

Georgia State Board of Professional Geologists

Board Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2025

A meeting of the Georgia State Board of Professional Geologists met on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 via Webex.

<p><u>Board Members Present:</u> Edward Rooks, PG, Chairman Kurt Hausner, PG, Vice-Chairman Allison Keefer, PG Pamela Gore, PG Maurizio Centis, PG John Kittle, Consumer</p> <p><u>Attorney General Representative present:</u> Craig Pake, Assistant Attorney General</p>	<p><u>Board Staff Present:</u> Laurie Elander, Executive Director Iris Waller, Licensing Supervisor Thishilyn Stubbs, Board Support Specialist Ava Walker, Licensing Analyst</p> <p><u>Visitors:</u> None</p>
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Open Session:

At 9:34 a.m., Edward Rooks, Chairman established that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Allison Keefer made a motion for the Board to accept the agenda as presented. Pamela Gore seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Edward Rooks, Chairman presented a draft of the August 20, 2025 meeting minutes and asked for any additions or deletions. John Kittle made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Kurt Hausner, Vice-Chairman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Licenses Issued:

Kurt Hausner, Vice-Chairmen made a motion, Mauri Centis seconded, and the Board voted to ratify the licenses issued and reinstated between August 14, 2025, and October 30, 2025, in accordance with the Board Rules and Policies.

Issued

License Number	Licensee
PG002507	Hallie Meighan Kush
PG002508	James Richard Sparks
PG002509	Tristan Orndorff Halterman

Reinstated

License Number	Licensee Name
PG001516	Richard S. Keenan

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Election for Chairman and Vice- Chairman:

Mauri Centis made a motion for the Board to re-elect Edward Rooks for Chairman. Kurt Hausner, Vice-Chairman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mauri Centis made a motion for the Board to re-elect Kurt Hausner for Vice-Chairman. Allison Kefer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Edward Rooks, Chairman and Kurt Hausner Vice-Chairman gave Laurie Elander expressed permission to sign routine documents on their behalf.

2026 Proposed Meeting Dates:

The Board voted to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Dates, and to change the June 10, 2025, meeting date to June 17, 2025, all agreed, non-opposed.

2026 Meeting Dates

February 11, 2026
June 17, 2026
August 19, 2026
November 4, 2026

The Board reviewed documents shared by Randy L. Kath, Ph.D., P.G., regarding suggested statute changes, the use of Digital Stamps and Digital Signatures on documents and drawings, Geologist in Training and Continuing Education through PDH/CEUs. The Board discussed the different topics as follows:

Suggested statute changes-The Board is not proposing to change the law but feels changes can be made in the board's rules without contradicting the law. To accomplish this, the Board made the following suggestions:

- 1) Add a definition of how many semester hours are equivalent to quarter hours.
- 2) Add degree in related Geological Science.
- 3) Add a related Geological Sciences under a master's degree for credit of professional experience.

Use of Digital Stamps and Signatures: The Board agrees changes should be made to allow electronic signatures and seals to be used with proper protection.

Geologist in Training: The board agrees that the board rules for Geologist in Training should be unrepealed.

Continuing Education: Agree to begin working on continuing education requirements for the future. Committee will research continuing education requirements in other states for the Geologists. The committee is Kurt Hausner, Pamela Gore, and Maurizio Centis.

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Letter from Brad Raffensperger on the reforms in house bill 579 that was signed by Governor Brian Kemp on 5/9/2025 and becomes effective on 7/1/2026: The Board discussed the following:

- 1) Applicants can sit for the exam prior to board approval. Reviewed, no action required
- 2) Allison Keefer moved, Pamela Gore seconded and the motion was carried by the Board to give staff permission to issue license upon a recommendation of approval from the cognizant.
- 3) Renewal open 90 days prior to expiration and Joint Secretary State Rules allows 30 days for late renewal. HB 579 is proposing 45 days for late renewal after the expiration date of the license. No action is required from the Board as renewal dates are to be updated in the Joint Secretary of State rules.

Executive Session:

Allison Keefer moved, Mauri Centis seconded, and the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 11:11 a.m. in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h) to deliberate on applications and to hear the Attorney General's Report.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Edward Rooks, Chairman 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.*, at 11:27 a.m. No votes were taken in the Executive Session.

Open Session:

John Kittle moved, Allison Keefer seconded, and the motion was carried by the Board to accept the recommendations made during executive session. The recommendations made are as follows:

Executive Session Minutes: Approved August 20, 2025, Executive Session Board minutes as presented.

Applications:

4326650: Table
4326343: Approve
4322746: Table
4341964: Table
3194069: Table
3207057: Approve
4344730: Table
4347301: Approve
4352154: Table

Reinstatements:

4280960: Approve
4362845: Table

Attorney General Report

Craig Pake gave the Attorney General's report during the executive session. The Board voted to accept the report as presented.

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Executive Director's Report

The Board reviewed the Executive Director's report, which provided the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications and complaints/compliance matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists is scheduled for February 11, 2026, via Webex at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Thishilyn Stubbs, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Laurie Elander, Executive Director



Signed by Laurie Elander with the expressed permission of Edward Rooks

Edward Rooks, Chairman



Laurie Elander, Executive Director

These minutes were approved on: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A 50-14-1 et seq., requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specified exemptions relied upon. O.C.G. A. 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meetings in question.

Comes Edward Rooks the Board Chair identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and subject to penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On February 11, 2026, this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of members present voted to close the meeting or a portion hereof of the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for closure of this meeting was: O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k).
5. The subjects discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are as follows:

Applications and other personal information submitted by the applicants, information, Favorable or unfavorable, submitted by a reference source concerning an applicant; and Deliberations of the Board with respect to an application, an examination, a complaint, an Investigation, or a disciplinary proceeding.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Edward Rooks

PRESIDING OFFICER

Edward Rooks

Signed by Laurie Elander with expressed permission of Edward Rooks

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th

Day of February, 2024

[Signature]
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 1.11.2027

Iris Waller
NOTARY PUBLIC
Bibb County, GEORGIA
My Commission Expires 11/02/2027