

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2025, 1:15 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 1:25 p.m. and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Per the Open Meetings Act, a meeting notice was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on December 31, 2024, and on the Board's website.

Roll Call: Nancy Mann, Chairperson; Jeffrey Seymour, Vice-Chairperson; Cara Burberry; Douglas Hallum; Michael O'Hara; Absent: Charles Joyce, Secretary; Ralph Martin

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

Burberry was appointed secretary in Joyce's absence.

PUBLIC COMMENT/APPOINTMENTS

A. CONSENT AGENDA

[October 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes](#)

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

B. MEETING REPORTS

[2024 ASBOG Annual Meetings and Fall COE Workshop Recaps](#)

Chairperson Mann gave a recap of the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Annual Meeting and Fall Council of Examiners (COE) Workshop. Licensure in Virginia is under attack, and the national geologic societies are working with the Virginia board and the legislature.

ASBOG is working with professors to create exam items for the FG exam to expand the item bank. With four computer-based testing (CBT) administrations given, it is looking to possibly add a third exam window. CBT allows for a faster return of results and better metrics. However, item banks for both the FG and PG need to be expanded before this can occur.

Since CBT allows for a faster return of results and better metrics, ASBOG may be able to conduct only one COE to review new items along with problematic items.

Jack Warner, a psychometrician, will retire at the end of 2025. Deana Smead and Randy will also retire at the end of 2026. The process of selecting a new psychometrician has begun.

[Nebraska Geological Society](#)

The next meeting of the NGS will be on February 20, 2025, in Lincoln. The location is yet to be determined.

[Office/Staff](#)

APO Lais informed the members Cole Gressley started with the Board of Engineers and Architects on December 16, 2024. He replaced Diana Stahlnecker, who left the agency in November.

The first cycle of license renewals in the new database is going well. There were a couple of issues, but they were resolved quickly. Staff and the development team are starting to work on moving the certificates of authorization into the new system. Exam and license applications will be moved later in the spring.

C. OLD BUSINESS

Legislative

Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Title 171 NAC – Chapter 1 Revisions

Motion by O'Hara, second by Hallum, to adopt the revisions to Title 171 NAC, Chapter 1. Voting Yes: O'Hara, Seymour, Burberry, Hallum, Mann; Voting No: None; Absent: Joyce, Martin

Geologist Regulation Act Revisions Update

Senator Jacobson introduced the revisions to the Geologists Regulation Act approved by the Board in July 2024 as Legislative Bill 38 (LB38). The bill has been referred to the Natural Resources Committee, and no hearing date has been scheduled yet.

Once a hearing has been scheduled, Chairperson Mann will select a member to represent the Board if she is not available. It was also highly suggested that a representative from the Nebraska Geological Society testify.

O'Hara made a few suggested edits to the bill as follows:

- Page 6/Lines 16-18 – There appears to be a conflict with the existing language in Lines 26-26 – The suggested revision is to replace the word “replacement” with “replaced”. The revision in the bill could be construed that the person replacing the expired member, would serve a term of five years from the date of their appointment. That is not the case. Terms expire on the last day of February in the fifth year of the term. After discussion, it was suggested that the new language in Lines 16-18 be struck and replaced with the struck-out language in Lines 11-12.
- Page 10/Line 9 – The suggestion was to delete the new word “oath” and replace it with “oath or affirmation”. After discussion, the members agreed the revision should be made.
- Page 11/Line 4 – The question was raised as to why the removal of “per year” was removed related to the certificate of authorization fee. After discussion, no revision was made.
- Page 29/Line 20 – The suggestion was to replace the colon after the word “aggregate” with a semicolon. After the discussion, the members agreed the revision should be made.
- Page 29/Lines 18-20 – The question was raised as to whether rare earth elements are captured by the definition in Section § 81-3541(1)(b) of precious and nonprecious minerals. To clarify, a revision may be needed by inserting “but not limited to” between the words “including” and “sand” in Line 20. After discussion, the members agreed the revision should be made.

Motion by O'Hara, second by Seymour, to send the revisions to Senator Jacobson's office to have the revisions considered. Voting Yes: O'Hara, Seymour, Burberry, Hallum, Mann; Voting No: None; Absent: Joyce, Martin

Other Old Business – None

D. NEW BUSINESS

Legislative

Boards and Commissions Survey Submittal

A copy of the *Boards and Commissions Survey* response was provided. The survey is conducted every four years to update the Legislature on the activities of state boards and commissions.

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2025, 1:15 p.m.
215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE

Platte Institute Correspondence

A copy of correspondence from the Platte Institute outlining its priorities for the 2025 legislative session was provided. One of its priorities is to advocate for increasing public membership on licensing boards and implement sunrise reviews to ensure licensing requirements are necessary and fair.

Introduced Bills of Interest

A copy of the introduced bills of interest to the Board was provided.

- **LB29** would revise the mandatory rules and regulations required in the Occupational Board Reform Act from five to three years to be completed by June 30th. The responsible standing committee would be required to submit their report by December 31st.
- **LB38** – Revisions to the Geologists Regulation Act
- **LB190**—Provides duties for the Legislative Performance Audit Committee—The bill would require all agencies to undergo a performance audit every five years.
- **LB221** – Provides a procedure to fill unfilled gubernatorial appointments.
- **LB261** – 2025-27 Biennium Budget Bill – The Governor’s recommendation does not include the additional travel expenses requested to hold a board meeting in Western Nebraska.
- **LB317** – Merges the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environment and Energy to create the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment.
- **LB346** – Provides for the termination of boards, commissions, committees, councils, funds, panels, task forces, and acts, and eliminates funds, and powers and duties of departments and agencies. The Board of Geologists is not included in the bill.
- **LB472** – Adopts the Regulatory Management Act
- **LB565** – Provides and changes requirements related to agency guidance documents.
- **LB634** – Adopts the Legislative Sunset Review Act. The Act would require a sunset review of agencies every five years.
- **LB664** – Changes the Administrative Procedures Act to require agencies to allow for public comment and submissions on proposed rules and regulations and change the permissible venue for civil actions challenging rules and regulations.
- **LB696** – Changes to the Professional Landscape Architects Act

After discussion, Chairperson Mann, Vice-Chairperson Seymour, and Hallum were chosen to review and act on the Board’s behalf as they see fit once the above bills have been scheduled for hearings.

Motion by O’Hara, second by Hallum, to appoint Chairperson Mann, Vice-Chairperson Seymour, and Hallum to review and act on the Board’s behalf on the listed introduced bills. Voting Yes: O’Hara, Seymour, Burberry, Hallum, Mann; Voting No: None; Absent: Joyce, Martin

ASBOG

ASBOG Spring COE Workshop, April 10-12, 2025, Roanoke, VA

Burberry and Seymour were approved to attend the ASBOG Spring Council of Examiners (COE) Workshop, April 10-12, 2025, in Roanoke, VA.

Motion by Hallum, second by O’Hara, to approve Burberry and Seymour to attend the 2025 ASBOG Spring COE Workshop. Voting Yes: O’Hara, Seymour, Burberry, Hallum, Mann; Voting No: None; Absent: Joyce, Martin

Other New Business

[Strategic Plan Review](#)

A copy of the current Strategic Plan and the final senator letter packet were provided. The letter was sent to all state senators on December 20, 2024.

[Documenting Your Geologic Experience Guidelines Review](#)

At the October 2024 meeting, the members expressed the desire to review the *Documenting Your Geologic Experience Guidelines*. A copy of the current guidelines was provided.

The review of the guidelines was tabled until the April 2025 to be reviewed with the other items reviewed on an annual basis. No action was taken

E. COMPLIANCE – None

F. APPLICATIONS

The Core Course Equivalency Chart and Rationale were provided.

Administratively Approved

[Certificates of Authorization](#)

Approved: CAG0123 Geo Solutions Inc, CAG0124 Korus Geo Insight LLC

[Temporary Permits - None](#)

Licensure/Examinations

[Licensure from Other Jurisdictions](#)

Approved: Kristina Lynn Anderson, Jeremiah C Hilliard, Jeffrey Lee Hull, Mark Steven Zellman

[Licensure by Experience - None](#)

[Licensure by Reinstatement - None](#)

[FG Exam Approvals](#)

Approved: Kevin Richard Branigan, Emily Catherine Copple, Jonathan William Kinkade, Jason Christopher Yuill

[FG/PG Exam Approvals](#)

Approved: Joshua Tucker Celestine, Seth Andrew Chamberlain

[PG Exam Approvals](#)

Approved: Cole Roger Slupski

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

G. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Reports – October, November, December

[Budget Status Report](#)

[MTD General Ledger Detail Reports](#)

[Fund Summary Reports](#)

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2025, 1:15 p.m.
215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE

FY24-25 Financial Profile

APO Lais reported that as of December 31, 2024, 50.4% of the fiscal year elapsed, 51.23% of the appropriated expenses had been used, and 73.57% of the projected revenue had been received. The Cash Fund was \$59,440.75, which is \$6,056 lower than last year.

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

Other Financial Matters

2025-2027 Biennium Budget Bil

A copy of LB261, the 2025-2027 biennium budget bill, was provided. The Governor’s recommendation does not include the additional travel expenses requested related to holding one board meeting a year in Western Nebraska. Discussion was held as to whether other funds could be moved around to still allow. One suggestion was to send only one member to the ASBOG Annual meetings and COE workshops.

The Appropriations Committee recommendation has not been released. It was determined that the Board would not pursue the additional funds if the committee’s recommendation did not include them. As a result, staff will submit a letter of support to the Committee before the hearing.

The requested appropriations were \$40,591 in FY2025-26 and \$41,159 in FY2026-27.

H. GENERAL INFORMATION

A schedule of upcoming meetings and events was provided. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at 215 Centennial Mall Sout, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Trends in Licensure

Numbers as of January 7, 2025

Professional Geologists	278
Certificates of Authorization	63
Temporary Permits.....	0

Other Information

ASBOG 2024 Fall Exam Pass/Fail Reports

The results from the October 2024 FG and PG exams were provided.

The approved Board policies as of October 9, 2024, were provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Seymour, second by Burberry, to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Board Member