

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2019

215 Centennial Mall South, 5th Floor Small Conference Room, Lincoln, NE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Chairperson Maher called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on September 25, 2019, and on the Board's website in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Douglas Hallum, Charles Joyce, Harmon Maher, Ralph Martin, David Svingen; Absent: Andrew Grimm, Martha Link

Staff Present: Jean Lais, Administrative Assistant (AA); Sandra Weaver, Business Manager (BM)

Svingen was appointed Secretary for the meeting in Link's absence.

PUBLIC COMMENT/APPOINTMENTS

A CONSENT AGENDA

July 10, 2019 Strategic Planning Minutes

July 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Action

Motion by Hallum, second by Joyce to approve the Consent Agenda as provided. Voting Yes: Joyce, Svingen, Hallum, Martin, Maher; Voting No: None

B REPORTS

Office/Staff

AA Lais reported there were five candidates who sat for the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam and three who sat for the Practice of Geology (PG) exam on October 4, 2019.

C OLD BUSINESS

G-P08.02 Travel Policy Revision

Comments from a single item audit performed by State Accounting were provided concerning tips.

AA Lais provided revisions to the travel policy based on these comments and others to update the policy to align with the State policy as well as clarify reporting requirements.

Under *Method of Travel*, the traveling distance was revised from a *100 mile radius* to *100 miles*.

Under *Overnight Travel*, the first sentence was revised to read *Meals included in the conference fee or hotel rate cannot be reimbursed unless documentation of extenuating circumstance is provided*.

Action

Motion by Joyce, second by Martin to approve the revisions to Policy G-P08.02 as presented and discussed. Voting Yes: Joyce, Svingen, Hallum, Martin, Maher; Voting No: None

D NEW BUSINESS

ASBOG Annual Meeting – November 6, 2019 – Minneapolis MN

2020 Slate of Officers

The 2020 slate of officers includes:

President: Brenda Halminiak (WI)

President Elect: Jason Patton (AR)

Treasure: David Svingen (NE)

Secretary: Douglas Eambo (DE)

Past President: William Ernst (WA)

Action

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2019

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Motion by Hallum, second by Martin to vote in favor of the ASBOG 2020 Slate of Officers. Voting Yes: Joyce, Svingen, Hallum, Martin, Maher; Voting No: None

2020/2021 Proposed Budgets

A copy of the 2020/2021 proposed budgets were provided for review.

Action

Motion by Martin, second by Hallum to vote in favor of the ASBOG 2020/2021 Proposed Budgets. Voting Yes: Joyce, Svingen, Hallum, Martin, Maher; Voting No: None

2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

A copy of the draft 2018 annual meeting minutes were provided for review.

Action

Motion by Martin, second by Svingen to approve the 2018 ASBOG Annual Meeting Minutes. Voting Yes: Joyce, Svingen, Hallum, Martin, Maher; Voting No: None

NEBOG Annual Report to ASBOG

A copy of the report as submitted to ASBOG was provided. No action needed.

Strategic Plan

A copy of the Strategic Plan as discussed and revised at the July 2019 meeting was provided for review and approval. Members gave updates on the core course equivalencies and the PowerPoint to be used by the Board for presentations.

The Core Course Committee presented revisions to the Core Course Equivalency Chart for the members review. After discussion, the following revisions were made:

- Added Geochemistry to *Hydrogeology* with a disclaimer that additional documentation such as a course syllabus should be sent;
- Removed History of the Earth & Historical Geology from *Stratigraphy/Sedimentology/Soils*;
- Changed Tectonics to Plate Tectonics under *Structural Geology*;
- Added Groundwater Resources to *Hydrology*;
- Added notation to courses that may fall in more than one area can only be used to satisfy one of the required courses;
- Added notation to courses that may require additional documentation such as a course syllabus to determine if it meets the core course requirement;

The committee is still reviewing the core course rationale and is looking at aligning the rationale to the latest ASBOG Task Analysis.

Discussion was held on how alternative courses may be considered if the applicant believes it meets the core course criteria. This could be in the form of having the applicant identify such courses on the application and submitting a request for non-geologic degree courses to be considered by the board. If adopted, additional documentation would be required by the Board. Further board discussion will take place once the committee has finished its work on revising the rationale.

Action

Motion by Hallum, second by Joyce to approve the Committee's recommended revisions to the Core Course Equivalents. Voting Yes: Joyce, Svingen, Hallum, Martin, Maher; Voting No: None

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2019

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Chairperson Maher provided the members with the latest version of the licensing PowerPoint he has been working on. He requested the members send him any Nebraska related photos to be used to make it more relevant to the state. No action taken.

Hallum reported he gave a brief presentation at the September Nebraska Geological Society on the proposed statute revisions the Board is looking to make. There were about fifteen people in attendance. Those in attendance were requested to send any comments or questions to the Board's office.

Members were to have comments on the revisions to AA Lais by September 15, 2019. To date none have been received. The members requested AA Lais to send an email out to all licensees outlining the revisions and request comments.

AA Lais reported she has contacted ASBOG about the possibility of having the CPAT statistics aggregated for UNL and UNO. It is currently being looked into.

Action

Motion by Joyce, second by Hallum to approve the Strategic Plan as presented and updated.

Voting Yes: Joyce, Svingen, Hallum, Martin, Maher; Voting No: None

Other New Business

Proposed change to certificate specifications

The Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA) has requested the Board to consider changing the size of the licensure certificates and to possibly start using electronic signatures on both the license certificates and certificates of authorization. This request is due to the printer that is currently being used to print the license certificates is only being used for such and has reached its end of life date. The change would result in not needing to maintain a separate printer for only printing certificates, would simplify printing procedures both in the office and in the database, eliminate the need for most, if not all, stocking larger mailing envelopes, reduce postage costs, and shorten the time that licensees must wait to receive their certificates.

Members agreed to change to 8.5x11 certificates, but to hold off on the use of electronic signatures due to concerns related to conflicts of interest with individuals or organizations an individual member may have. The members asked AA Lais to look into possible ways members could be made aware when their signature may be applied to a certificate prior to the actual application.

Action

Motion by Joyce, second by Svingen to adopt the 8.5x11 certificates for license certificates. Voting

Yes: Joyce, Svingen, Hallum, Martin, Maher; Voting No: None

E COMPLIANCE - None

F APPLICATIONS

Copies of the Core Course Equivalency Chart and Rationale were provided for review.

Administratively Approved

Certificates of Authorization

Approved: Griffin Dewatering LLC, NE – CAG0104

Temporary Permits

Approved: Dale A Robl, KS – TG-609; Argonne National Labs Well Installation, York, NE

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2019

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Licensure/Examinations

Licensure from Other Jurisdictions Applications

Approved: Jason C Garnsey, KS

Action

Motion by Martin, second by Svingen to approve the applications as reviewed and discussed.

Voting Yes: Joyce, Svingen, Hallum, Martin, Maher; Voting No: None

BM Weaver entered the meeting at 3:10p

G FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Reports

Budget Status Report – July, August, September 2019

MTD General Ledger Detail Report – July, August, September 2019

Fund Summary Report – July, August, September 2019

FY 2019-20 Financial Profile – July, August, September 2019

BM Weaver reported that as of September 30, 2019, with just over 25% of the fiscal year elapsed, 29% of the appropriated funds have been spent and almost 9% of the projected revenue has been received. Expenses are typically higher in the first quarter due to the ASBOG dues being paid in this quarter. Renewal notices were mailed out on October 1 and revenue from license renewals is just beginning to come in with 45 licenses renewed to date.

The Cash Fund is at \$64,391 which is slightly under the amount of two times the annual budget as specified in Board Policy G-P08.01.

Action

Motion by Martin, second by Svingen to approve the Financial Reports as presented and discussed. Voting Yes: Joyce, Svingen, Hallum, Martin, Maher; Voting No: None

Other Financial Matters

2019-20 Mid-Biennium Budget Request

At the Board's July 2019 meeting, BM Weaver indicated a mid-biennium budget request might be necessary due to an increase in the administrative agreement contract for FY 2019-20. The contract is \$1,360 higher than projected in the 2019-2021 biennium budget request. After projecting operational expenses for the remainder of FY 2019-20, BM Weaver reported additional appropriation would not be necessary. The budget covers two members to attend the ASBOG annual meeting in November 2019 and only one is attending. The amount saved will cover the increase in the administrative agreement fee. The Board agreed that additional appropriation was not needed.

BM Weaver left the meeting at 3:22pm.

H GENERAL INFORMATION

A schedule of upcoming meetings and events was provided for review. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2020, at 215 Centennial Mall South, beginning at 1:00pm.

A roster of the Board members was provided.

Licensing and Certification Trends

Individuals and organizations authorized to practice in Nebraska as of October 2, 2019:

Professional Geologists: 308

Certificates of Authorization: 64

Temporary Permits: 1

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Other information

The website dashboard reports showed the following numbers of total visits:

July: 131

August: 141

September: 158

A copy of the approved Board Policies as of October 2, 2019, was provided for review.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Martin, second by Hallum to adjourn the meeting at 3:28pm.

The next Board of Geologists board meeting is currently scheduled for January 15, 2020, at 1:00pm at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska, fifth floor, large conference room.

J. D. Martin J.

1/29/20

Board Member

Date