

MINUTES
South Carolina Board of Registration for Geologists
Board Meeting

10:00 a.m., August 22, 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 meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Geologists to order at 10:06 a.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: Theresa Garner, Interim Administrator; Georgia Lewis, Advice Counsel; Holly Beeson, Counsel to the Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs; Kristina Baker, General Counsel; George Barr, and Yolanda Rodgers, OIE Investigators, and Sharon Wolfe, OIE.

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.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Excused Absences

Mr. Gorman made a motion to accept the excused absence of Mark Taylor, of Greer. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of the April 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion to accept the April 12, 2013 meeting minutes, as presented. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks – Vernon Ichimura

Dr. Ichimura stated that Mrs. Lenora Addison-Miles had been with the board for eleven years, and she would be missed.

Interim Administrator's Remarks – Theresa Garner

Mrs. Garner stated the license renewal period ended June 30, 2013. She further stated there are currently 549 geologists and 12 active GIT's registered through June 30, 2015. She noted 86 geologists' licenses have lapsed due to non-renewal and that licensees may apply for late renewal until December 31, 2013.

The fiscal year 2013 cash balance report for July reflected a balance of \$109,927.03

OGC Report-Office of General Counsel

There was no report given.

OIE Report-Office of Investigative Enforcement

Sharon Wolfe reported (1) pending board action case, no active cases, and one recommendation for a formal complaint.

New Business

IRC Report-Investigative Review Committee

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion to accept the August 22, 2013 IRC Report as presented. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Licensure via Reciprocity/Endorsement

Timothy Jay Davis

The Board received an application from Mr. Davis on June 4, 2013. He was licensed by the Virginia Board on May 9, 2013 by ASBOG exams, and the license will expire on August 31, 2013. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Ball State University on May 5, 2007. His file was complete.

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board accepts Mr. Davis's application for licensure as a professional geologist. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ernest G. Hargrove

The Board received an application from Mr. Hargrove on March 11, 2013. He was licensed by the Florida Board on May 10, 2002 by ASBOG exams and the license will expired on July 31, 2014. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Middle Tennessee State University on May 11, 1985. His file was complete.

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board accepts Mr. Hargrove's application for a license as a professional geologist. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Maureen Ann Jackson

The Board received an application from Ms. Jackson on July 11, 013. She was licensed by the North Carolina Board on November 28, 2011 by ASBOG exams and the license will expire on June 30, 2014. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from St. Lawrence University on May 24, 1997 and a Master of Science degree in Geology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington on December 18, 1999. Her file was complete.

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion the Board accepts the application for licensure from Ms. Jackson by reciprocity from North Carolina. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Walter D. Plekan, Jr.

The Board received an application from Mr. Plekan on May 28, 2013. He was licensed by the North Carolina Board on July 1, 2006 by ASBOG exams and the license will expire on June 30, 2014. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from State University of New York College at Fredonia on May 14, 1994. His file was complete.

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion the Board accepts the application for licensure by reciprocity from North Carolina for Mr. Plekan. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

James Roush

The Board received an application from Mr. Roush on April 23, 2013. He was licensed by the North Carolina Board on January 28, 1998 by ASBOG exams and the license will expire on June 30, 2014. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from California Lutheran College on May 22, 1977, and a Master of Science degree in Geology from California State University Northridge on May 27, 1983. His file was complete.

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board accepts Mr. Roush's application for licensure as a professional geologist. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion. After a brief discussion regarding a professional reference, Dr. Nelson amended the motion to state, approval of licensure pending receipt within 30 days of an additional professional reference which does not have the same last name. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Scott A. Spinner

The Board received an application from Mr. Spinner on April 3, 2013. He was licensed by the North Carolina Board on July 1, 2010 by ASBOG exams and the license expired on June 30, 2013. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in Environmental Science with a minor in Geology from Plattsburgh State University of New York on May 15, 1999. His file was complete.

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion the Board accepts Mr. Spinner's application for licensure as a professional geologist. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion. Following a brief discussion regarding a reference from Mr. John Weavil where he answered "No" to question #8, Mr. Gorman amended the motion to say, upon clarification of the "No" response to Mr. Spinner's reference; assuming that clarification is satisfactory to staff, the application will be approved. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Kevin D. Svitana

The Board received an application from Mr. Svitana on April 26, 2013. He was licensed by the North Carolina Board on November 21, 1986 by Grandfather Clause, and the license will expire on June 30, 2014. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Juniata College on May 24, 1981, and a Master of Science degree in Geology from West Virginia University on May 15, 1983. His file was complete.

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion the Board approves the application from Mr. Svitana for licensure by reciprocity from North Carolina. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion. Following a brief discussion regarding two professional references received (one dated May and the other dated June) from one individual, Dr. Nelson amended the motion to approve the application contingent upon a satisfactory explanation from Mr. Mott as to why the Board has two different answers on question #8. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ASBOG Examination Requests

David B. DuBose

The Board received an application to take the Fundamentals of Geology examination for certification as a Geologist-in-Training from Mr. DuBose on August 8, 2013. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Georgia on May 9, 2009. His file was complete. **(In order to meet the deadline to order examinations, the application was reviewed by Dr. Ichimura.)**

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board accepts Mr. DuBose's application to take the GIT exam. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Christopher R. White

The Board received an application to take the Fundamentals of Geology and the Practice of Geology examinations for certification as a Registered Geologist from Mr. White on July 15, 2013. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Wisconsin on June 2, 2006, and a Master of Science degree in Geology from the University of Minnesota on August 31, 2010. His file was complete. **(In order to meet the deadline to order examinations, the application was reviewed by Dr. Ichimura.)**

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion the Board accepts Christopher White's application to take the ASBOG's examinations to become a professional geologist. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Continuing Education Exemption Request

David Devoe

On June 26, 2013 the Board received a renewal application from Mr. Devoe. He is requesting continuation of his exemption from CE requirements due to the fact that he has Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Mr. Devoe has been approved since 2007 for an exemption from CE requirements. Mr. Devoe would like to maintain his license even though he is on disability and does not practice geology.

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion the Board approves the request of Mr. David Devoe to be exempt from continuing education requirements. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion. A brief discussion on the request ensued. The motion carried unanimously.

CE Course Approval

On-Demand Webinars – Midwest GeoSciences Group

Midwest GeoSciences Group has requested that the Board consider its ON-DEMAND WEBINARS as acceptable CE courses for SC geologists. The webinars are recordings of live educational webinars that include copies of the webinars' slides and unlimited question and answer segments. Proficiency tests are also available for about 40 of their 70+ webinars. These webinars are currently approved by the states of Connecticut, Delaware and Massachusetts.

The Board discussed the request and the continuing education guidelines.

Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board enter into executive session. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously

Return to Public Session

Mr. Gorman made a motion to return to public session. Dr. Nelson seconded motion, which carried unanimously.

Dr. Ichimura noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken during executive session.

There was further discussion regarding the Internet continuing education; which is not presented via live stream. The board asked that staff poll other boards to see how they allow continuing education classes which are not presented by way of the Internet.

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board table this issue to the next meeting pending further information and further discussion. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board asked staff to notify Mr. Kelleher; the Board is reviewing broader issues on this matter.

ASBOG November 2013 Annual Meeting

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion that Mark Taylor represent the Board, and attend the ASBOG meeting in November. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

LLR Recommendation - Governor's Regulatory Review

Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board enter into executive session. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously

Return to Public Session

Mr. Gorman made a motion to return to public session. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Dr. Ichimura noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken during executive session.

The Board reviewed LLR's recommendations from the Governor's Task Review Committee, and considered changes to the regulations regarding the seal, the frequency of the license renewals as well as the fees to ensure it is in line with the statute. As for continuing education, the Board further needs to discuss how to deal with webinars and the issue of 32 hours.

Proposed Regulation Changes

MOTION

Mr. Gorman made a motion the Board accepts the proposed regulation changes. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Discussion ensued in regards to beginning the process to change the regulations regarding continuing education and an electronic seal. Mr. Gorman amended his motion to state that the Board will accept all of the regulation changes performed by LLR staff, with the exception of the electronic seal; which was tabled for a later discussion. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Comments

No public comments were made during this meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION

Dr. Nelson made a motion the August 22, 2013 meeting be adjourned. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the S.C. Board of Registration for Geologists is scheduled for December 12, 2013.