

MINUTES
South Carolina Board for Registration for
Professional Engineers and Surveyors
Board Meeting

9:30 a.m., July 18, 2012
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 108
Columbia, South Carolina

Call to Order

Chairwoman Theresa Hodge, P.E., called the meeting to order on July 18, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. Board Members present were Timothy Rickborn, P.E.; Thurl M. Amick, Sr., PLS; Nancy W. Cottingham; M.L. Love, Jr., P.E.; Dennis Fallon, Ph.D, P.E.; and Gene Dinkins, PLS, P.E. Charles Joye was not present.

Staff members included Jan Simpson, Administrator; Missy D. Jones, Program Assistant; and Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant. LLR employees attending the meeting included: James Saxon, Advice Counsel; and Sharon Wolfe, Investigator.

Statement of public notice

Mrs. Hodge stated public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Board of the Registration for Engineers and Surveyors office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building 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.

NOTE: These minutes are a record of the motions and official actions taken by the Board and brief summary of the meeting. A transcript of this meeting providing more detail will be available on the Board's website: www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/engineers

Board Chairman Hodge introduced the Board and welcomed everyone.

Reports

Investigative Review Committee Report – Sharon Wolfe

There are eleven active investigations in OIE. Nine were instituted in 2012. One case has been closed, one case was not opened, and one case is pending action. The oldest case is 769 days old.

Motion: To accept Investigative Review Committee Report. Fallon/Cottingham/Approved.

Report on Administrative Actions – Missy Jones

The Board reviewed the report. – See Attached

Administrator's Report – See Attached.

Financial Report – Jan Simpson

Financial reports for June 2011 were distributed to the Board. The Education and Research fund balance is \$196,557 as of June 30, 2012, and the general fund balance is \$1,023,086.76.

Board Member Reports

Mrs. Simpson reported that the clean-up regulations will go forward as soon as they are resubmitted with the changes to the fees. LLR is coordinating the re-submittal of all revised regulations.

Legislation Report – Jan Simpson

Ms. Simpson reported that the Architect & Engineers Volunteer Act passed. This act provides immunity from liability unless there's negligence for services rendered 30 days after an event that gives rise to a State of Emergency. This waiver does not apply to individuals licensed by comity. Ms. Simpson also reported that the Military Spouses bill passed. This allows Boards to decide if they want to grant a license to the spouse of a person transferred by the military.

The Board will meet on August 15, 2012 for a Legislative Work Day. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. in Room 108. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss updates to the statute.

Unfinished Business (carried over from April)

Suggestions for Use of Education and Research Funding

There is no further research available on use of the Education and Research fund, so the Board will carry this discussion over to a future meeting.

New Business

Chairman Appointment – CE Audit

Dr. Dennis Fallon was appointed to assist with continuing education audits.

Retaking Computer Based Test

The Board decided to make the necessary changes to the law and regulations at the August 15, 2012 Legislative Work Day Meeting.

Environmental Engineering and Bioengineering Degree Programs at Clemson – Dr. Randy Collins and Dr. Tom Overcamp

Dr. Randy Collins and Dr. Tom Overcamp spoke to the Board about the Environmental Engineering and BioEngineering degree programs at Clemson University becoming accredited with ABET.

Motion: To approve Dr. Walt Castro to evaluate these programs for EAC/ABET equivalency so graduates can be granted EIT Certification pending accreditation of these programs.

Direct Registration with NCEES for FE Exam

Ms. Simpson asked the Board to consider Direct Registration for the FE with NCEES. This would allow candidates to apply directly to NCEES to take the FE. Candidates can apply to any state board for EIT Certification upon successful completion of the exam. She asked the Board to consider this for action at a future meeting.

Potential Security Issues with Foreign Names

Ms. Simpson spoke to the Board about potential security issues with foreign names. Many applicants from foreign countries do not consistently present their name in the First Name –Last Name format that are required on applications in the United States. The Board members agreed that a mechanism is needed to regulate this. Staff will discuss possible solutions with advice counsel.

Status of Building Codes Adoption – Brian Pietras

Mr. Pietras with the Structural Engineers Association of South Carolina (SEA of SC) spoke to the Board regarding the status of Building Codes Adoption. The legislature is currently reviewing the 2011 and 2012 codes. There is a concern over this because several examinations (including the civil/structural exams) are based on this code.

Request for re-grading of One April 2012 State Specific Exam

Motion: To re-grade one State Specific Exam taken in April 2012. Cottingham/Dinkins/Approved/7-1

Motion: To denied a motion to release a numerical score for this candidate.

Cottingham/Dinkins/Approved/7-1

Future Administration of State Specific Exam

Mr. Dinkins reported that there is no new information on future administrations of the State Specific Exam. The Board asked Jan Simpson to contact Henry Dingle (the chair of the State Specific Exam) for a time frame.

Emergency Preparedness Plans – Information Needed on VOLTAG – Jan Simpson

Jan Simpson spoke to the Board about Emergency Preparedness Plans. There are no engineers on the contact list. Brian Petras said there is a SEER Committee (Structural Engineering Emergency Response) for rapid responsiveness in the event of an emergency. Staff will research this committee.

Sponsorship of Licensing Ceremony (NHO) – Jan Simpson

The Board would like to work with Joe Jones to update the Licensing Ceremony.

Southern Zone Items of Interest

The Board had no items of interest to report.

Authorizations (Travel and Signing Letter of Caution) – Jan Simpson

Motion: To approve authorization of Jan Simpson, Board Administrator, to attend NCEES annual and zone meetings, and any NCEES committee or task force committee. Dinkins/Cottingham/Approved

Motion: To allow Jan Simpson, Board Administrator, to sign Letters of Caution. Dinkins/Fallon/Approved.

Revision of Survey Practice Manual for 3D Scanning – Thurl Amick

Mr. Amick spoke to the Board about possible revisions to the Survey Practice Manual to include 3D scanning. The Board determined that the statute and regulations sufficiently address it's allowable use. They will consider this when they review the statute.

Review of the NCEES committee and task force reports – Theresa Hodge

The Board did not discuss this issue.

E-filing of Plats – Thurl Amick

Mr. Amick spoke to the board about E-Filing of Plats. Greenville County is considering the submittal of E-Plats, but there is concern because the practice manual requires an impression seal that wouldn't show digitally. The Board agreed that it should be allowable as long as the seal is on the original drawings. They will consider then when they review the statute. Mr. Amick will monitor the progress of this issue at the county level.

Acceptance of waiver for CE Hours – Jan Simpson

The Board requested additional information for a waiver of continuing education hours for Mr. Richard Hall.

Special Accommodations Request for State Specific Surveying Exam – Jan Simpson

Motion: To approved authorization for a special accommodation request for the State Specific Exam. **(NEED NAMES FOR MOTION)**

Consideration of Funding Requests and Potential Sponsorship Opportunities – None

Other Business

Jan Simpson told the Board that work is progressing on the online reporting form for continuing education.

Mrs. Hodge said there was discussion on incidental practice at the conference in June. She would like to set up a task force to come up with a definition that includes an alternative to percentages of construction costs.

Public Comments -- None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Missy D. Jones
Program Assist

**Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors
Administrator's Report
July 17-18, 2012**

NCEES approved the Board's nomination of Cecil Huey and Andy Kinghorn as Emeritus members of the Board. They have been notified.

Licensure Statistics – See attached

Computer-Based Testing - NCEES distributed a Special Update for Member Boards related to transition in January 2014 of the FE and FS exam to Computer-Based Testing (attached). The SC Board will need to select from one of four options for approving candidates for the FE and FS exams.

PDH Audits - The staff will audit compliance with requirements for obtaining professional development hours beginning in August and will work with the appointed board member to gauge acceptance of activities submitted in response to the audit. The audit is random; licensees selected for audit will have two to three weeks to submit proof of activities claimed. Requests for extensions may be approved based on the circumstances, and reminders are sent after the first deadline, giving them another week to respond.

Statute Revision – I recommend a complete revision of the statutes for clarifications, updating requirements to address increasing number of applications from non-US residents, revising firm requirements and consolidating issues that are now addressed in scattered places in the statutes.