

MINUTES

South Carolina Board of Registration for Geologists
Board Meeting

10:00 AM, Thursday, May 18, 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 10:05 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: Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; Lenora Miles, Administrator; and Linda Owens, Administrative Assistant.

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 January 26, 2006 Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy moved to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2006 meeting. Dr. Warner seconded the motion. Dr. Ichimura questioned the financial report given by Ms. Derrick. Dr. Ichimura amended the minutes to include a sentence regarding the balancing of the budget with moving of salaries. Mr. Kennedy seconded the amended motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks – Jason Terry

Mr. Terry stated he would like to run the meeting as smoothly as possible, yet spending as much time on a subject as possible.

Mr. Kennedy stated he would like to discuss the ASBOG Council of Examiners workshop held in Houston, Texas this past April. He further stated he would like to briefly discuss how the examination has been recently modified.

Administrator's Remarks –Lenora Addison-Miles

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

There were no advisory opinions or legislative update given during the May 18, 2006 meeting.

Ms. Miles stated the members have received a letter from Rick Ericksen, Chairman of the ASBOG Uniform Procedures Committee, in regard to the Professional Geologist Model

Licensure Law, which is for the Board's information only. She also presented the members with comments from geologists regarding the online renewal process.

Ms. Miles stated 608 online notices were mailed on April 27, 2006. She further stated that as of May 18, 2006, 149 licenses have been renewed, of which 119 renewed online.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to be discussed during the May 18, 2006 meeting.

New Business

ASBOG Examination Scores

Mr. Kennedy stated as part of the ASBOG examination the Council of Examiners holds a workshop every five years to perform a task analysis to validate how geology is being practiced around the nation. He indicated 200 detailed questionnaires are mailed to geologists around the nation. He noted the last task analysis, held during 2005, noted the examination was heavily weighted toward hydrogeology. He indicated the Council determined it would reduce the percentage of hydrogeology questions to approximately thirty percent (30%).

Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Dr. Ichimura and unanimously carried, that the Board enter executive session to discuss the ASBOG examination scores.

Return to Public Session to Report on Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy moved the Board return to executive session. Dr. Warner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Terry noted that no motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session.

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion, seconded by Dr. Ichimura and unanimously carried, the Board accept the ASBOG examination scores.

Licensure via Reciprocity and/or Endorsement

Denise McCoy

Ms. McCoy has applied for registration as a professional geologist by endorsement. She holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Wisconsin and is currently licensed and in good standing as a geologist in Georgia. She was licensed in Georgia by ASBOG examination. (Ms. McCoy's application is herewith attached and becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Dr. Warner and unanimously carried, the Board accept Ms. McCoy's application.

Karen Louise Thorbjornsen

Ms. Thorbjornsen is applying for registration as a professional geologist by endorsement. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Toledo and Master of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Tennessee. She passed the ASBOG examinations in Georgia. She is currently licensed and in good standing in Georgia and

Tennessee. (Ms. Thorbjornsen's application is herewith attached and becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

MOTION

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

Licensure via Examination

Stephen Farrell

Mr. Farrell is applying for registration via examination. He has passed both ASBOG exams. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Geology from the Georgia State University. Ms. Miles noted that a Board member approved Mr. Farrell to take both ASBOG examinations, however, the full Board has not reviewed his file. She also noted he has not yet paid the application fee. (Mr. Farrell's application is herewith attached and becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

MOTION

Dr. Ichimura moved the Board approve the application for licensure pending receipt of all appropriate licensure fees and upon payment of fees release the ASBOG examination scores. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

John Maddry

Mr. Maddry passed both ASBOG exams. He holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science Degree in Geology from East Carolina College in Greenville, North Carolina. He was originally approved to take both examinations in 1995. The full Board has not yet reviewed his file. (Mr. Maddry's application is herewith attached and becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

MOTION

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

Reinstatement Request

Terrance Zich

Mr. Zich's registration expired June 30, 2005. He has submitted an updated application, a notarized affidavit indicating he has not been practicing geology since his registration lapsed, proof of required continuing education and has paid all appropriate fees. (Mr. Zich's application and affidavit are herewith attached and becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously carried, that the Board approve Mr. Zich's reinstatement.

Recess

The Board recessed for five minutes at 10:50 a.m. and returned to public session at 10:55 a.m.

Return to Public Session

Soil Scientist Classification

Mr. Terry stated the summary of the question is whether or not geologists can perform soil classification activities with respect to waste-water treatment design.

Mr. Kennedy stated approximately one year ago the Board received a letter from a professional geologist asking whether or not a registered professional geologist is restricted from performing soil activity/classification work in regard to septic systems throughout the state. The Board's consensus at that time was generic since the Board did not find anything that would preclude a geologist from performing such work. He has since received an email from a DHEC employee, which states the process of citing septic systems throughout the state. He noted the Soil Classification Board would be meeting at the Forestry Commission on June 5, 2006 and asked that a Board representative attend the meeting to discuss the issue.

Discussion on this matter ensued. During the discussion Mr. Kennedy read the following response written by Dr. Warner:

“While recognizing that the study of soils is a subset of the practice of geology work of the nature specified above would normally be outside the usual expertise of a registered professional geologist. There may be a few individuals whose experience is comparable to what is required for registration as a professional soil classifier, however, in such cases it is our recommendation that if he/she desires to engage in this type of work he/she should pursue registration as a professional soil classifier.”

MOTION

Dr. Ichimura moved the Board accept the draft letter as official response to Allen Montgomery's question. Mr. Terry seconded the motion. Discussion on the draft letter ensued. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board asked Mr. Kennedy to attend the June 5, 2006 meeting of the Soil Classification Board to inform the members of that Board of the question and the Board's official response and to ask that Board's position on the matter.

Discussion Item

Newsletter

Mr. Terry asked the members if they wished to pursue the development of a newsletter. He indicated it would need to be an ongoing matter on an annual basis. The members indicated the newsletter would contain issues such as disciplinary matters, individuals who have passed the examination, etc. Dr. Ichimura asked if the Board has the capability of embedding a link to the newsletter in an email alert. Staff is researching this matter. Dr. Ichimura suggested the first newsletter contain licensing information, new registrants, how the Board conducts business, a biography of the administrator, board activities and chairman's remarks.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the May 18, 2006 meeting.

Adjournment

The May 18, 2006 meeting of the SC Board of the Registration of Geologists adjourned at 1:08 p.m.