

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors met on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, in Conference Room 102 at the Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

The following Board members were present:

Mark E. Chastain, LS, Chairman
Elmo A. Richardson, Jr., PE/LS
William Womack, PE
Darien Sykes, PE
Russell Pennington, PE
Brian K. Upson, PE
Dan Davis, PE
Neil Wyche, PE
Julie Busbee, Consumer Member

Staff present:

Darren Mickler, Executive Director
Somer Stafford, Board Support Specialist
Charlotte Mason, Licensure Supervisor

Attorney General Representative:

Amelia Baker, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests present:

Kevin Berry, GSPE
Phillip Brown, SAMSOG
Leonard Gregory, Clyde Bergemann

Call to Order

At 9:44 a.m., Chairman Chastain established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Professional Societies and Guests

Chairman Chastain acknowledged the presence of Kevin Berry with GSPE, Phillip Brown with SAMSOG, and Leonard Gregory with Clyde Bergemann.

Adopt Agenda

Chairman Chastain asked members for any additions or deletions to the proposed agenda. Chairman Chastain proposed the additions of 7.1 NCEES, 7.2 Audit of CE Credits, and 7.3 ABET accreditation. Mr. Upson moved to adopt the agenda with the additions. Mr. Richardson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Chastain presented a draft of the May 12, 2015 Open Session Minutes and asked for any edits. Mr. Richardson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Davis seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Mickler went over structure and staff changes that occurred at Georgia Professional Licensing Board. He went over the Boards that now make up Trades 1 which are: PELS, Landscape Architects, Forestry, Architects and Interior Designs, and Geology. He made them aware that this should decrease the amount of applications that Trades 1 handles, thus increasing the time rendered to each Board.

Old Business:

6.1 Newspaper Committee Report

Mr. Davis announced that he will be submitting the Newsletter to Mr. Mickler for distribution by the early part of the upcoming week.

6.2 Direct Supervision Requirements

The Board started a discussion on remote supervision and decided to research how other states govern “remote supervision” and discuss it at the next meeting. Mr. Mickler will obtain a copy of Florida’s rules on this subject and share it with the Board.

New Business

7.1 NCEES

Mr. Davis and Mr. Womack briefed the Board on the NCEES meeting they attended in May. Mr. Davis made the Board aware that other states share the same concerns and issues as the Georgia Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Board. Mr. Mickler, Ms. Busbee, and Mr. Sykes will be attending the National meeting.

7.2 Continuing Education Audit

The Board discussed conducting a random audit. Mr. Mickler made the Board aware that a random 3% audit is possible. Chairman Chastain recommended to add the question “Are you in compliance” to forms. Senior Assistant Attorney General Amelia Baker informed the Board on a company that offers auditing services at no charge.

7.3 ABET Accreditation

Mr. Pennington lead a discussion about ABET accreditation. The Board decided to review the Board Policy concerning this matter and discuss further.

Executive Session

At 10:38 a.m., Mr. Richardson moved to enter into Executive Session, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h) to deliberate on applications and investigative matters and to receive an investigative report. Mr. Davis seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were those members present who included Board Chairman Mark Chastain, Dan Davis, Bill Womack, Elmo Richardson, Russ Pennington, Darien Sykes, and Julie Busbee, Neil Wyche, and Dan Davis.

At 10:38 a.m. The Board took a break; at that time, Mr. Davis, Chairman Chastain, and Senior Assistant Attorney General Amelia Baker left to conduct investigative interview(s).

The meeting resumed in the Executive Session at 10:48 a.m.

The Executive Session of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors meeting was closed at 12:02 p.m. and Chairman Chastain declared the Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to be “open” pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-1 et seq. The following Board Members were present – Board Chairman Mark Chastain, Dan Davis, Bill Womack, Elmo Richardson, Russ Pennington, Darien Sykes, and Julie Busbee, Neil Wyche, and Dan Davis. No votes were taken in Executive Session.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes

Chairman Chastain presented a draft of the May 12, 2015 Executive Session meeting minutes and asked for any additions or deletions. Mr. Richardson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Pennington seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Richardson made a motion to approve the July 27, 2015 Investigative Committee Report. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Licenses Issued Since Last Meeting

The Board reviewed a list of applicants that have been previously reviewed and approved. Mr. Upson made a motion to ratify licenses issued from May 12, 2015—August 10, 2015. Mr. Womack seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Applications

Mr. Upson moved to adopt the following recommendations regarding applications, Mr. Womack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Applicant S.T. - The Board reviewed a request for an appeal for licensure. The Board voted to uphold the previous decision and deny the request. The applicant must provide the NCEES evaluation or provide 8 years of experience to the Board.

Applicant M.M. – The Board reviewed a request for licensure. The Board voted to deny the request. The applicant must provide the NCEES evaluation or provide 8 years of experience to the Board.

Applicant E.C.- The Board reviewed a request for waiver of taking the FE Exam. The Board denied the request. The applicant is qualified to sit for the GA PE Exam once he passes the FE Exam.

Reinstatements

Mr. Upson moved to adopt the following recommendations regarding reinstatement request, Ms. Busbee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Applicant B.R.- The Board voted to approve this applicant for reinstatement upon payment of a \$1,000 reinstatement fee.

Applicant J.L. – The Board voted to approve this applicant for reinstatement upon payment of a \$1,000 reinstatement fee.

Applicant W.D.- The Board voted to approve this applicant for reinstatement upon payment of a \$1,000 reinstatement fee.

Applicant J.H.- The Board voted to approve this applicant for reinstatement upon payment of a \$1,000 reinstatement fee.

Applicant J.P.- The Board voted to deny this applicant's reinstatement request.

Applicant C.N.- The Board voted to deny this applicant's reinstatement request.

At 11:21 a.m. Mr. Davis, Chairman Chastain, and Senior Assistant Attorney General Amelia Baker returned from investigative interviews.

Mr. Davis moved to adopt the following recommendations regarding complaint cases considered by the Board during the Executive Session, Ms. Busbee seconded, the motion carried unanimously:

Board Office/Investigations:

PELS150039 - Close due to no response from complainant.

PELS150045- Renew LS and LSF license with no sanctions and close case.

PELS140023- 5 years probation imposed assessing fine in the amount of \$15, 500.

PELS150014- The Board denied the request to change consent order to private.

Investigative Committee:

The full Board voted to accept the investigative committee recommendations as reflected in the July 27, 2015 investigative committee minutes. Investigative Committee minutes accepted.

Other Discussion Item(s):

Ms. Busbee repealed the Georgia Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors **Board Policy 04-06**. The Board decided to discuss the at the next Board meeting.

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Womack moved to adjourn. Mr. Upson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Mark Chastain, Board Chairman

Darren Mickler, Executive Director