

**MINUTES**  
**South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors**  
**9:30 a.m., January 13, 2026**  
**Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Midlands Conference Room**  
**Columbia, SC**

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**Call to Order**

Chairperson Dinkins called the meeting to order at 9:34 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 Kent T. Stair.

Staff members participating included: Lenora Addison-Miles, Board Executive; Ely Grote, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Kenesha Wilson, Program Coordinator; Chris Elliott, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Wattie Wharton and Charles Turkal, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; Virginia Wetzels, Office of Governmental Affairs; Billie Chambers, Division of Operations Technology and Security.

Mary Joy (Creel Court Reporting) served as the court reporter.

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

The hearings were deferred until the court reporter arrived.

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

**Approval of Excused Absences**

All members were present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The board reviewed the minutes from the November 18<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup> meetings.

**MOTION:** Mr. Chao 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 December 31, 2025: 94 complaints received, one active investigation, and 49 closed cases.

### **Investigative Review Conference Report**

Mr. Wharton presented the IRC report. The IRC was held on December 17, 2025 with the following recommendations: three dismissals, one letter of caution and five formal complaints.

**MOTION:** Mr. Strub 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 January 7, 2026, there were 33 open cases, two pending hearings and agreements, 12 cases closed since the last report, and 46 cases closed since January 1, 2025.

### **Administrative and Financial Reports**

Mrs. Miles presented the Administrative and Financial reports. As of January 7<sup>th</sup>, there were 21,454 engineers, 902 surveyors, and 100 dual licensees current through 2026. There were 3,916 firms and 1,364 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 January thru March testing window, there were a total (including scheduled and delivered) of 259 FE, 15 FS, 95 PE, three PS, and two SE exams. The Board has received 3,054 Early PE exam applications and 2,041 have passed the exam. There have been 48 Early PS applicants and 32 have passed. The November cash balance was \$4,640,481.99 and the Education and Research Fund balance was \$733,774.59.

### **Legislative Update (S.706 Engineering Advancement and Public Safety Act) – Adam Jones**

Mr. Adam Jones briefed the board on the proposed legislation, amending the licensure requirements for engineers, to allow non-degreed individuals to become licensed through experience and examinations.

### **Application Hearing**

Philip Paynter appeared before the board seeking licensure as an engineer by examination. He was represented by counsel, Arrigo Carotti. 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. Strub 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 deny the application as submitted. Due to the unique educational pathway, applicant may undergo an education evaluation to determine the date of education substantial equivalency, if any. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

### **Funding Request**

#### **2026 SCSPLS Convention and Technical Conference**

The board considered a funding request for \$55,000 for the SCSPLS annual convention and technical conference to be held February 26-27 at the Double Tree hotel in Columbia, SC.

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

### **Disciplinary Hearings**

The board heard a motion for reconsideration in Case 2025-24 and held a hearing in the matter of Case 2025-89. These matters were recorded by a court reporter to provide a verbatim transcript should one be necessary. Mr. Rickborn was recused from the hearings.

**MOTION:** Mr. Strub made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. Ms. 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. Strub made a motion, in the matter of Case 2025-89 – Concrete Structure Failure LLC, to accept the MOA, issue a public reprimand and \$500 fine. In the matter of Case 2025-24, the prior action be vacated and issue a nondisciplinary letter of caution. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Rickborn left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

### **Unfinished Business**

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

The Board reviewed the action items from the November 18, 2025 meeting.

Construction Experience – This matter is still pending.

Surveyor Education – Update will be provided during the March meeting.

PDH Credit for Board Members Attending Board Meetings – Update will be provided during the March meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **Guidelines for Successor Engineer/Surveyor**

The Board reviewed the current guidelines. Members Stair, Kelly and Rickborn will work on revisions for board review.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Floyd Sweat thanked the board for supporting the SCSPLS.

**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 10, 2026.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lenora Addison-Miles, CPM, MBA  
Board Executive