

MINUTES
South Carolina Board of Registration for Geologists
Conference Call Board Meeting
1:00 p.m., February 12, 2013
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building Room 204
Columbia, South Carolina

Meeting Called to Order

Vernon Ichimura, PhD., chairman, of Aiken, called the regular scheduled conference call meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Geologists to order at 1:00 p.m. Other members participating in the meeting included: Charles Gorman, III, vice chairman, of Columbia; and Dr. Douglas Nelson, of Conway.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Lenora Addison-Miles, Administrator; Theresa Garner, Program Assistant, and Georgia Lewis, Advice Counsel.

Dr. Ichimura 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.

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion to approve Mark Taylor's absence. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of the December 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion to table the approval of the minutes until it is appropriate. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks – Vernon Ichimura, PhD.

Dr. Ichimura thanked everyone for accommodating the members on the board meeting conference call. He stated he thought it was appropriate to have a conference call this time since there were very few items on the agenda, and also it would save time and costs. Dr. Ichimura reminded board members to submit their Ethic Forms online prior to the April 15th deadline.

He informed board members that the ASBOG Council of Examiners workshop would be held on April 6th and 7th, in Richmond, Virginia. He said he would like to see a board representative attend. Dr. Nelson stated he would not be able to attend.

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion that the State Board of Registration for Geologists attempt to send a representative to the ASBOG COE workshop. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Administrator's Remarks – Lenora Addison-Miles

Mrs. Miles reported there are 635 active geologists registered through June 30, 2013, and eight active GIT's. The Fiscal Year 2013 cash balance report for January was \$65,299.94. The December 2012 balance was \$68,240.13. Effective January 1st, the new mileage reimbursement rate increased to 56.5 cents.

Unfinished Business

Electronic Signatures and Seals

Mrs. Miles stated that she spoke with the Administrator of the Engineering and Architecture's Boards, and they use electronic seals and signatures. She said that information was incorporated into their respective laws that specifically state the use of electronic signatures. The Board discussed the use of Electronic Signatures and Seals, and reviewed the Architecture Board's adopted procedures and regulations for the use of electronic signatures and seals. The board decided to start the process for amending the regulations to incorporate electronic signatures.

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board start the process to allow electronic submittal of seals and adopting largely from what the Architecture Board has created. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Georgia Lewis, Advice Counsel, stated, just for clarification it would be to start the legislative process to amend any regulations to incorporate the electronic seal process.

Dr. Ichimura requested that staff come up with a draft as a starting point for the adoption of the electronic seal, similar to what the Architectural Board has in place, using our regulations and statutes. Mrs. Miles suggested the board might also want to use the language from the statutes and regulations of the Engineering Board, since theirs is similar to that of the Geologists.

New Business

Licensure via Reciprocity/Endorsement

Ryan Christopher Murley

Mr. Murley was registered in Virginia on April 27, 2007 by ASBOG exams. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology on May 8, 1999, and a Master of Science in Environmental & Engineering Geosciences on May 5, 2001 from Radford University. The outstanding professional reference form was e-mailed to board members on Friday, February 8, 2013. His file is now complete.

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion to accept Mr. Murley's application via reciprocity from Virginia. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Michael Jay Smilley

Mr. Smilley was registered in Georgia on May 31, 2011 by ASBOG exams. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Georgia on August 7, 2004; and a Master of Science in Geology on December 27, 2007 from West Virginia University. His file is complete.

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion to accept Mr. Smilley's application via reciprocity from Georgia. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ASBOG Examination Requests

Christina L. Blaszkiewicz

Ms. Blaszkiewicz has submitted an application to take the Fundamentals of Geology exam for certification as a geologist-in-training. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania on May 1, 2009. Her file is complete. In order to meet the deadline to order examinations, the application was reviewed by Dr. Ichimura

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion to accept Ms. Blaszkiewicz's application to take the Fundamentals exam. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Salley Gould

Ms. Gould has submitted an application to take the Fundamentals of Geology exam for certification as a geologist-in-training. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Washington and Lee University May 27, 2010, and a Master of Science degree in Hydrogeology from Clemson University on August 10, 2012. In order to meet the deadline to order examinations, the application was reviewed by Dr. Ichimura.

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion to accept Ms. Gould's application to take the Fundamentals exam. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Jennifer Meek

Ms. Meek has submitted an application to take the ASBOG Practice of Geology exam for registration as a professional geologist. She was registered as a GIT on December 7, 2012. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geological Sciences from Tufts University on May 20, 2001, and a Master of Science in Hydrogeology from Clemson University on May 7, 2004. In order to meet the deadline to order examinations, the application was reviewed by Dr. Ichimura.

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve Ms. Meek's application to take the Professional Geologist examination. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ASBOG Committee Service

Mrs. Miles reported based on an e-mail that Mr. Taylor sent regarding member service on a committee. Mrs. Miles stated with other boards if an individual serves on a committee it would be up to either the individual to fund the participation or the National Association, if they are willing to fund it. She said that ASBOG does not pay for committee service. They only fund it if you are the chair of the committee or you serve on the executive committee. Otherwise they do not pay, and normally the boards do not pay for committee service, which is strictly voluntary.

Georgia Board of Geologists Proposed Legislation SB 445

Mrs. Miles stated that she had spoken with Mrs. Furlow, Chairperson, of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists, and the Georgia Board is concerned about this as indicated on the cover letter sent to board members. All of the licensing decisions would be made by state employees or staff persons who have no background in the respective profession, the educational requirements or technical aspects of the profession. Mrs. Furlow indicated at this time it is still possible that it may not get introduced or be withdrawn, since this is the second year they have attempted to get it through legislation, she also stated that ASBOG has some concerns.

Advice Counsel, Georgia Lewis, stated that in general the criteria for licensing has not changed, as long as their requirements for the Geologists and Geologists-in-Training are the same, the board does not get into the processing of their licensing. She said what you look at for reciprocity is the credentials the state requires, and make sure they are in keeping with what South Carolina requires.

Dr. Ichimura added the proposal would affect all professional licensing boards in Georgia, not just the Geology board.

Election of Officers

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion to continue with the same slate of officers. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

The Board did not enter into executive session.

Adjournment

Mr. Gorman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the S. C. Board of Registration for Geologists is scheduled for May 16, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.