

Georgia State Board of Professional Geologists Teleconference Meeting
March 11, 2020
Open Session Minutes

A meeting of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists was held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2020** via teleconference.

Board Members:

Mr. Ken Simonton, PG
Dr. Jim Kennedy, III, PG, ex-Officio
Ms. Martha Carr, PG
Mr. James “Bubber” Epps, Consumer Member (in person)
Dr. Randy Kath, PG, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Lillian Furlow, PG, Chairperson
Mr. Ben Bentkowski, PG

Staff Members:

Mr. Darren Mickler, Executive Director
Ms. Ava Walker, Licensure Analyst
Ms. Logan Malcom, Board Support Specialist
Ms. Elizabeth Simpson, Assistant Attorney General (via phone)

Call to Order:

Chairperson Ms. Lillian Furlow established a quorum was present at 9:33 a.m. and called the meeting to order.

The Board welcomed the newest member Mr. Bubber Epps with introductions.

Open Session:

Approval of Open Session Minutes:

Chairperson Ms. Lillian Furlow presented a draft of the Open Session minutes from December 4, 2019. Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Ken Simonton seconded that motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath briefly discussed the clean-up statute language. The Board will address GIT, electronic stamp and clean up language at the beginning of 2021. Mr. Bubber Epps recommends the Board contact Sam Teasley to sponsor the clean-up.

Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath briefly discussed the ASBOG 2-week deadline, and posting the dates on the homepage of the SOS website.

Mr. Ben Bentkowski joined the teleconference.

Georgia State Board of Professional Geologists Teleconference Meeting
March 11, 2020
Open Session Minutes

Chairperson Ms. Lillian Furlow and Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath discussed developing a “Georgia Critical Issues” document (similar to Indiana Geological Survey’s document) that presents what licensed geologists do to protect public health and promote the economy (justifying licensure) possibly using University of West Georgia Resources.

Executive Director Mr. Darren Mickler is to send out the 2019 Professional Geologists status report.

Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath briefly discussed the PG CEUs, and taking an online Google survey. Once the Board approves the final survey, Board staff will email the link out to all licensed Professional Geologists. The survey will be live for approximately 30 days.

Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath spoke about the ASBOG examinations and the potential impact the coronavirus may have and testing possibilities.

Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath updated the Board on the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) Current Documents. He will provide new currents as they become available.

Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath made a motion for the Board to vote to post Board rule 265-5-.03 Licensure of Veterans and Military Spouses.. Mr. Bubber Epps seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Rule 265-5-.03 Licensure of veterans and military spouses.

(1) As used in this Rule:

- (a) “Military” means the United States armed forces, including the National Guard.
- (b) “Military spouse” means the spouse of a service member or transitioning service member.
- (c) “Geologist” means a person who is registered as a Geologist under the provisions of Chapter 19 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
- (d) “Service member” means an active or reserve member of the United States armed forces, including the National Guard.
- (e) “Transitioning service member” means a member of the military or active duty status or on separation leave who is within 24 months of retirement or 12 months of separation.

(2) Expedited applications. Effective July 1, 2017, military spouses and transitioning service members may qualify for expedited processing of a license application by showing that the applicant is a military spouse or transitioning service member and that the applicant has paid the fee and meets all requirements for a license issued under Chapter 19 of Title 43.

Georgia State Board of Professional Geologists Teleconference Meeting
March 11, 2020
Open Session Minutes

(3) Licensure by reciprocity of service members, transitioning service members, and military spouses. A service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse may qualify for a license by reciprocity where the applicant:

- (a) holds a license in good standing from another state for which the training, experience, and testing substantially meets or exceeds the requirements under Georgia law to obtain a license as a Geologist;
- (b) submits to the Board a verification of licensure from the appropriate licensing agency of another state showing that the applicant's active license is in good standing in that state;
- (c) submits documentation satisfactory to the Board which verifies the applicant's status as a service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse;
- (d) submits a completed application for licensure by reciprocity on a form approved by the Board, pays the required fee, and requests a license by reciprocity.

(4) Education, training, and experience obtained while in the military. A service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse may obtain credit for education and experience obtained while in the military that is required for licensure by Chapter 19 of Title 43 if he or she:

- (a) submits documentation of graduation from a college or university with the major and/or hourly requirements that substantially meet or exceed the requirements under Georgia law for licensure as a Geologist;
- (b) submits documentation showing years of experience doing Geology work performed under the supervision of a person whose credentials are acceptable to the Board which meet the requirements for licensure under Georgia law;
- (c) submits documentation satisfactory to the Board which verifies the applicant's status as a service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse;
- (d) submits proof of passing the examination required for licensure; and
- (e) submits a completed application on a form approved by the Board for approval to take the licensure examination or for licensure and pays the required fee.

The Board briefly discussed House Bill 733. Mr. Darren Mickler will keep the Board updated on the status of this bill.

Executive Session:

Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 10:41 a.m. in accordance with O.C.G.A. §43-1-2(k), 43-1-19(h), and 50-14-3, to deliberate on applications and investigative matters and to receive investigative reports. Mr. Ken Simonton seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Georgia State Board of Professional Geologists Teleconference Meeting
March 11, 2020
Open Session Minutes**

The Executive Session of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists meeting was closed at 11:06 a.m. and Chairperson Ms. Lillian Furlow declared the Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists to be “open” pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-1 *et seq.* No votes were taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes from the December 4, 2019 Board meeting as presented. Dr. James Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Licenses Issued December 4, 2019 – March 11, 2020:

The Board reviewed the list of applicants below that were reviewed in Executive Session and administratively approved for licensure. Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath made a motion to ratify licenses issued from December 4, 2019 – March 11, 2020. Ms. Martha Carr seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

	license No	Licensee
1	PG002314	Emily Marie Stamm
2	PG002315	Brett James Merkley
3	PG002316	Martin Daniel Crook
4	PG002317	Adam Edward Brown
5	PG002318	Michael Paul Bucari Tovo
6	PG002319	Matthew Mark Ellers
7	PG002320	Christopher Robert Gargan
8	PG002321	Chelsea Ellen Jenkins
9	PG002322	Jessica Lauren Loughman
10	PG002323	Jeremy Alan Meshew
11	PG002324	Melissa Royal Norris
12	PG002325	Donald Lynn Osborne
13	PG002326	Nicole Vermillion
14	PG002327	Meghan Michele Seremet
15	PG002328	Taylor Jake Adcock
16	PG002329	Christian Buerkle
17	PG002330	Margaret Sara Milman-Barris
18	PG002331	Kevin Edward Moon
19	PG002332	Jason Lane Whitman
20	PG002333	William Claude Messer

**Georgia State Board of Professional Geologists Teleconference Meeting
March 11, 2020
Open Session Minutes**

Applications:

PG001233 – Mr. Bubber Epps made the motion to approve the renewal application. Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath seconded, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Complaints:

GEO200001 – This complaint involves allegations of unethical conduct. Mr. Bubber Epps made a motion for the Board to refer to Secretary of State Investigations (SSI) with a list of questions for the investigator to ask the respondent, provided by Dr. Jim Kennedy. Vice Chairperson Dr. Randy Kath seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Ben Bentkowski left the teleconference at 11:02 a.m.

Attorney General Report:

Assistant Attorney General Ms. Elizabeth Simpson had no current/pending cases to present to the Board at this time.

Executive Director Report:

Executive Director Mr. Darren Mickler updated the Board that a new employee would be starting on March 16, 2020, and the potential status of the coronavirus on the SOS employees.

Other Items:

The Board confirmed 2020 Board meeting dates.

2020 Board Meeting Dates:

- March 11, 2020 - complete
- June 3, 2020
- December 2, 2020

Adjournment:

There being no further business, at 11:20 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists is scheduled for June 3, 2020 in Macon.

Minutes recorded by:

Ms. Logan Malcom, Board Support Specialist

**Georgia State Board of Professional Geologists Teleconference Meeting
March 11, 2020
Open Session Minutes**

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Mr. Darren Mickler, Executive Director

Ms. Lillian J. Furlow, Chairperson

Mr. Darren Mickler, Executive Director

Minutes Approved On: June 3, 2020