

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Notes
August 31, 2020

215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE. Chairperson Hallum called the meeting to order at 1:32pm and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on August 13, 2020, and on the Board's website in accordance to the Open Meetings Act for August 26, 2020. Due to not being able to have a quorum on this date, the meeting had to be rescheduled to August 31, 2020. Notice of the change was posted on the Board's website and at the Board office.

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

Staff Present: Jean Lais, Business Manager (BM); Gail Parris, Administrative Assistant (AA)

PUBLIC COMMENT/APPOINTMENTS

A Strategic Plan

Mission Statement and Operating Philosophy

The members reviewed the Mission Statement and Operating Philosophy. No changes were made.

Student Outreach

The following revisions were made to this item:

- Goal 3/Action Plan 3 – Replace *exit exam from* with *assessment tool for* on Goal 3 and Action Plan 3 and insert *CPAT* instead of *exit exam*.
- Action Plan 1 – Partner with NGS to present to and engage students.
- Action Plan 2 – Revise to state *Create/Edit/Use a presentation for use by the Board...*
- Action Plan 5 – LinkedIn is the up and coming social platform with students looking for employment
- Action Plan 6 – Contact UNL/UNO/Chadron for graduate lists
- Add Action Plan – Inquire at UNL/UNO/Chadron about possible speaking opportunities (where/when is a good place/time to meet with students to discuss licensure)

Professional and Public Education

Discussion held regarding using a forum type environment to relay news and information to licensees in partnership with NGS instead of a newsletter. This format would be moderated by subject matter experts which could include board members, members of NGS, and other geologic experts.

The members request staff look into whether RSS Feeds/Google Alerts could be set up on the website that individuals could subscribe to get updates when changes are made to the site.

Discussion was also held on posting shorter news articles on the website. Topics mentioned included:

- Why and when should I take the FG exam?
- What does the practice of geology look like in Nebraska?
- Notices from other agencies that may affect geologists in Nebraska (i.e. the well driller standards being revised by the Department of Natural Resources)
- Congratulating new licensees by exam
- Statute and/or Rules revisions
- Meeting Minutes/meeting highlights

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Common Practice Areas and Cooperative Agreements

Even though no real progress has been made due to the reluctance of other agencies to enter into agreements with the Board, members agreed that this items should be kept for purposes for keeping the dialog going.

- A goal will be added to *enhance awareness with the identified agencies and organizations.*
- Goal 1 – revise to state *Refine common practice areas...*
- Clean Water Act applications are to be added to the practice areas.

Continued Cooperation with ASBOG

No changes or revisions were made to this item.

Core Course Equivalency Chart Revisions

The Core Course Equivalencies were updated in 2019. Work on the Rationale was to continue after ASBOG conducted the next task analysis so the rationale could be brought in line with the outcomes. The next task analysis will take place in 2021.

Geologist Regulation Act Revision Review

Revisions to the Act were approved by the Board's July 2020 meeting and have been sent to the bill writers for drafting for introduction during the 2021 legislative session.

Creation of an exam on the Act and Rules

Svingen suggested the Board develop an exam on the Geologists Regulation Act and the Board Rules as part of the licensing process. An example of the exam used by the Board of Engineers and Architects use was provided for review. This would require statutory authority and could be added to the revisions to be introduced during the 2021 legislative session.

After discussion the members approved adding this to the statute revisions with the following language to Section § 81-3539 paragraphs 4-7: *Successful passage of an examination on the statutes, rules, and other requirements unique to this state may be required.* Svingen will work on a draft exam.

Motion by Svingen, second by Link to include the provision of requiring an exam on the Act and Rules in the propose statute revisions and create an exam. Voting Yes: Link, Svingen, Maher, Hallum; Voting No: Joyce; Absent: Grimm, Martin

Collaboration with the Nebraska Geological Society

Chairperson Hallum would like to have the Board work more closely with the Nebraska Geological Society (NGS) on several upcoming projects. Discussion was held on whether the board could contribute financially to a joint forum set up and ran by NGS. It was the members determination that while it is within the Board's authority to promote licensure, contributing financially to this type of joint project would not be in the Board's best purview. The members would be capable of contributing or participating in events by having a table or doing a sponsorship after the statute revisions are passed and enacted.

BM Lais will work on a draft of the revisions to the plan as discussed and bring to the October 2020 meeting for final approval.

B 2021-23 Biennium Budget Request

A copy of the draft request was provided along with a copy of the spreadsheet used to develop the budget request. BM Lais explained the only issue being submitted is related to a projected 3%

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increase per year on the administrative service contract with the Board of Engineers and Architects. She also explained that due to lower revenues than projected in the last couple of fiscal years, the cash fund will need to be monitored closely to insure it does not fall below the desired two times the annual budget as per Board Policy G-P08.01 at the end of the biennium. If it does, the Board may need to adjust fees to accommodate.

*Motion by Maher, second by Link to approve the 2021-23 Biennium Budget Request as presented and discussed.
Voting Yes: Link, Svingen, Maher, Joyce, Hallum; Voting No: None; Absent: Grimm, Martin*

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Hallum adjourned the meeting at 3:41pm.



Board Member



Date