

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2024, 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 Mann called the meeting to order at 1:03 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: Nancy Mann, Chairperson; Jeffrey Seymour, Vice-Chairperson; Douglas Hallum; Cara Burberry; Michael O'Hara; Absent: Charles Joyce, Ralph Martin

Staff Present: Jean Lais, Administrative Programs Officer (APO).

PUBLIC COMMENT/APPOINTMENTS

A. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mission Statement and Operating Philosophy

The mission statement and operating philosophy were reviewed. No revisions were made.

Student Outreach

No revisions were made to the section.

Professional and Public Education

Discussion was held regarding developing a letter to be sent to all senators before the 2025 legislative session and newly elected senators each year thereafter. APO will bring a draft letter to the October meeting. The letter was also added to the section's Action Plan.

Joyce entered the meeting at 1:20 pm

Common Practice Areas and Cooperative Agreements

The following agencies and organizations were added to the list of other state boards and commissions that may interact in crossover practice areas:

- Nebraska Oil & Gas Conservation Commission
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln's School of Natural Resources Conservation and Survey Division

The *Public Water Supply* division is now under the Department of Environment and Energy.

Continued Cooperation with ASBOG

No revisions were made to the section.

Core Course Equivalency Chart Revisions

Updates included when a review will be conducted. Discussion was held as to whether to include Geophysics and where it is not currently listed as a content topic on the ASBOG exams. The members requested the topic be added to the January 2025 meeting agenda. A yearly review for the chart and rationale will be conducted at the April meeting go forward.

Geologists Regulation Act Revision Review

Revisions to the Act have been drafted, and the Board plans to introduce them during the 2025 Legislative session. The revisions have been sent to the Revisor of Statutes to put them in legislative draft form.

Discussion was held on which senators should be contacted for possible sponsorship. Senators suggested included Mike Jacobsen, Danielle Conrad, John Arch, and John Cavanaugh. Hallum will contact Jacobsen and let the Board know his response.

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Work has begun on the associated rules, which will be promulgated after the passage of the Act revisions and added to the section.

The section was updated to reflect the statute revisions have been completed and work has begun on finding a sponsor.

Creation of An Exam on the Act and Rules

A draft exam was created in 2020 but put on hold as the requirement needs to be added to the statutes before it can be implemented. Based on the current revisions, the exam content will be reviewed for possible revisions after the statute and rules revisions are completed.

Motion by Seymour, second by Hallum, to adopt the revisions to the Strategic Plan as discussed. Voting Yes: Burberry, Hallum, Joyce, O'Hara, Seymour, Mann; Voting No: None; Absent: Martin

B. 2025-2027 BIENNIUM BUDGET REQUEST

An overview of the budget request process was provided, and the spreadsheet used. APO Lais outlined the issues addressed in the request. These include a projected 3% increase in the administrative services contract with the Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA), a decrease in alignment in the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) fees, and an increase in travel expenses.

Board Policy G-P08.01 states that the Board will strive to maintain the cash fund at two times the annual budget. In 2019, the Board lowered and eliminated fees as the Fund exceeded this level. However, due to lower-than-projected revenue in the last four fiscal years, the Fund has decreased at a faster-than-anticipated rate. As a result, the Board will adjust fees in the next biennium to bring the Fund back in line with the policy. Three scenarios were reviewed as recommended by staff. The following fees were approved to be implemented in FY2025-26.

- License Renewals Fees \$100
- Late Renewal Fees \$10/month up to \$100
- Certificate of Authorization Application Fee \$200
- Certificate of Authorization Renewal Fee \$200
- Temporary Permit Application Fee \$250
- Reciprocal License Application Fee \$150

The members requested APO Lais to bring the Rules revisions needed to implement to the October meeting to start the promulgation process with the hopes of having the fees approved by July 1, 2025.

AP0 Lais informed the members that there will be an additional issue related to a Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS) scanning requirement for online and Point of Sale (POS) transactions that will go into effect in March 2025. The estimated yearly cost is \$500.00.

The overall request is \$40,294 for FY2025-26 and \$40,862 for FY2026-27. That is an approximate 18% and 19.5% increase, respectively, over the FY2024-25 appropriated expenses and a 1.4% from FY2025-26 to FY2026-27.

Motion by Joyce, second by Seymour, to approve the 2025-2027 Biennium Budget Request as presented and discussed. Voting Yes: Burberry, Hallum, Joyce, Martin, O'Hara, Seymour, Mann; Voting No: None

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Mann adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Board Member