

MINUTES
March 11, 2008

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors met on March 11, 2008, in Conference Room 102 at the office of the Professional Licensing Boards, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Doris I. Willmer, PE, Chairperson
Elmo A. Richardson, Jr., PE/LS
James W. Butler, LS
E. Scott Evans, Public Member
Mark E. Chastain, LS
E. Charles Vickery, PE

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

William W. Dean, PE, Vice-Chairman
Guy F. Ritter, PE
Stephen R. Richards, PE

STAFF PRESENT:

J. Darren Mickler – Board Executive Director
Julie Busbee – Application Specialist/Board Secretary
Vivian Stephens –Application Specialist

ATTORNEY GENERAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Amelia Baker, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Call to order:

At 9:40 am, Chairperson Willmer called the meeting to order and asked for any additions or deletions to the proposed agenda. Mr. Chastain requested to add to New Business, “Land Surveyor Educational Requirements.” Mr. Richardson moved to adopt the agenda as amended. Mr. Evans seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Willmer presented a draft of the February 12, 2008 minutes and asked for any additions or deletions. Mr. Richardson moved to adopt the minutes as presented. Mr. Evans seconded. Motion carried.

Guests:

Chairperson Willmer recognized the guest present:

Hardwick Butler, representing Middle Georgia College and SAMSOG

Executive Director Report:

Mr. Mickler reported that he, Chairperson Willmer and some of the other Board members have previously written articles for the Georgia Engineering Magazine. This month Mr. Mickler is writing an article on requirements for Certificate of Authorization. This article will also be posted in the newsletter on the internet. Mr. Mickler encouraged the Board members to make recommendations for future articles.

Mr. Chastain mentioned that SAMSOG is going to send out notifications to all SAMSOG members to inform them that significant changes have been made to the Minimum Technical Standards.

Old Business:

Coalition Letter from W. L. Jordan:

Mr. Mickler reported that a meeting will take place on the 27th of March in Atlanta. Mr. Dean and Mr. Randy Vaughn, Division Director will attend. Mr. Mickler tentatively plans to attend as well.

Outsourcing:

Mr. Mickler reported that he wrote an article for the Georgia Engineering Magazine on this subject.

Request Regarding Columbia County:

Mr. Butler presented a draft of a letter to respond to Columbia County regarding plat requirements. General discussion followed. Mr. Butler will contact the Columbia County Planning and Development Department to obtain their entire rule package to determine all conflicts before sending the letter. Edits will be made accordingly and Ms. Baker will review the final draft before it is sent.

Reinstatement of Expired Licenses:

This item will be moved to the April meeting as Mr. Dean was not in attendance.

New Business:

Meeting with Secretary of State and Professional Licensing Boards Division Director:

Chairperson Willmer reported that she attended a meeting on March 4, 2008 of all Board Chairs with Secretary of State Karen Handel and Professional Licensing Boards Division Director Randy Vaughn. The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Mr. Vaughn discussed plans to move the Professional Licensing Boards Division toward a “paperless system” with scanning paperwork and holding information on the Division’s computer system.
- Mr. Vaughn discussed a beta testing with the Registered Nursing Board to do electronic reviews of cases and applications. If it goes well, then other Boards will be added.
- SOS Inspector General Shawn LaGrua spoke on unlicensed practice for all Boards and a plan for investigators to issue Voluntary Cease and Desist Orders “on the spot.” If the respondent does not sign the Cease and Desist Order, they will be offered a Notice of Hearing.
- Investigations are now down to five investigators and have opened 500 new cases in the last year. They are down to 100 open cases pre-2006.

General discussion ensued regarding changes to Investigations. Chairperson Willmer suggested inviting Ms. LaGrua to the April Board meeting to discuss the needs of the PELS Board in regard to investigations.

Land Surveying Educational Requirements:

Mr. Chastain discussed education requirements for Land Surveyors with qualifying engineering, engineering technology and related sciences bachelor’s degrees. General discussion followed. Mr. Chastain will research, Mr. Mickler will request from other states their requirements, and Mr. Chastain will draft a proposed policy to present at the next Board meeting.

Executive Session:

At 10:50 am Mr. Chastain moved for the Board to enter into Executive Session to deliberate on applications and enforcement matters and to receive information on complaints and investigative reports. Mr. Richardson seconded. Motion carried.

The following Board members were present during Executive Session – Chairperson Willmer, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Evans, Mr. Butler, Mr. Chastain, and Mr. Vickery.

Reconvened Open Session at 2:15 pm with the following Board members present – Chairperson Willmer, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Evans, Mr. Butler, Mr. Chastain and Mr. Vickery.

Investigations:

Mr. Chastain moved to accept the following recommendations regarding investigative cases:

PELS050118 – This case involved allegations of negligence by a Professional Engineer. Refer case for a Peer Review, and then to Attorney General for a hearing.

PELS080048 – This case involved allegations of unlicensed practice of surveying. Recommend closing with no action.

PELS080020 – This case involved allegations of violations of Minimum Technical Standards by a Land Surveyor. Recommend issuing a Consent Order with 12 months probation, \$500 fine and public reprimand.

PELS080024 – This case involved allegations of unlicensed practice of surveying by a Professional Engineer. Recommend closing with a Letter of Concern.

PELS070045 – This case involved allegations of substandard practice of a Land Surveyor. Recommend closing case with no action as a civil matter.

PELS080034 – This case involved allegations of unlicensed practice of surveying by a Professional Engineer. Recommend issuing a Consent Order with \$500 fine, 24 months probation and public reprimand.

PELS080070 – This case involved allegations of unethical conduct of a Land-Surveyor-In-Training. Recommend closing with a Letter of Concern.

PELS060015 – This case involved allegations of assisting unlicensed practice of land surveying. Recommend obtaining a Voluntary Surrender.

PELS060079 – This case involved allegations of unlicensed practice of land surveying. Recommend referring this case to Legal Services to issue a Voluntary Cease and Desist Order and forward the case information to the Tennessee Board.

PELS060035 – This case involved allegations of substandard practice of surveying. Recommend closing the case as a civil matter with no violations found.

Accept a Voluntary Cease and Desist Order from Robert Little for unlicensed practice of land surveying.

Mr. Butler seconded. Motion carried.

Reinstatements:

Mr. Richardson moved to reinstate with the following conditions:

Reinstate with \$1000 penalty:

Wesley Godwin, PE025323
Jimmie Maples, PE025781
Thomas Newbold, PE023957
Stephen Plane, PE017864
Dale Bacik, PE019277
Murry Magness, PE014924
Michael Biller, PE024390
Dennis Boschetti, LS002715
Patrick James Creegan, PE014261

Mr. Evans seconded. Motion carried.

Board Memo Comity Model Law Applicants:

Applicants for registration as Professional Engineers by comity, who have an ABET engineering degree, who have taken and passed an 8-hour fundamentals of engineering (EIT/FE) exam, who have a minimum of 48 months post graduation engineering experience as determined by a staff evaluation using the present Board guidelines, who have taken and passed an 8-hour principles and practice of engineering exam (PE Exam-taken at least 4 years after BS degree), and who comply in every way with the provisions of the appropriate law are as follows:

32857 Hillenbrand, Stephen J.	32858 Rosini, David	32859 Andhole, Tilak M
32860 Bryant, Pamela A	32861 Burgundy, Daniel R.	32862 Dargavell, Blaine
32863 Frazier, Timothy G. II	32864 Jatko, James H.	32865 Ostbo, Bruce I.
32866 Taber, Lawrence H.	32867 Drakes, Dain R.	32868 Jenkins, Michael E.
32869 Jordan, David A.	32870 Smith, Frank J.	32871 Weiss, Leonard B.
32872 Elmore, Gregory D.	32873 Fullerton, Eric M.	32874 Kirby, Michael W.
32875 McGary, Frederick A.	32876 Figueroa-Vallines, Joel	32877 Blum, Curtis M.
32878 Cade, Mark S.	32879 Fox, Steven E.	32880 Hedgecock, Angela D.
32881 Clabaugh, Mathew M	32882 Kulp, Thomas R.	32883 Leard, David R.
32884 Nakhoda, Zak	32885 Claussen, Grant R.	32886 France, Catherine E.
32888 Robbins, Micah D.	32889 Solomon, Jody L.	32890 Wohlscheid, David C.
32981 Bethea, Patrick Lee	32892 Ellis, Britt	32893 Hatcher, David B.
32894 Leland, Simon W.	32895 Caya, Ryan E.	32896 Gilliam, Paul L.
32897 Hunter, Derek W.	32898 Richey, James D.	32899 Tajali, Gholam R.
32900 Taveggia, Janele M.	32901 Underhill, Travis J.	32902 Bell, Matthew D.
32903 Calhoun, Jason M.	32904 Halbert, Raymond E.	32905 Murphy, Anthony M.
32906 Peake, Steven R.	32907 Popoli, Albert P.	32908 Ritchie, Thomas M.
32909 Sticklely, Judith L.	32910 Thurgood, Vaughn	32911 Young, Roger C.
32912 Moody, James F.	32913 Aarons, Douglas W.	32914 Bethea, Nikole B.
32915 Amick, Charles M.	32916 Bangor, Traci L.	32917 Elliott, Mark T.
32918 Murray, Christopher M.	32919 Pickering, William D.	32920 Rinke, Brian J.
31921 Singleton, Arnold R.	32922 Zhu, Yimin	32923 Garcon, Daslin M
32924 McCain, Paul G.	32925 Dallery, Robert L.	32926 Gonzalez, Ramon M.
32927 Owen, John H.	32928 Rebhuhn, David P.	

Motion was made by Mr. Richardson to approve these applicants for PE registration by comity @ 43-15-16(a), via 43-15-8(1) and 43-15-9(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Vickery. The motion carried.

Board Memo Applications for Regular Applicants Seeking Certification as an Engineer-In-Training by Exam:

Applicant(s) for certification as Engineers-in-Training by examination whose degrees were earned in engineering or engineering technology programs which attained ABET/CAB accreditation within two years of their having received their degrees, who have filed with the Board five acceptable references, who have had no convictions for moral turpitude or substantive reasons, and who comply in every way with the provisions of the appropriate law(s), are as follows:

Alvarado, Sandra P.	Baxendell, Matthew P.	Cantoran, Joel
Fowler, Jeffrey Bryant	Gaddy, Korey A.	Goodwin, Seth Elliott
Herring, William Bradley	Mouafong, Francis T.	Myburgh, Sonneri
Palmer, Kaonis Antoine	Simile, Jayson Travis	Slappey, Alex Keith
Thomas, Shaunique LaToya		

Motion was made by Mr. Richardson to approve the above-mentioned applicant(s) for EIT certification @ 43-15-8(1) or 43-15-8(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Vickery. The motion carried.

Board Memo Applications for Senior Applicants seeking certification as an Engineer-in-Training by Exam

Applicant(s) for certification as an Engineers-in-Training by examination who are currently enrolled as seniors in ABET approved programs in schools, colleges or universities in Georgia, who have filed with the Board five acceptable references, who have had no convictions for moral turpitude or other substantive reasons, and in every way comply with the provisions of the appropriate law(s) are as follows:

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Giboney, Pierce Nathaniel	Navarro, Eddie	Velez, Melissa Katherine
Williams, Ansley Lauren		

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Cozine, Jeffrey Alan	Ramirez, Mario A.	Smith, Jarrod Michael
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SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Hodgin, Richard Stephen

Motion was made by Mr. Richardson to approve the above-mentioned applicant(s) for EIT certification @ 43-15-8(1) or 43-15-8(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Vickery. The motion carried.

Board Memo Applicants for Certification as Land Surveyors-in-Training by Exam:

Applicant(s) for certification as Land Surveyors-in-Training by examination, who are currently enrolled as senior(s) in a Land Surveying or related field in schools, colleges or universities in Georgia, who have completed the required 20 quarter hours credit, five of which are in hydrology, who have filed with the Board five acceptable references, who have had no convictions for moral turpitude or other substantive reasons, and who in every way comply with the provisions of the appropriate law(s), are as follows:

Lawrence, Justin K.

Motion was made by Mr. Richardson to approve the above-mentioned applicant(s) for LSIT certification @ 43-15-12(1) or 43-15-12(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Vickery. The motion carried.

There being no further business, at 2:35 pm, Mr. Chastain moved to adjourn. Mr. Vickery seconded. Motion carried. Some Board members remained to review applications until they were finished.

Board Chairman

Executive Director

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These minutes were approved at the April 8, 2008 meeting.