meeting Motions

The Board reviewed the motions to be voted on during the NCEES Annual Meeting in August.

Notice of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenesha Wilson
Administrative Coordinator I