

MINUTES
South Carolina Board of Registration for Geologists

10:00 a.m., February 3, 2011
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building Room 204
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 10:07 a.m. Other members present for the meeting included: Vernon T. Ichimura, PhD., vice-chairman, of Aiken; Charles Gorman, III, of Columbia; and Richard D. Warner, PhD., of Clemson.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Lenora Addison-Miles, Administrator; Michelle Sims, Administrative Assistant, and Sheridan Spoon, Assistant General Counsel.

Mr. Terry announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC 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 Excused Absences

There were no absences to be excused.

Approval of Amendment to the August 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Addison-Miles noted that on page five of the August 19, 2010 minutes it stated that, 'Discussion ensued that he has nine courses in geology...' and it should state, '...nine hours in geology'.

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the minutes of the August 19, 2010 meeting be approved as amended. Dr. Warner seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of the December 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gorman noted that on page three of the December 9, 2010 minutes it states, '...whether he practiced geology under an unlicensed geologist in South Carolina...' but instead it should read, '...whether he practiced geology as an unlicensed geologist in South Carolina...'

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the minutes of the December 9, 2010 meeting be approved as amended. Dr. Warner seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks – Jason Terry

Mr. Terry stated the Board has a full agenda and he would attempt to move the meeting along but if at any time someone had a question to please ask.

Administrator's Remarks – Lenora Addison-Miles

Mrs. Addison-Miles informed the members that as of February 2, 2011 there are 653 geologists registered through 2011.

She continued by telling the Board that the Statement of Economic Interest Forms must be filed with the State Ethics Commission by April 15, 2011. Also, on May 28, 2010 the Governor signed House Bill H3066 into law, mandating all statements must be filed electronically. Paper copies will not be accepted and there are no exceptions. If members have questions they should direct them to the Ethics Commission at 803-253-4192.

Mrs. Addison-Miles stated that effective January 1, 2011 the mileage reimbursement rate increased to 50.5 cents. She also introduced Michelle Sims who would be taking the meeting minutes for the Board from now on.

Dr. Warner asked Mrs. Addison-Miles of the 653 licensed geologists, how many were GITs and she responded that she would have an answer to him by the end of the meeting.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for discussion during this meeting.

New Business

Application Hearing - John William Maddry (Reinstatement)

John William Maddry appeared before the Board to present testimony and waived his right to Counsel.

This proceeding was recorded by a court reporter to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

Executive Session

MOTION

Dr. Ichimura made a motion the Board enter executive session. Dr. Warner seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion the Board return to public session. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Terry noted for the record that no official action was taken during executive session.

Application Hearing - John William Maddry (Reinstatement)

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion the Board accept Mr. Maddry's application for reinstatement pending the receipt of a notarized statement to the effect that Mr. Maddry was not publicly engaged in the practice of geology during the time his license was lapsed. Also, Mr. Maddry must provide documentation of his continuing education hours from the Geological Society of America meeting which would bring him up to the 32 hours he needed. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Licensure via Reciprocity and/or Endorsement

Christian Erick Gandy

Christian Erick Gandy was registered in North Carolina on January 7, 2009 by ASBOG Examinations. He obtained a BS in degree in Geology from Humboldt State University on May 21, 2003 and a MS degree in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Hawaii on May 14, 2006. Staff obtained an employment verification from Mac Tec Engineering verifying 2 years and 3 months of fulltime work experience from May 1, 2006 until August 28, 2008. One of Mr. Gandy's professional references is a college professor.

Mr. Terry asked if Mr. Gandy was still employed at the Corp of Engineers and Mrs. Addison-Miles responded that to the best of her knowledge he was.

MOTION

Dr. Ichimura made a motion the Board approve Mr. Gandy for licensure. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

John Wesley Hargraves

John Wesley Hargraves was originally registered in TN on November 5, 1996 by education and experience. He is registered in several states, but has not taken and passed an examination. He obtained a BS degree in Geology from TN Technological University in December 1988. His file is complete.

Mr. Terry asked if South Carolina had a reciprocity agreement with Tennessee as Mr. Hargraves was applying by reciprocity and Mrs. Addison-Miles stated that there was not an agreement in place. Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Hargraves' licenses with Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Georgia and the fact that he has never taken the ASBOG examination. Further discussion continued regarding the reciprocity agreement with Georgia that states the licensees who were licensed in Georgia under the grandfather provisions must provide verification of at least five years of responsible professional work experience after the date of registration.

MOTION

Dr. Ichimura made a motion the Board deny Mr. Hargraves for licensure based on the fact that South Carolina does not have a reciprocity agreement with Tennessee. Dr. Warner seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

There was continued discussion amongst the Board about the reciprocal agreement with Georgia. Furthermore, it was noted that Mr. Hargraves did not answer question eight of the application that asks, 'Are you applying for a license in accordance to a reciprocal agreement with another state?' although he was in the group of licensees who were applying by reciprocity. Dr. Warner suggested that either Mr. Hargraves take the ASBOG or he will have to wait two years and six months to apply to South Carolina as a reciprocal applicant so that he will have the full five years of experience that is required of Georgia reciprocal applicants.

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion to advise Mr. Hargraves that he will have to either take the ASBOG exams or wait two years and six months to apply as a reciprocal applicant. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Edward Hirshenson

Edward Hirshenson was registered in Florida on June 4, 2007 by ASBOG examinations. He obtained a BS degree in Geology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook on May 17, 1992. His file is complete.

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board approve Mr. Hirshenson for licensure. Dr. Warner seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

John Elijah Holland

John Elijah Holland was registered in NC on December 1, 2009 by ASBOG examinations. He obtained a BS degree in Geology from Oklahoma State University on May 11, 2002. Staff obtained an employment verification from Groundwater & Environmental Services documenting six years and a half of employment from March 2003 through May 2009; and an employment verification from his present employer, One Environmental Group, documenting one year and a half of employment. We also received two professional reference forms. His file is now complete.

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion the Board approve Mr. Holland for licensure. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ASBOG Examination Request

James Berry

James McCoy Berry is applying as a professional geologist to take the Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. He obtained a BS degree in geology from the University of TN on December 15, 1989. His file is complete. A preliminary review of the application was conducted by Chairman Terry in order to meet the ASBOG examination order deadline.

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion the Board allow Mr. Berry to take both exams. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Sarah M Rice (GIT)

Sarah M. Rice is applying as a Geologist-in-Training to take the Fundamentals of Geology examination. She obtained a BS degree in Geology from East Carolina University on December 15, 2001 and a MS degree in geology on July 29, 2005. Her file is complete. A preliminary review of the application was conducted by Chairman Terry in order to meet the ASBOG examination order deadline.

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board allow Mrs. Rice to take the Fundamentals of Geology examination. Dr. Ichimura seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Jason Butler Thomas (GIT)

Jason Butler Thomas is applying as a Geologist-in-Training to take the Fundamentals of Geology examination. He obtained a BS in environmental geography from Valdosta State University on May 9, 2001, and a MS degree in geology from the University of Georgia on May 9, 2009. His file is complete. A preliminary review of the application was conducted by Chairman Terry in order to meet the ASBOG examination order deadline.

MOTION

Dr. Warner made a motion the Board allow Mr. Thomas to take the Fundamentals of Geology examination. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Public Comments

No public comments were made during this meeting.

Executive Session

The Board did not enter executive session.

Adjournment

Before adjourning, Mr. Terry asked fellow Board members if they had any comments. Dr. Warner asked about the ASBOG Council of Examiners Workshop that would be held April 1st and April 2nd and stated that he would be able to attend but needed to obtain travel approval.

Mr. Gorman asked Mrs. Addison-Miles about soil classification language and discussion ensued. Furthermore, Mr. Terry asked specifically what a soil classifier license would apply to and Mrs. Addison-Miles read the definition regarding the practice of soil classifying and professional soil classifying.

Dr. Warner asked how he could obtain a list of licensees and Mrs. Addison-Miles advised him of the process to obtain this list. Dr. Warner stated he would want this list to see who is registered within academics to be considered to fill his current position upon his retirement.

The February 3, 2011 meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Geologists adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

The next meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Geologists is scheduled for May 26, 2011.