

Nebraska Board of Geologists  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 8, 2020**

215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was held at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE. Chairperson Hallum called the meeting to order at 1:01pm and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on June 24, 2020, and on the Board's website in accordance to the Open Meetings Act.

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

**Staff Present:** Jean Lais, Business Manager (BM); Sandra Weaver, Business Manager (BM); Mia Azizah, Public Information Officer (PIO)

**PUBLIC COMMENT/APPOINTMENTS**

No members of the public were present.

**A CONSENT AGENDA**

**April 22, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

**Action**

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

**B REPORTS**

**ASBOG**

Svingen reported the July ASBOG Executive Committee meeting will be held virtually. Four testing vendors will be interviewed to determine the best candidate to assist in moving the exams to computer-based. The Committee will also be making a decision on whether to hold the Annual Meeting virtually or move forward with an in person meeting.

**Office/Staff**

BM Lais introduced Mia Azizah, the new Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA) Public Information Officer. She started with the boards on July 6<sup>th</sup> and replaces Molly Mayhew who left in June. She also reported BM Weaver's last day with the boards will be July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Board presented her with a plaque in appreciation of her service during the discussion of Financial Matters. BM Lais was named as her replacement. As a result, the NBEA is currently in the process of hiring an Administrative Assistant to fill her previous position. The new candidate should be hired in the next week or two.

She also reported the NBEA has begun contract preparation and negotiations with a new vendor to convert the current database to a new system.

**C OLD BUSINESS**

**ASBOG**

***Exam Registration Deferrals***

Correspondence from ASBOG regarding the decision to not hold "make-up" exams in June to replace the cancelled March exams due to COVID-19. Plans are moving forward to hold the exams in October as scheduled.

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**Legislative**

***Geologist Regulation Act Revisions***

Responsible Charge - Direct Supervision Review

At the April meeting Svingen and BM Lais were charged with reviewing the use of *responsible charge* and *direct supervision* in the ASBOG Model language and in the Geologists Regulation Act. A summary of their review and recommendations was included for review and discussion.

The following revisions were made:

81-3520(3) Added ...shall have had *responsible charge and/or...*

81-3530(1) Deleted

81-3530(2) Renumbered, changed *professional geologist* to *licensee*, changed *his or her* to *their*, added *in responsible charge*, deleted *or issued by*

Full revised language: *A licensee shall affix their seal and signature on geologic reports, documents, maps, plans, logs, and sections, or other public records offered to the public and prepared in responsible charge or under the direct supervision of the licensee.*

Summary of Changes from April Meeting

BM Lais provided a summary of the revisions made to the proposed language based on discussion at the April meeting. While incorporating the revisions, several other items needing revision were discovered. She also requested the members look at the definitions for *Geologist* and *Professional Geologist* as the current definitions appear to mean the same.

After discussion ...as provided in section 81-3539 was deleted from 81-3509.

Proposed Revisions Draft

A copy of the proposed revisions incorporating all items discussed at the April meeting and recommended above was provided for review. In addition, the revisions made during this meeting are incorporated into the attached draft.

The next step is to send the revisions to the bill writers to be drafted for introduction. Once received, BM Lais will send the draft to Chairperson Hallum and Maher to coordinate the securing a sponsor for the bill and any lobbying efforts that may need to be made.

**Action**

Motion by Maher, second by Svingen to approve the revisions and send to the bill writers as amended. Voting Yes: Joyce, Link, Svingen, Maher, Hallum; Voting No: None

**Other Old Business**

***Governor's One Stop Portal Update***

At the April meeting, the members directed BM Lais to contact the Governor's office regarding having the certificate of authorization requirement added to the Portal. Correspondence from his office was included on the project for review.

**D NEW BUSINESS**

**Strategic Plan**

A copy of the Strategic Plan was provided for review.

Svingen suggested a list of Nebraska licenses/former Board members currently serving on ASBOG committees be added to the Progress Report under *Continued Cooperation with ASBOG*. He is currently serving on the Executive Committee. Joyce is on the Uniformed Procedures and Outreach

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committee. Dennis Anderson (former board member) is currently serving on a committee. BM Lais will contact ASBOG to get a complete list.

**ASBOG Meetings – November 3-7, 2020 – Madison WI**

***Approval of Delegates to the Administrator’s Workshop, Annual Meeting, and COE Workshop***

The meetings may be held virtually this year due to COVID-19. The ASBOG Executive Committee will be making a decision at its July Board Meeting. In case the meetings are to be held in person, attendees and the voting delegate still need to be determined at this meeting. BM Lais informed the members, that if the meetings are held in person, but the Governor has not lifted the travel ban, the Board will not be able to reimburse any related expenses if an individual decides to attend. This does not prevent a person from attending and paying their own way.

As the new Administrative Assistant has not been hired yet, the Board approved one staff member to attend the Administrator’s Workshop and the Annual Meeting. Link and Chairperson Hallum were approved to attend the ASBOG Annual Meeting. Chairperson Hallum and Joyce were approved to attend the COE Workshop.

**Action**

Motion by Maher, second by Link to approve one staff member to attend the ASBOG Administrator’s Workshop and the Annual meeting; Link and Chairperson to attend the Annual Meeting; and Chairperson Hallum and Joyce to the COE Workshop. Voting Yes: Joyce, Link, Svingen, Maher, Hallum; Voting No: None

***Selection of Voting Delegate to the Annual Meeting – November 4, 2020***

Link was selected to be the voting delegate at the Annual Meeting with Chairperson Hallum as the alternate delegate.

**Action**

Motion by Link, second by Maher to approve Link as the Voting Delegate with Chairperson Hallum as the alternate at the ASBOG Annual Meeting. Voting Yes: Joyce, Link, Svingen, Maher, Hallum; Voting No: None

**E COMPLIANCE - None**

**F APPLICATIONS**

**Core Course Equivalency Chart and Rationale**

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

**Licensure/Examinations**

***Licensure from Other Jurisdictions Applications***

**Approved:** Christopher P Berg, MT; Joseph J Reedy, NE; Daniel E Robinson, CO

***Licensure by Experience Applications***

**Approved:** Marc A Reeves, PA; Mark R Sandfort, MO; Steven S Sibray, NE; William M Turner, NM

***PG Exam Applications***

**Approved:** Jeffrey A Carritt, NE; Aaron T Ochsner, NE; Michele M Waszgis, NE

**Action**

Motion by Maher, second by Svingen to approve the applications as presented and reviewed. Voting Yes: Joyce, Link, Svingen, Maher, Hallum; Voting No: None

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*BM Weaver entered the meeting at 1:40pm.*

**G FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Financial Reports**

***Budget Status Report – April, May, June 2020***

***MTD General Ledger Detail Report – April, May, June 2020***

***Fund Summary Report – April, May, June 2020***

***FY 2019-20 Financial Profile – April, May, June 2020***

BM Lais reported that as of June 30, 2020, with the fiscal year completed, 95.88 % of the appropriated expenses were expended and 86.13% of the projected revenue was received. The lower expenses were due in part to lower travel expenses since the ASBOG Spring COE Workshop being canceled and the April Board meeting was held virtually.

The Cash Fund was at \$70,575.84 which is \$988.73 lower than the same time last year. As this is a rollover year for appropriations it is estimated this year's rollover will be approximately \$4570. This will be available for use during the 2020-21 fiscal year.

It was noted expenses have decreased over the last couple of years and revenue is holding steady with no major changes.

**Action**

Motion by Joyce, second by Link to approve the Financial Reports as presented and discussed.

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

**Other Financial Matters**

***Auditor of Public Accounts July 2018-December 2019 Audit***

A copy of the Exit Conference Agenda Findings and the Final Attestation Report from the audit were provided for review. The only issue noted in the Exit Conference Agenda was an instance with the correct back up information was not saved related to travel of a member who choose an alternate method than the less expensive method. This is not included in the Final Attestation Report which is now posted on the Auditor of Public Accounts' website.

***2021-23 Biennium Budget Request Narrative Draft***

A copy of the draft narrative was provided for review and discussion. The draft must be entered into the budget request system by August 3, 2020.

***ASBOG Agreement for Providing Examinations Extension***

This extends the agreement between ASBOG and the NEBOG for access to the FG and PG examinations until June 30, 2022. All other terms of the agreement remain the same.

**Action**

Motion by Link, second by Maher to approve the ASBOG Agreement for Providing Examinations Extension. Voting Yes: Joyce, Link, Svingen, Maher, Hallum; Voting No: None

*BM Weaver left the meeting at 2:00pm.*

**H GENERAL INFORMATION**

A schedule of upcoming meetings and events was provided for review. A meeting was scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm to review and approval the 2021-2023 Biennium Budget Request which is due to be submitted no later than September 15, 2020 and hold strategic planning session. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2020, at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, beginning at 1:00pm.

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A roster of the Board members was provided along with a copy of re-appointment notice of Joyce. His term expires on February 28, 2025.

**Licensing and Certification Trends**

Individuals and organizations authorized to practice in Nebraska as of July 1, 2020:

Professional Geologists: 292

Certificates of Authorization: 65

Temporary Permits: 1

**Other information**

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

April: 159

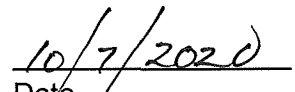
May: 162

June: 167

A copy of the approved Board Policies as of October 9, 2019 was provided for review.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:03pm by Joyce.

  
Boada Member

  
Date