

Nebraska Board of Geologists  
**Strategic Planning Minutes**  
July 10, 2019

215 Centennial Mall South, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Small Conference Room, Lincoln, NE

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was held at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Chairperson Maher called the meeting to order at 8:31am and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on June 26, 2019, and on the Board's website in accordance to the Open Meetings Act.

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

**Staff Present:** Jean Lais, Administrative Assistant (AA)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public were present.

**A CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW**

***Review of Current Mission Statement***

The Mission Statement and Operating Philosophy were revised to read as follows:

The Board assures geological practices in Nebraska are carried out by qualified individuals to safeguard life, health, property, and to promote the public welfare. The Mission is carried out by:

- Assuring that those who serve the public through the practice of geology have the education and experience needed to be competent in the field;
- Enforcing the Geologists Regulation Act through education and compliance oversight;
- Providing quality and responsive regulatory services; and
- Providing information to the public about the Geologists Regulation Act and the practice of geology in the state.

***Student Outreach***

Revisions to the Action Plan items were made as follows:

1. Any member present at Nebraska Geological Society (NGS) meetings may represent the Board.
2. Create a presentation approved by the Board to be used and presented at student seminars and available venues.
3. To explore the use of the Curriculum Performance Assessment Tool (CPAT) as provided to institutions from ASBOG.
4. Have a board presence at designated conferences and meetings through the use of an information table/exhibit.
5. Explore the creation of social media accounts such as Facebook.
6. Draft language to be included in letters to seniors and graduates of geologic and related programs in Nebraska regarding the steps need to become licensed in the state.

The members requested AA Lais contact ASBOG to determine if the CPAT statistics for the University of Nebraska campuses could be aggregated for a more overall view. The results could be used to justify possible program changes and hiring of faculty.

AA Lais will contact the department head at each campus that offers geology or geologic related programs to the possibility of receiving a list of potential graduates at the beginning of each term.

It was suggested that notice of meetings be sent to the department heads for notification to the student body.

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***Website Redesign***

This was removed. New website launched on February 18, 2018.

***Common Practice Areas and Cooperative Agreements***

The Action Plan items were revised as follows:

1. Create talking points on what is the practice of geology based on the common practices areas.
2. Visit with other state boards and agencies for periodic informational engagement and discuss possible crossover areas.
3. Explore resources that may be available to identify organization's that may be practicing geology, but do not hold a valid certificate of authorization from the Board.

Discussion was held as to the process needed to have professional geologists added to Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) regulations when reports and studies are required to be sealed by a licensee. The members were reminded that the Board and NDEE would need to be able to show this is not creating an additional barrier to the public and that the benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

***Continued Cooperation with the National Association of State Board of Geology (ASBOG)***

The Action Plan was revised as follows:

1. Encourage the preparation and submittal of draft examination questions to ASBOG from board members and licensees for review at the Council of Examinations (COE) Workshops.
2. Encourage board members and licensees to become involved with ASBOG at the committee level or as subject matter experts (SME).
3. Inform licensees of openings and the application process to become a SME.
4. Prioritize funding to allow members and staff to attend the Annual Meetings and COE Workshops

Current and former board members currently serving on ASBOG committees:

- David Svingen – Executive Committee Secretary
- Charles Joyce – Outreach and Uniform Procedures Committee
- Dennis Anderson – Organizational Development Committee

***Professional and Public Education***

This was renamed from Professional and Public Outreach and revised as follows:

The purpose of conducting professional and public education is to provide better information on the practice of geology and to more effectively enforce the Geologists Regulation Act.

Goals

1. Identify groups and agencies for possible engagement
2. Provide information at selected events
3. Publish regular news updates from the Board

Action Plan

1. Participate at the Legislative Breakfast hosted by NDEE and the Ground Water Foundation
2. Create a committee to develop the content and format of communications to be sent out to the licensees

Ideas were discussed for reviving the Board newsletter. AA Lais will contact surrounding states to be added to mailing lists.

Chairperson Maher will work on creating a new PowerPoint presentation using the provided slides and bring to the October board meeting. AA Lais will reach out to California to see if they are willing to share the presentation they use when speaking to students.

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A Communication Committee was formed with Chairperson Maher, Hallum, and Martin as members. The committee is charged with developing a draft of content and format of communications to be sent to licensees and create a timeline.

**B CORE COURSE EQUIVALENCY CHART AND RATIONALE REVISIONS**

A copy of the current equivalency chart and rationale were provided. It was determined this would be added to the Strategic Plan with a purpose of reviewing the chart and make recommendations for revisions to the Board. The goal will be to update the list with an action plan of creating a committee to review and make the recommendations. Joyce, Svingen, and Chairperson Maher were appointed to the Core Course Equivalency Review Committee.

**C POSSIBLE STATUTE REVISIONS**

AA Lais provided the members with possible revisions to the Geologists Regulation Act. After discussion, the members added this to the Strategic Plan for further review and discussion. A tentative introduction would not occur until at least the 2021 legislative session. The goal would be to finalize a draft and make recommendations. The action plan items would include creating a committee to review and make recommendations to the board (to be appointed at the October meeting), get input from NGS for possible changes. Two revisions discussed related to the licensing process were reducing the requirement for experience to four years from five and the requirement that references must be from professional geologists.

The members are to further review the suggested revisions and send any comments to AA Lais no later than September 16, 2019. She will provide the revision document as a separate file to the members.

There is a NGS meeting scheduled in September and Hallum agreed to make a preliminary presentation of the revisions to the membership. The Board will most likely need the assistance of the society in identifying a sponsor and lobbying effects.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Link, second by Martin to adjourn the meeting at 12:01pm.

*H. D. Maher*

Board Member

*10/9/2019*

Date