

**South Carolina Board of Registration for Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2020 at 10 a.m. by Virtual Video/Teleconference**

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Daniel Brantley, PG; called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Other Board members present included: Nina Marshtein, PG; Donald Siron, PG; and Vernon Ichimura, PG.

Staff members present included: Hardwick Stuart, Esq.; Advice Counsel; Johnnie Rose, Program Coordinator; and Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant.

Others present included: Carla Dominick (Creel Court Reporting)

2. Statement of Public Notice

Mr. Brantley said 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. In accordance with the Governor's directives regarding social distancing, the meeting is being held via video and teleconference. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone or the Internet.

3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the July 9, 2020 agenda.
Ichimura/Siron/approved.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting, pending correction of the date.
Ichimura/Siron/approved.

5. Chair Remarks

Mr. Brantley said he appreciates the efforts by the Board members and staff to continue normal operations during COVID-19. There is a need to rally licensees to continue to take the exams and continuing education courses, while observing safety practices. There is an opportunity to discuss accommodations the Board can make to help licensees during the COVID-19 crisis as a later agenda item.

6. Administrator's Remarks – Johnnie Rose, Program Coordinator; on Behalf of Pam Dunkin, Administrator

- The Board had a cash balance of \$165,864.60 as of March 31, 2020. The cash balance report is included in the meeting handouts.
- Currently the Board has 31 geologists-in-training and 581 geologists actively licensed.
- Mr. Rose reminded the Board members to direct licensees and other individuals with questions to the Board staff.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2020.

- Efforts are underway to transition to computer-based testing for the Fundamentals and Professional Practice exams. Hopefully, this will begin with the October 2020 administration. Additional information will be available at the next Board meeting.
- There are no cases in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement or the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. There is no Investigative Review Report for this meeting.

7. New Business

A. GIT Applications

1. Nicholas Burch

Vernon Ichimura made a motion to approve the application to take the FG. Nina Marshtein seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

B. Reciprocity Applications

1. Kirk Kessler

Donald Siron made a motion to approve the reciprocity application. Nina Marshtein seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

2. Joseph M. Kiker

Vernon Ichimura made a motion to approve the reciprocity application. Don Siron seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

3. Thomas Roller

Vernon Ichimura made a motion to approve the reciprocity application, pending receipt of a copy of Mr. Roller's social security card. Nina Marshtein seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

4. Clint Sorrell

Don Siron made a motion to approve the reciprocity application. Vernon Ichimura seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

5. Ann Kenwell

Vernon Ichimura made a motion to approve the reciprocity application. Nina Marshtein seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6. Eric Cross

Vernon Ichimura made a motion to approve the reciprocity application. Nina Marshtein seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

C. Endorsement Applications

1. Kevin Paul Carey

Vernon Ichimura made a motion to approve the Endorsement Application. Nina Marshtein seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

D. GEO Applications

1. Patrick Barrineau

Nina Marshtein made a motion to approve the application to take the FG and PG exams. Vernon Ichimura seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

2. Gregory Caldwell

Vernon Ichimura made a motion to approve the application to take the PG exam. Donald Siron seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

8. Continuing Education and Audit Discussion

A. 2017 – 2019 Continuing Education Audit Review

Mr. Rose said the continuing education audit letters were mailed to individuals randomly selected for the audit a few days before the State of Emergency was declared for COVID-19. Responses have been received from approximately 90% of the individuals, however, many of them had trouble getting access to the records in a timely manner due to working remotely. The Board agreed to table this item until the September 10, 2020, meeting.

B. Continuing Education Hours

Mr. Brantley said several licensees have contacted him to ask if the Board will accept virtual meetings for continuing education. He is aware of one provider who is holding an eight hour virtual field trip, since it can't be done "in person" due to COVID-19. Mr. Ichimura said this is the only way to obtain continuing education now, since employers are not allowing travel, and vendors have cancelled events or transitioned to online coursework due to safety concerns. Mr. Stuart said the Governor's Executive Order 2020-10 allows Boards to relax or suspend regulations, so they can make a motion to allow virtual meetings for continuing education for the next renewal cycle. Mr. Rose reminded the Board that new regulations passed on June 26, 2020, that reduce the required continuing education hours required to 24 hours per biennium.

MOTION: To accept online training, seminars, virtual training, virtual field trips, webinars, online symposiums, and online presentations toward ongoing Geology continuing education.
Marshtein/Ichimura/approved.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn.
Ichimura/Marshtein/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.