

MINUTES
South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors
9:30 a.m., July 14, 2026
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Midlands Conference Room
Columbia, SC

Call to Order

Chairperson Dinkins called the meeting to order at 9:33 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; Chris Elliott, Esq. and Tammy Black, Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Wattie Wharton and Charles Turkal, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; Molly Price, Building and Environmental Boards; and Billie Chambers, Division of Operations Technology and Security.

Elizabeth Janiskee (Creel Court Reporting) served as the court reporter.

Review and Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Excused Absences

All members were present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the May 12, 2026 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Musselwhite 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, 2026 until July 13, 2026: 53 complaints received, 11 active investigations, and 27 closed cases.

Investigative Review Conference Report

Mr. Wharton presented the IRC report. The IRC was held on June 30, 2026 with the following recommendations: one dismissal, five formal complaints, and one letter of caution.

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

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Mr. Elliott presented the ODC report. As of July 7, 2026, there were 35 open cases, four pending hearings and agreements, two cases closed since the last report, and 20 cases closed since January 1, 2026.

Administrative and Financial Reports

Mrs. Miles presented the Administrative and Financial reports. As of June 24th, there were 15,827 engineers, 663 surveyors, and 75 dual licensees current through 2028. There were 4,010 firms and 1,381 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 through September testing window, there were a total (including scheduled and delivered) of 204 FE, 14 FS, 88 PE, two PS, and one SE exam. The Board received 3,160 Early PE exam applications with 2,137 passing the exam. There have been 52 Early PS applicants and 37 have passed. The May cash balance was \$4,850,048.57 and the Education and Research Fund balance was \$705,889.21.

Disciplinary Hearing

The Board held a hearing in Case 2025-68 – Drafinity, LLC. The respondent did not appear. This matter was recorded by a court reporter to provide a verbatim transcript should one be necessary. Mr. Dinkins was recused from the hearing.

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

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

MOTION: After exiting executive session, Mr. Rickborn made a motion, based on the evidence, there was a violation of 40-22-30(A)(3). Issue a public reprimand, \$1000 fine, pay \$80 investigative costs, and issue a cease and desist. Mr. Strub 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. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Chao 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 12, 2026 meeting.

SCSPLS Request for Letter of Support – The approved letter of support was presented to Ms. King (SCSPLS).

Construction Experience – Mr. Chao provided copies of the ASCE Construction Experience document and the Alabama Board’s Guidelines for Evaluating Construction Engineering Experience for the Board to review. Mr. Chao will develop guidelines for review during the September meeting.

Surveyor Education Evaluations – Staff is working on the administrative implementation of this process, which will involve database revisions. An update will be provided during the September meeting.

Guidelines for Successor Engineer/Surveyor – The Board discussed proposed revisions. Mr. Stair will provide the proposed revisions to Mr. Rickborn and Mr. Kelly for review. The Board will review during the September meeting.

New Business

Regulation Revisions

The May 2022 revisions to Regulation 49-202, resulted in an error in the lettering. Subsection B (Category B Associate Professional Engineer) was deleted, and Tier A Land Surveyor was re-lettered from subsection C to subsection B. Some of the cross references were not updated appropriately.

MOTION: Mr. Dingle made a motion to update the regulations as discussed. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

NCEES Exam Coupon Program FY2026 Annual Reports

The signed Statements of Work require institutions obtaining reimbursement funds from the board to provide annual reports setting forth how many students received financial support to take the exam. The Board reviewed reports from Bob Jones University, Clemson University, The Citadel and University of South Carolina. A total of 442 vouchers were used. The Board discussed ways to capture which examinees utilizing vouchers obtained EIT certification. Options discussed included creating a form to send the institutions, adding a question to the EIT application, and developing a QR code. Mr. Rickborn suggested creating a standard annual report template for all institutions to use so that we are collecting consistent data. Mr. Chao will follow up and report back to the Board.

NCEES/UK Engineering Council Mutual Recognition Agreement – Trip to UK

NCEES has invited Mr. Dinkins and Mr. Rickborn to the United Kingdom to participate in a review of the UK licensing process for Chartered Engineers to determine if the process is comparable to the process in the U.S. Delegates from NCEES and six other state engineering licensing boards will be in attendance.

The trip will be funded by the United Kingdom Department for Business and Trade. The S.C. State Ethics Commission has informally opined the travel, accommodations, and meals provided may be accepted.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to authorize Mr. Dinkins and Mr. Rickborn, in their official capacities as members of the Board, to attend and gather information at this meeting. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried. Mr. Rickborn and Mr. Dinkins abstained from the vote.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion that Mr. Dinkins and Mr. Rickborn be permitted to accept the funding being provided by the UK Department for Business and Trade. Ms. Musselwhite seconded the motion which carried. Mr. Rickborn and Mr. Dinkins abstained.

NCEES Annual Meeting Motions

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

Public Comments

Allison King reported the annual SC Engineering Conference was a success and thanked the board for the financial support.

Ms. King also indicated that The Citadel, USC, Coastal Carolina, and USC Upstate have all shown interest in offering a four-year surveying degree. The Citadel is expecting to have a surveying minor by March 2027.

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 8, 2026.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lenora Addison-Miles, CPM, MBA
Board Executive