

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Notes – July 12, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held at 215 Centennial Mall S, Lincoln, Nebraska. Chairperson Martin called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star and the Board's website in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Douglas Hallum, Charles Joyce, Harmon Maher, Ralph Martin, Michael O'Hara, Jeffrey Seymour;
Absent: Nancy Mann

Staff Present: Jean Lais, Administrative Programs Officer (APO); Josh Frerking, Public Information Officer (PIO)

PUBLIC COMMENT/APPOINTMENTS

No members of the public were present.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

[April 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion by Hallum, second by Maher to approve the consent agenda. Voting Yes: Joyce, Maher, Seymour, O'Hara, Hallum, Martin; Voting No: None; Absent: Mann

B. MEETING REPORTS

[Nebraska Geological Society](#)

Hallum reported the Society's field took place at the beginning of May and included sites around Omaha and the metro area. Elections will take place this summer for vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

[ASBOG Spring COE Workshop](#)

Joyce attended the workshop. There will be a special workshop to develop structural geology questions for upcoming exams. Jack Werner with Test Inc is retiring, therefore, ASBOG has started the process of contracting with another psychometrician for the exams. ASBOG is also looking at ways and methods that may streamline the post-exam process to shorten the result release time.

Now that the exams have been converted to computer-based, there is an opportunity to possibly use alternate question types instead of using all multiple choice. ASBOG has begun the process of reviewing the current question bank to determine which ones may be converted.

[Office/Staff](#)

APO Lais reported Diana Stahlnecker began in April as the new Administrative Programs Officer I (APO). She also reported work continues on the new database conversion with the development stage starting with the landscape architect applications.

C. OLD BUSINESS

ASBOG – None

Legislative

[LB16 Universal Licensing Update](#)

The committee members reported no action or work has taken place to date. APO Lais reported she has sent materials that may be helpful when speaking with the senators. She also reminded the members, staff is available to attend meetings or answer any administrative or procedural questions that may arise.

Other Old Business – None

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D. NEW BUSINESS

ASBOG

[ASBOG Annual Meetings & Fall Council of Examiners \(COE\) Workshop, October 23-27, 2023, Spokane, WA](#)
Initial information regarding the ASBOG Annual Meetings and Fall COE Workshop was provided. The schedule of events includes:

- Administrator Workshop – October 24, 2023
- Annual Meeting – October 25-26, 2023
- COE Workshop – October 26-28, 2023

[Selection of Delegates to Administrator Workshop and Annual Meeting, October 23-26, 2023](#)

[Selection of Delegates to the Fall COE Workshop, October 25-27, 2023](#)

APO Stahlnecker was approved to attend the Administrator’s Workshop and Annual Meeting. Chair Martin and Joyce were selected as delegates to the Annual Meeting. Joyce was selected as the voting delegate, with Chair Martin as the alternate.

Chair Martin and Mann were approved to attend the COE Workshop. Maher was approved as an alternate.

Motion by Maher, second by Seymour, to approve Stahlnecker to attend the ASBOG Annual Administrator Workshop and Annual Meeting in Spokane WA, October 24-26, 2023; Martin and Joyce to attend the ASBOG Annual Meeting, October 25-26, 2023, with Joyce selected as the voting delegate; and Martin and Mann were approved to attend the COE Workshop, October 26-28, 2023. Voting Yes: Joyce, Maher, Seymour, O’Hara, Hallum, Martin; Voting No: None; Absent: Mann

[ASBOG Exam Registration Information](#)

On June 6, 2023, ASBOG announced changes to the exam registration process based on lessons learned and candidate feedback during the March exam administration. Registration is now available on a continuous basis allowing candidates to receive registration information and the ability to schedule appointments as soon as their information is uploaded into the Prometric system if the Board so chooses. Approval validity can be monitored using the *Valid Thru* date entered when the candidate is uploaded.

Prometric has implemented seat blocking at most of its centers to help ensure seats are available at a candidate’s desired test center. Any seats remaining will be released ten days prior to the scheduled exam. Due to a high volume of exams across all professions and exam types being offered in October, ASBOG has extended the exam window to include Friday, October 6th, and Monday, October 9th.

Motion by Joyce, second by Hallum, to upload exam approvals into the Prometric system upon Board approval. Voting Yes: Joyce, Maher, Seymour, O’Hara, Hallum, Martin; Voting No: None; Absent: Mann

Other New Business

[Strategic Plan Review](#)

[Staff Summary and Review](#)

Staff provided a summary and review of the current strategic plan approved in October 2020. APO Stahlnecker has been reviewing the Strategic Plan and has several recommendations along with some literature she has created for the Board’s review and approval.

[Mission Statement and Operating Philosophy](#)

Staff is not recommending any changes in the Mission Statement and Operating Philosophy.

[Student Outreach](#)

Staff has requested a current copy of the student presentation approved in April 2020. With Maher going off the Board, the new education member will be responsible for keeping the presentation updated and ensuring the office has a current copy when updated. Maher will work on updating the presentation with the new exam

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blueprint and hand it off to the new education member once appointed. He will also forward a copy to the office.

After discussion, the members directed staff to explore presentation options and associated costs if staff were to conduct and bring to the October meeting.

A brochure was started that outlines the requirements for becoming a professional geologist in Nebraska. The members directed staff to complete work on the brochure and bring a draft to the October Meeting.

The members also discussed creating on-demand presentations. PIO Frerking will work up some estimates and ideas and bring them to the October meeting.

Professional and Public Education

A half-sheet flyer was created in 2017 with information on the Board, licensing, and the practice of geology in Nebraska. This was initially used during the Annual GSA Meeting that year. The members provided some edits to update agency names and requirements.

APO Stahlnecker has done some research and came across eleven organizations who state they offer geological services in Nebraska, but do not hold a current certificate of authorization. She is recommending letters be sent out outlining the requirements. The members directed staff to check to see if any of the organizations have an engineering certificate of authorization. They also directed that language be added that the Board recognizes some geologic work may be performed by engineers and, if so, to let the Board know so it could be so noted. She has also designed a brochure treating geologic companies about the benefits of hiring professional geologists.

APO Stahlnecker is also willing to restart the newsletter or similar communication with assistance from the PIO. A committee was formed in 2020, but no work was ever done. No discussion was held.

Common Practice Areas and Cooperative Agreements

No work has been done in this area outside of identifying common practice areas and agencies/organizations that may interact with professional geologists.

Continued Cooperation with ASBOG

No changes are being recommended in this area.

Core Course Equivalency Chart Revisions

The Core Course Equivalency Chart was updated in 2020. Revisions on the rationale were put on hold until the next ASBOG Task Analysis was completed. The analysis has now been completed and written into the exam blueprints. As the Task Analysis made only minor adjustments in the area percentages, the Board determined no revisions are needed to the rationale at this time. A note will be added with the date that Board did review and determined no revisions were needed.

Geologists Regulation Act Review

Revisions to the Act were approved by the Board in July 2020, yet no movement has been made to find a sponsor to introduce the bill in the legislature. Staff is recommending the revisions be implemented to clarify requirements and reduce confusion among applicants. A copy of the last bill drafter revision was provided. Due to staff constraints, finding a sponsor and lobbyist need to be carried out by the Board members or the Nebraska Geological Society (NGS). Staff would be available to attend meetings and answer any procedural or administrative questions.

The members requested staff to work on any additional revisions that may be needed and bring to the October meeting.

Creation of an Exam on the Act and Rules

The exam was presented to the Board in October 2020, but was never approved. This will require statute and rules revisions before being implemented.

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Overall revisions requested included removing the Progress Report section from each of the areas and incorporating them into the Action Plans as appropriate and taking a general approach in researching further options and bring them to the October meeting.

Frerking left the meeting at 2:30p

Electronic Signatures in New Database

During the discovery phase for landscape architects, staff was informed the new database is programmed to provide a license certificate utilizing electronic signatures with the approval notice. While the team has indicated there may be alternatives, they have not been provided to date. Further discussion will take place once options are made available.

Board Meeting Days

Chair Martin requested the Board consider changing the date of the meetings as he currently has a conflict on Wednesdays. Staff is also requesting consideration in changing the date due to reoccurring issues over the last year with having to reschedule meetings after they are noticed due to not having a quorum.

After discussion, it was decided not to change the day of the meeting. Requested invites be sent out.

E. COMPLIANCE – None

F. APPLICATIONS

The Core Course Equivalence Chart and Rationale were provided.

Administratively Approved

Certificates of Authorization

Approved: CAG0120 Professional Engineering Consultants PA

Temporary Permits – *None*

Licensure/Examinations

Licensure from Other Jurisdictions

Approved: Alexandra Rose Richards, Kelsee Meshell Wheeler

Licensure by Experience – *None*

Licensure by Reinstatement – *None*

FG Exam Approvals

Approved: James Bredin Lowe, Nakita Sitara Nouth-Chea, Spencer Douglas Schmidt

FG/PG Exam Approvals

Approved: Rory James Martin

PG Exam Approvals

Approved: Jacob Ryan Kokesh, Bryan Nicholas Lucke, Brett Anthony Pertunen

Motion by Hallum, second by Seymour to approve the applications as reviewed and discussed. Voting Yes: Joyce, Maher, Seymour, O'Hara, Hallum, Martin; Voting No: None; Absent: Mann

G. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Reports – April, May, June

Budget Status Report

MTD General Ledger Detail Reports

Fund Summary Reports

FY22-23 Financial Profile

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APO Lais reported that just under 72% of the appropriated expenditures were used in FY2022-23 and 93% of the projected revenue was received. As FY2023-24 is the first year in the new biennium, any services provided in June and paid for in July will be encumbered and made available in FY2023-24. Currently, it appears there will be June postage and e-commerce expenses that will be encumbered.

Other Financial Matters

FY2023-24 Budget Status-Initial

APO Lais provided a spreadsheet showing the initial FY2023-24 Budget Status numbers. As the administrative service contract was higher than anticipated, funds were moved from Board and Lodging to cover the difference. The Board will need to monitor other costs to ensure funds are available.

Motion by O’Hara, second by Hallum to approve the financial reports as presented. Voting Yes: Joyce, Maher, Seymour, O’Hara, Hallum, Martin; Voting No: None; Absent: Mann

H. GENERAL INFORMATION

A schedule of upcoming meetings and events was provided. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska, in the fifth-floor conference room. April 3rd was chosen for the April 2024 meeting.

Trends in Licensure

Numbers as of July 5, 2023

Professional Geologists	300
Certificates of Authorization	68
Temporary Permits.....	1

Other Information

The ASBOG exam results from the March 2023 administration were provided.

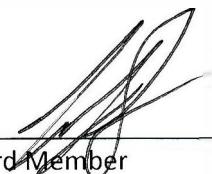
Website Dashboard Report

March Total Visits.....	664
April Total Visits	203
May Total Visits	249
June Total Visits.....	297

The top landing page is consistently the *Initial Licensure* page.
The approved Board policies as of January 20, 2021, were provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hallum, second by O’Hara to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m.



Board Member

10-4-23

Date