

MINUTES

South Carolina Board of Registration for Geologists
Board Meeting
10:00 AM, August 25, 2005
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Room 201-03
Columbia, South Carolina

Jason Terry, Chairman, of Charleston, called the regular meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Geologists to order at 10:10 a.m. Other members present for the meeting included: Vernon T. Ichimura, PhD., Vice-Chairman, of Aiken; R. Craig Kennedy, of Columbia; Troy C. Elmore of Lancaster; and Richard D. Warner, PhD., of Clemson.

Staff members participating at various times during the meeting included: Lenora Addison-Miles, Administrator; Linda Owens, Administrative Assistant; and Connie Huffstetler Administrative Assistant.

There were no members of the public in attendance at the August 25, 2005 meeting.

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Terry announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Board of Registration for Geologists 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of May 19, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Terry requested that Mr. Bryant's remarks regarding H.3781, be updated to reflect that Mr. Terry asked Mr. Bryant if the bill would have any negative effect on the Board, and Mr. Bryant's response was that it would not.

MOTION

Mr. Elmore moved to approve the minutes with the noted change. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion and it carried.

Chairman's Remarks - Jason Terry

Mr. Terry noted he would move the meeting along as quickly and efficiently as possible, but encouraged the other members to ask any questions they have about items on the agenda. He noted that the Board would take as much time as need for discussion before deciding an issue.

Administrator's Remarks -Lenora Addison-Miles

Ms. Miles advised the members that there are currently 572 licensees. Expired license letters were mailed to 61 licensees on August 3, 2005, as a reminder that their licenses had not been renewed. As of today, there are still 53 licensees with expired licenses.

Ms. Miles noted that the agency is moving toward on-line renewals for the next renewal period. She remarked that a number of other Boards have already transitioned to on-line renewals and it has been a very successful process.

Ms. Miles remarked that in the past the Board had expressed an interest in publishing a newsletter. If the Board so chooses, a committee could be appointed to compose a newsletter which could then be posted on the LLR website.

Mr. Terry asked if H.3781 requires on-line renewal. He noted concern by some licensees about providing a credit card number to renew. Ms. Miles said that she did not know but would find out the answer for the members.

Old Business

There was no old business to be addressed during the August 25, 2005 meeting.

New Business

Applicant for Examination

Matthew R. Chambers

Mr. Chambers' application was referred to the Board due to questions regarding his education. It did not appear that he has completed 30 hours in geology courses as required to take the exam.

The members reviewed Mr. Chambers' transcript and concurred that he did not meet the educational requirements.

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to deny Mr. Chambers' application due to a lack of enough credit hours in geology. Dr. Warner seconded the motion, which carried.

Licensure via Reciprocity and/or Endorsement

James R. Howell

The members reviewed Mr. Howell's application for reciprocity. He is currently licensed in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida.

MOTION

Dr. Warner moved to accept Mr. Howell's application for licensure. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which carried.

Michele Y. Mabry

The members reviewed Ms. Mabry's application for reciprocity from North Carolina, which is lacking a transcript of her bachelor's degree.

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy moved to approve Ms. Mabry's application, pending receipt of her transcript

with satisfactory semester hours in geology. Dr. Warner seconded the motion, which carried.

Matthew A. McDonnell

The members reviewed Mr. McDonnell's application for reciprocity. He is currently licensed in Georgia, Florida and Tennessee. Mr. Elmore noted that the application was dated November 6, 2003 and was received on November 21, 2003. The members asked why the application was just now being presented to them. Ms. Miles explained that the staff had not received some of the required documentation to accompany Mr. McDonnell's application until recently, and was still lacking one letter of reference.

MOTION

Dr. Ichimura moved to approve Mr. McDonnell's request for licensure via reciprocity, pending receipt of a current application, an additional letter of reference and a notarized letter from the applicant attesting that all information submitted with the application is still correct. The motion was seconded by Dr. Warner, and carried.

Mr. Kennedy suggested that the Board consider developing a policy addressing the length of time an application can be held before the applicant is required to re-submit.

Christopher Randazzo

The members reviewed Mr. Randazzo's application for reciprocity from North Carolina.

MOTION

Dr. Warner moved to approve Mr. Randazzo's application for licensure via reciprocity. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion and it carried.

Andrew F. Diefendorf

The members reviewed Mr. Diefendorf's application for reciprocity from Georgia, where he was grandfathered in 1976. He is also currently licensed in Indiana and Wisconsin, and holds an inactive status in Florida.

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion to approve Mr. Diefendorf's application for reciprocity. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion, which carried.

Recess

At this time, Mr. Terry called for a brief recess.

Request for Waiver of Continuing Education Requirement

B. C. Spigner

Mr. Spigner requested he be granted an extension to complete his continuing education, due to serious health problems.

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy moved to allow Mr. Spigner additional time to complete his continuing education requirement. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion, which carried.

ASBOG Charter and Bylaws - Proposed Amendments

The members discussed the proposed amendments to the ASBOG Charter and Bylaws, which would eliminate the Continuing Education Committee as a standing committee, and add a standing committee for Charter and Bylaws and International Relations. It would also allow committee appointments to be made at the discretion of the president. Mr. Kennedy suggested that the members take a vote on how to empower the Board's delegate to vote on the amendments.

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the amendments to the ASBOG Charter and Bylaws. Dr. Warner seconded the motion.

Dr. Ichimura stated that he would first like to discuss the reasons for eliminating Continuing Education as a standing committee. Mr. Kennedy gave several reasons, including philosophical differences between states on continuing education. Dr. Ichimura expressed concern at supporting elimination of the committee, when SC is one of the states that requires continuing education. A discussion ensued regarding the matter.

Call for the Vote

Mr. Terry called for a vote on the motion to approve the amendments to the ASBOG Charter and Bylaws. The motion was unanimously defeated.

MOTION

Dr. Warner moved that the Board approve Amendment 1 to the Charter. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion, which carried.

MOTION

Mr. Elmore moved to empower the Board's delegate to vote individually on the changes in standing committees. After a brief discussion, Mr. Elmore withdrew his motion.

MOTION

Mr. Terry moved to empower the Board's delegate to vote against the amendment to change the committees if it is voted on collectively, and to vote against the elimination of the Continuing Education Committee and in support of the Charter and Bylaws and International Relations if voted on separately. Dr. Warner seconded the motion, which carried.

Board Position on H.3781

Mr. Terry noted that at a previous meeting, Assistant Deputy Director Randall Bryant, had stated that the Board would not be negatively impacted by the bill. In addition, Sharon Dantzler, Deputy General Counsel had stated during the recess of today's meeting that there would be no change in the Board's power.

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy moved to table the matter of H.3781 until the next meeting. Mr. Elmore seconded the motion and it carried.

Discussion Items

Mr. Kennedy expressed some concerns with an applicant who has taken the GIT exam three times and has failed each time. He has now applied to take the exam the fourth time and wants to take the practical exam at the same time. Mr. Kennedy asked for opinions from the other members as to whether the Board should take a position on the matter. After a discussion, the members agreed to take no action.

Dr. Ichimura stated that he would work on updating the Board's Continuing Education guidelines and present a draft at the next meeting.

Ms. Miles advised the Board of a licensee who is requesting that his renewal fee be pro-rated due to the fact that he was licensed in January and the license expired in June. The members discussed the matter and found the renewal fee to be appropriate.

Mr. Terry suggested that the Board get some articles together for a newsletter. Dr. Ichimura suggested that the first newsletter consist of an introduction of the Board members. It was decided that each member would forward a brief biography to Mr. Kennedy by September 16.

Mr. Terry asked Ms. Miles to address some questions regarding the Board's revenue and expenditures for Fiscal Years 2002-2005. Ms. Miles suggested inviting a representative from the LLR Budget and Finance office to the next meeting to answer any questions the members might have.

Ms. Miles noted that the Board would need to review the random sampling of licensees for continuing education at the December meeting.

Executive Session

There was no business to be addressed in Executive Session during the August 25, 2005 meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 25, 2005 meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Geologists was adjourned.