

MINUTES
South Carolina Board of Registration for Geologists
Conference Call Meeting
10:00 A.M., August 6, 2009
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Room 201-21
Columbia, South Carolina

Meeting Called to Order

Jason Terry, Chairman, of Charleston, called the regular meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Geologists to order at 10:03 a.m. Other members present for the meeting included: Vernon T. Ichimura, PhD., Vice-Chairman, of Aiken; Craig Kennedy, of Columbia; and Richard D. Warner, PhD., of Clemson.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Lenora Addison-Miles, Administrator and Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant.

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.

Approval of Excused Absences

All members were present for the meeting.

Approval of the May 14, 2009 Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the May 14, 2009 meeting minutes as written. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks – Jason Terry

Mr. Terry made no remarks at this time.

Administrator's Remarks –Lenora Addison-Miles

- A. *Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Sharon Dantzer, Office of General Counsel*
- B. *Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office*

There were no advisory opinions or legislative update given during this meeting.

Mrs. Miles stated 546 geologists are currently registered through 2011. She noted 107 geologists have not yet renewed. Based on numbers from the 2007 renewal period there were 50 which had not renewed. She said there may be another 50 individuals may renew.

Discussion ensued during which Mrs. Addison-Miles noted that some of the geologists have stated that they are unable to afford the continuing education classes since their companies are no longer paying for the classes.

Unfinished Business

Reciprocity Agreement with Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

Mrs. Miles stated reviewed during the last meeting and the Board had asked that Mrs. Addison-Miles to obtain legal advice from general counsel on the agreement.

Ms. Dantzer's email response to Mrs. Addison-Miles reflects the Board does not address reciprocity in its statute. The email says the Board, under Section 40-77-280, should examine the requirements in Texas to determine whether they are comparable to South Carolina's. If Texas licensees only become comparable at some time after 1986, then the Board should identify that state. The email also states that the Office of Licensure and Compliance can be authorized to accept those credentials unless the individual has a yes answer on the application. South Carolina can only recognize current licenses and Section 40-77-280 states South Carolina grants comity 'without further examination'. The email noted grandfathered licenses are more problematic.

Following discussion on this matter the Board asked Mrs. Addison-Miles to arrange a conference call with Ms. Dantzer regarding this matter.

New Business

Licensure via Reciprocity and/or Endorsement

Michael T. Christopher

On February 24, 2009 the Board received a reciprocity licensure application from Michael Christopher. Mr. Christopher received a Bachelor's Degree in geology in June 1975 and a Master's Degree in Science in December 1979 from Franklin and Marshall College. He is currently licensed in good standing as a professional geologist in Delaware in 1985 by his education and in Pennsylvania by the grandfather clause. He was registered in Georgia by comity with North Carolina on June 15, 2009.

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy made a motion the Board ask Mr. Christopher for clarification on the discrepancies on the application regarding the date of the Georgia registration and the omission of the North Carolina license after which the Board will revisit the application. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Reinstatement

Brian Chew

On April 22, 2009 the Board received a reinstatement license application from Brian Chew. Mr. Chew was registered in 1987 and his license lapsed on June 30, 1999. Mr. Chew has paid all reinstatement fees, provided proof of continuing education and an affidavit stating he has not practiced geology in South Carolina in the time his license has been lapsed.

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy made a motion the Board approve Mr. Chew's application. Mr. Warner seconded the motion, carried.

Examination Requests

Sarah A. McCarthy – Fundamentals and Practice

On March 23, 2009 the Board received a fundamentals and practice examination application from Sarah McCarthy. Ms. McCarthy received a Bachelor's Degree in environmental science and geology in May 2004 from the University of Mary Washington. She took and failed the fundamentals exam in 2007. Her file is complete.

Mr. Kennedy noted she will have to have the professional reference from Leonard Joyce completed as to whether or not he would entrust the applicant with responsibilities regarding projects since she is preparing to become a professional geologist.

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion the Board approve Ms. McCarthy to take both exams. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Rachel Posner – Fundamentals

On June 10, 2009 the Board received a fundamentals examination application from Rachel Posner. Ms. Posner received a Bachelor's Degree in geology from James Madison University in August 2006. Her file is complete.

MOTION

Dr. Ichimura made a motion the Board approve Ms. Posner's application. Dr. Warner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Michael D. Stallings – Fundamentals

On July 1, 2009 the Board received a fundamentals examination application from Michael Stallings. Mr. Stallings received a Bachelor's Degree in geology in August 1996 from the University of Southern Indiana and a Master's Degree in geology from Missouri University of Science and Technology in December 1998. His file is complete.

MOTION

Dr. Ichimura made a motion to accept Mr. Stallings' application. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously

Crystal Traill – Fundamentals

On April 3, 2009 the Board received a fundamentals examination application from Crystal Traill. Ms. Traill received a Bachelor's Degree in geology from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in July 2008. Her file is complete.

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion the Board approve Ms. Traill's application. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Continuing Education Exemption Requests

David Devoe

In 2007 the Board received a renewal notice from David Devoe who requested a waiver/exemption from continuing education due to multiple sclerosis. He indicated in a letter that he had not worked as a geologist since 2001, but plans to maintain his license indefinitely on the off chance that some day his condition improves so that he can practice again. At that time the Board approved Mr. Devoe's request for a waiver from obtaining continuing education.

On June 22, 2009 the Board received Mr. Devoe's renewal application with a letter seeking the Board's approval of an exemption from continuing education due to multiple sclerosis.

On June 20, 2007 the Board received a renewal notice from David Devoe. Mr. Devoe is requesting a waiver/exemption from continuing education due to medical reasons. Mr. Devoe suffers from multiple sclerosis and has been disabled since December 2002. He has not worked as a geologist since 2001, but plans to maintain his license indefinitely on the off chance that some day his condition improves so that he can practice again.

He is attempting to renew his application; however, he is asking to waive the continuing education since he is unable to practice as a result of his medical condition.

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy made a motion the Board approve Mr. Devoe's request for a continuing education waiver. Dr. Warner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Robert E. Johnson

On July 9, 2009 the Board received a letter from Robert Johnson seeking the Board's approval of a three month continuing education exemption for the current biennium. In September 2008 he suffered a fall which resulted in a serious fracture to his right forearm. He was severely limited to performing office-type work during the time his arm was in a full-arm splint and a cast. Mr. Johnson included with his letter copies of his medical records during the time in question for the Board's review.

Mrs. Addison-Miles spoke with Mr. Johnson prior to the meeting. At that time he stated he had received 32 hours of continuing education, however he was unsure if the Board would accept four hours of continuing education he obtained from the Internet. She said she read the Board requirements regarding continuing education after which he noted the Internet seminars he took met all of the requirements. She noted the request is now a moot point. She said Mr. Johnson's letter stated he would submit the renewal application upon hearing of the Board's decision regarding his request.

MOTION

Mr. Kennedy made a motion the Board deny Mr. Johnson's request for a continuing education waiver, that he submit a late renewal and pay all fees, to include late fees. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Newsletter

Mr. Terry stated the members have reviewed an article from Dr. Ichimura.

Mrs. Addison-Miles stated the last newsletter was published in 2007. She asked the members how far back the Board wanted to welcome new registrants. The members replied affirmatively. She has the continuing education audit procedures as well as an article on the examination from Dr. Warner. She stated the members had discussed writing an article on one of the policies; however, the members did not determine what policy on which to concentrate. Mr. Terry will produce an article on the continuing education policy as well as the chairman's remarks.

Public Comments

No public comments were made during this meeting.

Executive Session

The Board did not enter executive session.

Adjournment

The August 6, 2009 meeting of the SC Board of Registration of Geologists adjourned at 11:20 a.m.