

MINUTES
South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors
9:30 a.m., September 9, 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 9:45 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; Timothy Rickborn, PE; Peter Strub, PE; Angela Musselwhite, 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.

M. Sean Cary (Creel Court 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

Jimmy Chao and D. Mack Kelly were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

MOTION: Mr. Dingle made a motion to excuse the absences. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the July 8, 2025 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Dingle 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 September 8, 2025: 60 complaints received, eight active investigations, and 23 closed cases.

Investigative Review Conference Report

Mr. Wharton presented the IRC report. The IRC was held on August 19, 2025 with the following recommendations: three dismissals, two letters of caution and four formal complaints.

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

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Mr. Elliott presented the ODC report. As of August 28, 2025, there were 35 open cases, four pending hearings and agreements, and eight cases closed since the last report and 28 cases closed since January 1, 2025.

Administrative and Financial Reports

Mrs. Miles presented the Administrative and Financial reports. As of August 28th, there were 20,980 engineers, 887 surveyors, and 101 dual licensees current through 2026. There were 3,829 firms and 1,328 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 July thru September testing window, there were a total (including scheduled and delivered) of 261 FE, 12 FS, 94 PE, seven PS, and one SE exam. The Board has received 2,977 Early PE exam applications and 1,988 have passed the exam. There have been 46 Early PS applicants and 29 have passed. The July cash balance was \$4,842,402.20 and the Education and Research Fund balance was \$795,024.59.

Clemson University – Dr. O. Thompson Mefford, Associate Dean College of Engineering

Dr. Mefford and Aubrey Baldwin presented an overview of the engineering program and efforts to increase the number of students taking the FE exam and promote licensure. Clemson graduates more engineers than any other institution in the state. Clemson utilized 100 percent of the FE exam coupons provided by the board within the first three quarters and supplemented additional funding from their professional development program. They have increased the number of students taking the FE and maintained the pass rate of 81%, which is about ten points higher than the national average for ABET competitors.

Disciplinary Hearing

- a. The board held a hearing in Case 2025-42 (MOA). This matter was recorded by a court reporter to provide a verbatim transcript should one be necessary. Mrs. Musselwhite was recused from the hearing.

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

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

MOTION: After exiting executive session, Mr. Dingle made a motion to accept the MOA and issue a non-disciplinary letter of caution. Mr. Stair seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Application Hearing

- a. Edward W. Williams appeared before the board seeking licensure as an engineer by comity. He was represented by attorney Matthew Utecht. 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. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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

MOTION: After exiting executive session, Mr. Strub made a motion to grant license and issue a non-disciplinary letter of caution with a request that it be shared with his employer. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- b. Andrew L. Hensley appeared before the board seeking licensure as an engineer by examination. He was not represented by counsel. Mike Johnson and Richard Kirby served as witnesses. This matter was recorded by a court reporter in order to provide a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. Mrs. Musselwhite seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Strub 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 licensure, as based on the testimony and information submitted, the applicant does not have sufficient qualifying experience under the supervision of a licensed engineer or that of a character satisfactory to the board. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Engineering Technology Degrees – Kevin Heberle

Mr. Heberle addressed the board regarding technology degrees no longer being accepted as meeting the education requirement for licensure as a professional engineer. He asked the board to consider experience in lieu of education. Mr. Dinkins indicated the board statutes and regulations are clear and indicate a four-year EAC/ABET degree is required. The Board took no action.

Unfinished Business

Review of Action items

The Board reviewed the action items from the July 8, 2025 meeting.

Construction Experience – This matter is still pending.

Surveyor Education – This matter is ongoing.

New Business

NCEES FE/FS Exam Coupon Program

The Board reviewed progress reports regarding the FE/FS Bulk Coupon program for South Carolina institutions. Based on the information provided by NCEES, there was a 35.2% increase in the number of exam takers. The allotted amounts will remain the same for another year to see if more colleges will participate. The Board will revisit the allotted amounts during the March 2026 meeting.

Professional Surveyor IRC Member

The Board reviewed the resume' of C.A. Shealy, III. Mr. Shealy has been a licensed surveyor since 1992.

MOTION: Mr. Dingle made a motion to approve Mr. Shealy to serve as an IRC member.
Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2026 Board Meeting Dates

The Board reviewed potential meeting dates for 2026: January 13, March 10, May 12, July 14, September 8, September 9 (hearings), November 10.

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

Public Comments

Allison King provided an update on the SCSPE Licensure Awareness Initiative, "Let's Knock It Out of the Park" that was held at Segra Park in Columbia. The event was extremely successful and well-received. Eighty-four participants registered for the event and 56 attended. The event offered a complimentary game ticket, dinner, and one professional development hour (PDH) for licensees. It is recommended that the event be extended to other parts of the state.

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 18, 2025.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenesha Wilson
Administrative Coordinator I

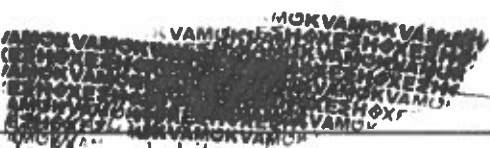
STATEMENT OF RECUSAL

Commission Member Recused: Angela Musselwhite

Matter(s) recused from at the September 9, 2025 South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors meeting:

Matter: Disciplinary hearing for Case No. 2025-42

Reason for recusal: Personal relationship/conflict.



Angela Musselwhite