

South Carolina Board of Registration for Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2023 at 10 a.m. by Virtual Video/Teleconference

Meeting Called to Order

Chair Nina Marshtein, PG; called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Other Board members present included Dr. Vernon Ichimura, PG, and Susan Fulmer PG.

Staff members present included Mary League, Esq., Advice Counsel; Katie Phillips, Executive Assistant; Pam Dunkin, Administrator; Johnnie Rose, Program Coordinator; Shaun Strother, Program Coordinator; and Sherri Moorer, Administrative Coordinator.

Others present included Deana Snyed, Executive Director of the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG); Mark Stephens; and Katherine Boone (Creel Court Reporting).

Statement of Public Notice

Mrs. Marshtein stated 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. 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.

Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the January 24, 2023, agenda.
Ichimura/Fulmer/approved.

Introduction of Board Members and Others

Board members, staff, and others participating in the meeting introduced themselves.

Excused Absences

There were no absences.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the October 14, 2022, meeting.
Ichimura/Fulmer/approved.

Board Chair Remarks

There were no Board Chair remarks.

Update on Bill 3515

Mrs. Phillips said Bill 3515 was filed in the House on December 15, 2022. It would deregulate several professions, including the Board of Registration for Geologists. The Bill has been assigned to the House Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry. The agency will monitor this bill and will notify the Board legislative contacts if the bill is scheduled for a subcommittee meeting.

Staff Reports – Pam Dunkin

A. Administrator's Report

- Mrs. Dunkin welcomed Susan Fulmer to the Board, who is filling the State Agency's statutory requirement. There are still vacant positions for the public and academic members. There have been several applications for the vacancies. Mrs. Phillips said there is a new form on the Boards and Commissions websites. Individuals who are interested in serving can fill out the form online and download their resume and other documentation through this portal.
- The Board has 45 Geologists-in-Training and 597 Professional Geologists actively licensed.
- October was the final written administration of the ASBOG exam. The FG and PG exams will be proctored by Prometric with the first exam set to roll out on March 17, 2023. Candidates will be notified of the changes in the exam format and registration process by email. Notice was also posted in the Winter 2023 Newsletter, which is posted on the Board website.
- Mrs. Dunkin reminded the Board members that email is the agency's primary form of communication with licensees. Renewal notices and other information from the Board is sent by email, so it is imperative that email addresses are kept up to date.
- Mrs. Dunkin participated in the ASBOG Annual Business meeting virtually on October 25, 2022. Key point from this meeting include:
 - Computer based testing for the ASBOG exams will begin with the March 2023 administration. Staff are working with Ms. Sneyd and exam candidates to ensure a smooth transition.
 - ASBOG is rebranding, and will update their website and logo.
 - ASBOG have contracted with an independent vendor to offer online examination courses for exam preparation.
 - 5,000 licensees participated in the Task Analysis. Preliminary results are in, and the report will follow in the coming months.
 - The Spring Council of Examiners (COE) Workshop will be held in Greenville, SC, on April 13-14, 2023.
 - The COE Annual Meeting, Administrator's Workshop, and COE Workshop will be held in Spokane, WA, on October 23-28, 2023.
- Mrs. Dunkin reminded the Board members to file their Statement of Economic Interest by the noon deadline on March 30, 2023. Information on this filing will be forthcoming soon.

B. Finance Report

The Board had a cash balance of \$239,051.66 as of November 30, 2022.

C. Advisory Opinions

Mrs. League did not have any advisory opinions.

D. Office of Investigations and Enforcement Report

Mrs. Dunkin said there are no cases in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement.

E. Investigative Review Committee Report

Mrs. Dunkin said there is no Investigative Review Committee Report.

F. Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Mrs. Dunkin said there are no cases in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

ASBOG Introduction and Updates

Ms. Snyed introduced herself and gave an update from ASBOG:

- ASBOG is comprised of 32 member Boards. Their primary business is developing exams and providing State Boards with connective links and resources.
- The first Computer Based Exam will be offered through Prometric testing centers on March 17, 2023. They hope this will remove a barrier to licensure and will encourage more individuals to become licensed in this profession, and for more states to pass licensure laws.
- The Council of Examiners (COE) is a group of subject matter experts (Board members and Members-at-Large) who will meet in Greenville, SC, on April 13-14, 2023. The first day will review the March 2023 exam, and the second day will review the new blueprint that will go into effect with the October 2023 exam as a result of the recent Task Analysis. They hope to expand the bank of questions so exams can be administered more than twice a year.
- Ms. Snyed talked about the Curriculum Performance Assessment Tool offered to colleges and universities that have more than ten students in a Geology program. This tool uses aggregated data from student performance on the exam. This gives the school information to update programs to prepare students for practice and licensure.
- ASBOG is planning a modular prep course for the FG exam. It will be offered by domain, so exam candidates can purchase any or all modules of the course. It should be ready this summer.
- ASBOG is rebranding and updating their website to make it more user-friendly.
- Ms. Snyed asked to be kept up to date on the progress of Bill 3535. ASBOG cannot advocate for licensure, but they can educate and assist by providing information and graphics on the value of how licensure of Geology protects the public.

Board Member Reports

There were no Board member reports.

Old Business

A. Mark Stephens – Licensure Without Examination

Mr. Mark Stephens appeared before the Board for an Application Hearing. He was not represented by counsel. All persons testifying were sworn in by the court reporter. Application Hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

MOTION: To enter executive session for legal advice.
Ichimura/Fulmer/approved

MOTION: To exit executive session.
Ichimura/Fulmer/approved

MOTION: To accept Mr. Stephens application for licensure in SC.
Ichimura/Fulmer/approved

New Business

A. GIT Applications

1. Mary Kule

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the application to take the FG exam. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Daniel Manning

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the application to take the FG exam. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Justice Webb

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the application to take the FG exam. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. GEO Applications

1. William Dennis-King

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the application to take the PG exam. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Samuel Muller

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the application to take the PG exam. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Reciprocity Applications

1. Christopher Devine

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the reciprocity application. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Kevin Howell

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the reciprocity application. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Simon List

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the reciprocity application. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Mark Poole, Jr.

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the reciprocity application. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Mary Agnes Thompson

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the reciprocity application. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. **Mathew Webb**

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the reciprocity application. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. **Aaron Williamson**

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the reciprocity application. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. Endorsement Application

1. **Daphanee Nell Waters**

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the endorsement application. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

E. Reinstatement Application

1. **Joel David Lenk**

Dr. Vernon Ichimura made a motion to accept the reinstatement application. Susan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2023 Board Travel

1. Spring COE Workshop: Greenville, SC – April 13-14, 2023

MOTION: To approve one Board member and one staff member to attend the COE Workshop in Greenville, SC, on April 13-14, 2023.
Ichimura/Fulmer/approved

2. COE Annual Meeting, Administrator’s Workshop, and COE Workshop: Spokane, WA – October 23-28, 2023.

MOTION: To approve one Board member and one staff member to attend the COE Annual Meeting, Administrator’s Workshop, and COE Workshop in Spokane, WA, on October 23-28, 2023.
Ichimura/Fulmer/approved

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business,

MOTION: To adjourn.
Ichimura/Fulmer/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.