

## **MINUTES**

South Carolina Board of Registration for Geologists  
Board Meeting

**10:00 AM, January 26, 2006**

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building  
110 Centerview Drive, Room 111  
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; and Richard D. Warner, PhD., of Clemson.

Staff members participating at various times during the meeting included: Randy Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Barbara Derrick, Budget Analyst; Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; Lenora Miles, Administrator; and Linda Owens, Administrative Assistant.

A member of the public attending the meeting included: Mark Darrington

### **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 the December 13, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

#### **MOTION**

Dr. Warner moved the minutes of the December 13, 2005 meeting be approved. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Chairman's Remarks – Jason Terry**

Mr. Terry stated he would run the meeting as efficiently as possible unless anyone had any questions in regard to a particular topic. He further stated the Board had discussed the proposed legislation regarding the amendments to the engine act.

### **Administrator's Remarks –Lenora Addison-Miles**

Ms. Miles stated the Board members should have received notice of the board member orientation to be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., February 17, 2005 at the Denny Auditorium located at Fire and Life Safety.

Ms. Miles reminded the members that the Statement of Economic Interest forms are due at the State Ethics Commission no later than April 17, 2006.

*Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Sharon Dantzler, Office of General Counsel  
Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office*

There were no advisory opinions or legislative update given during the January 26, 2006 meeting.

## **Unfinished Business**

### Board Financial Report – Barbara Derrick

Ms. Derrick presented the Board members with the Board's financial information. The information included income, expenditures and salaries. She noted that the projected savings of moving the employee salaries from the Board's expenses would be approximately \$4,700 and that the total projected savings for the Board for this fiscal year should be approximately \$16,000. She noted that cost savings of moving administrative employees out of the budget would be approximately \$5,000 per year.

Ms. Derrick stated the agency had a meeting with the House Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday, January 24, 2006. She noted there were geologists present during the meeting. She indicated the agency has not yet met with the Senate Finance Committee.

Dr. Ichimura asked that the Board receive a similar report at the next meeting.

## **New Business**

### Mark Darrington, P.G. –Deregulation of SC Board of Registration of Geologists

Mr. Darrington appeared before the Board, solely as a registered professional geologist, to discuss the deregulation of the Board. He briefed the Board regarding his educational and professional background. He noted he voted for Governor Sanford during the last election and he supports the state government and this agency. He noted that the membership of the Board ranges from a consulting geologist to education.

Mr. Darrington stated geology is in almost every facet of occupation and industry within the State. He works in the environmental facet of geology which is governed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the federal government. He indicated geologists work in natural resources, the mining industry, utilities, which includes electric and dam construction, sanitation and sewer construction, and road construction. Every product a consumer touches is manufactured by businesses that produce, or use hazardous materials or waste products from the manufacturing products. Every product manufactured by a business that produces, stores or treats hazardous materials is governed by regulations administered by DHEC. DHEC regulations require geologists help the industries and the State comply with the regulations. The industries must monitor groundwater flow directions and contaminate flows of hazardous material sites to properly assess the areas to determine if the natural resources and health environment are being affected or adversely affected. The need of geologists is far reaching and is involved in every aspect of our lives.

Mr. Darrington believes the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Board would have an adverse effect on the industry and the health and welfare of the public. He further stated that the public would have a tremendous impact by the elimination of the program. He went on to say the geologists in South Carolina would not have equal footing with surrounding states and would be unable to work in surrounding states if the program is eliminated. He opposes the Governor's proposal that the Board's existence does not meet the minimum requirements of protecting the health and safety of the public. He noted that a bill, S0633, introduced in March 2005, deregulates the Board. He believes that every licensee should receive a letter from the Board or the agency of legislation such as the legislation to deregulate the Board. He has not received any notification of the proposed legislation to deregulate the Board even though the Governor has introduced the legislation each of the past three years. It concerns him that the Governor's bill to eliminate the bill is attached to the appropriations bill when the Board is fee-based.

Mr. Darrington asked the Board members if any of the Board members have been contacted by the Governor or a legislative member in regard to the elimination of the Board. Mr. Kennedy stated that although the Governor appoints the members, it is the Governor's discretion on who to contact regarding any bill submitted. He also noted that if the Governor has contacted any of the members, the contact and the discussion would be between the Governor and the Board member. He indicated whether or not the Board members opinions from that standpoint come in to play is for the Governor to decide to produce his executive policies for the state.

### **MOTION**

Mr. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Dr. Warner and unanimously carried, that the Board amend the agenda to discuss the amendments to the engine act at this time.

### **Recess**

The Board took a five-minute recess at 11:30 a.m. and resumed public session at 11:35 a.m.

### **Return to Public Session**

#### **Review/Board Position of H4420 – Engine Act Proposed Legislation**

Mr. Kennedy questioned Mr. Bryant in regard to several changes to the engine act and expressed his concerns with the changes.

Mr. Bryant asked the Board to list any questions and/or concerns in a letter addressed to the agency.

Mr. Terry questioned Mr. Bryant regarding the possibility of biennial licensure. He asked Mr. Bryant that the licensees be allowed to receive communication regarding biennial licensure. The Board asked that the biennial licensure be allowed to begin in 2007. This topic will be discussed again during the May 18, 2006 meeting.

### **Licensure via Reciprocity and/or Endorsement**

#### **Joseph Cupp**

Joseph Cupp is applying for licensure via reciprocity and/or endorsement. He is currently licensed in North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree

and a Master of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Kentucky. He passed both ASBOG examinations in North Carolina. His file is complete.

**MOTION**

Dr. Ichimura made a motion, seconded by Dr. Warner and unanimously carried, the Board approve Mr. Cupp's application.

**Stephen Gosselin**

Stephen Gosselin is applying for licensure via reciprocity and/or endorsement. He is currently licensed in North Carolina and Virginia. He passed both ASBOG examinations in North Carolina. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Texas A & M University. His file is complete.

**MOTION**

Dr. Warner moved the Board approve Mr. Gosselin's application. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**David Lipson**

David Lipson is applying for licensure via reciprocity and/or endorsement. He is currently licensed in Delaware via the ASBOG examination. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from State University of New York at Cortland and a Master of Science Degree in Hydrogeology from Syracuse University. His file is complete. Ms. Miles stated the license verification from Delaware did not distinguish how he was licensed. She contacted Delaware by email and she was notified by return email that Mr. Lipson became licensed via the ASBOG examination.

**MOTION**

Dr. Ichimura made a motion, seconded by Dr. Warner and unanimously carried, that the Board approve Mr. Lipson's application.

**Certification as a Geologist-in-Training (GIT)**

**Eric Tucker**

Eric Tucker has submitted an application to become a Geologist-in-Training. He passed the ASBOG fundamentals exam in Georgia in October 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from UNC-Charlotte. He is requesting to become a GIT in South Carolina. He did not provide a verification of work experience.

**MOTION**

Mr. Kennedy moved the Board approve Mr. Tucker's application. Dr. Warner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Request for Temporary Permit**

**Joyce O'Connor**

Joyce O'Connor is requesting a temporary registration based on her education and experience. The Board denied her application for endorsement during the December 2005 meeting. She obtained her Pennsylvania license in 1994 via the grandfather clause. She became licensed in Indiana by education and experience. In 2003 she became licensed in Alabama via reciprocity

with Pennsylvania. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Pittsburgh. She is scheduled to take both ASBOG exams at the Board's office in March 2006.

A discussion regarding temporary registrations ensued.

**MOTION**

Mr. Kennedy moved the Board approve Ms. O'Connor's request for temporary registration. Dr. Warner seconded. Following a brief discussion the motion carried.

**Revised Continuing Education Guidelines**

The Board members reviewed the revised continuing education guidelines produced by Dr. Ichimura.

**MOTION**

Dr. Warner moved the Board approve the revised continuing education guidelines with the noted changes. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**ASBOG Association Records Program – Questionnaire**

The Board members reviewed and answered the questionnaire from the ASBOG Association Records Program.

**2003-2005 Continuing Education Audit**

The Board members reviewed continuing education hours submitted by individuals who needed to submit additional information and individuals who did not respond to the original request.

**Discussion Items**

During the December 2005 meeting the Board asked Mr. Kennedy to draft a policy regarding the time frame for submitting application information. The Board members reviewed and suggested changes to the proposed policy.

**MOTION**

Dr. Ichimura made a motion to accept the proposed policy with revisions. Dr. Warner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Terry asked if there was any further development of a newsletter. Mr. Terry stated based on Mr. Darrington's earlier remarks a newsletter should be developed as soon as possible.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments made during the January 26, 2006 meeting.

**Executive Session**

The Board did not enter executive session.

**Election of Officers**

**MOTION**

Mr. Kennedy moved the Board maintain the current slate of officers. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION**

There being no further business to be discussed at this time, Mr. Terry declared the meeting adjourned.

The January 26, 2006 meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Geologists adjourned at 1:44 p.m.