

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE. Chairperson Joyce called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on December 29, 2021, and on the Board's website in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Harmon Maher, Nancy Mann, Jeffrey Seymour, Ralph Martin, Charles Joyce

Absent: Douglas Hallum, Andrew Grimm

Nancy Mann was appointed to serve as secretary for this meeting in the absence of Douglas Hallum.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT/APPOINTMENTS

No members of the public were present.

A CONSENT AGENDA

October 6, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Action

Motion by Martin, second by Maher to accept the amended minutes. Voting Yes: Mann, Seymour, Martin, Maher, Joyce; Voting No: None

B REPORTS

Nebraska Geological Society

The 2022 calendar is available as a gift with the donation to the NGS of fifteen dollars or more. It consists of images that inspired members to become geologists. Membership is down a bit, so NGS will test a hybrid meeting format in February with three in-person group locations – North Platte, Lincoln, and Omaha. NGS is still recruiting leaders and members for standing and ad-hoc committees.

Office/Staff

APO Parris informed the members that a new Marketing and Communications Specialist (formerly Public Information Officer) was hired to replace Mia Azizah. Her name is Kennedy Stowater.

C OLD BUSINESS

ASBOG 2021 Annual Meeting Update

Martin stated that the meeting was run very well, and was also well attended. The Executive Council voted without issues. Computer Based Testing (CBT) is moving ahead. The search for a CBT contractor was extensive, and there were webinars conducted to answer questions from the member boards. While not an easy transition, it will be beneficial in improving overall testing efficiency, and better accommodate examinees. Deferred applicants have until the October 2022 administration to take their exams, after which all fees will be forfeited in 2023.

ASBOG Fall COE Workshop Update

Joyce added that the selected CBT vendor also administers the ACT exam so there will be more testing centers around the country. Examinees no longer have to be in Nebraska to take the exam. The upcoming Council of Examiners (COE) workshops will be very robust. Approximately 60 geologists visited the Hot Springs National Park and the Crater of Diamonds on the field trip.

LB263 – Occupational Board Reform Act and Amendments

Copies of the Act were provided for review. The Act requires occupational boards to issue certain credentials based on credentials/work experience from another jurisdiction. Discussion was held

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2022

regarding the difference between occupation and profession, non-ASBOG state specific licensing, FG and PG licensing language, the sixty-day stipulation, the health and safety requirement, and whether the Act applies to the board.

Action

Motion by Maher, second by Seymour to give Joyce the discretion to respond on behalf of the board, and submit a letter to the committee. Voting Yes: Martin, Maher, Seymour, Mann, Joyce; Voting No: None

D NEW BUSINESS

ASBOG

Transition to Computer Based Testing

Slides from the ASBOG CBT webinars were presented for review. They document the steps that were taken from November 2018 to create a Unified Registration Process and to move away from paper-based testing. Member boards were able to add input that would ensure a smooth transition when implemented in 2023.

Action

Motion by Maher, second by Mann to request permission from ASBOG to post the slides to the board's website Voting Yes: Seymour, Martin, Maher, Mann, Joyce Voting No: None

Spring COE Workshop – Approval of Delegates

The workshop is scheduled for April 7-9, 2022, and will be held in Albany, NY.

Action

Motion by Martin, second by Maher to approve Mann and Joyce to attend the Spring COE Workshop. Voting Yes: Mann, Seymour, Martin, Maher, Joyce Voting No: None

Legislative

LB709 – Change Requirements/Occupational Board Reform Act

Copies of the Act were provided for review. The Act amends section 84-947, changes provisions relating to preliminary applications by individuals with a criminal conviction, and repeals the original section.

LB908 – Related to the Open Meetings Act

Copies of the Act were provided for review. The Act amends section 84-1411, provides additional requirements for virtual conferencing, and repeals the original section.

Other New Business

2022 Proposed Meeting Dates

Board members reviewed the dates for potential conflicts.

E COMPLIANCE - None

F APPLICATIONS

Copies of the Core Course Equivalency Chart and Rationale were provided for review.

Administratively Approved

Licensure/Examinations

Licensure from Other Jurisdictions

Approved: Darron DeBoer, KS

FG Exam Applications

Approved: Erin D. Atchison, NE; Nestor D. Garduno, NE; Kristen N. Guthrie, NE; Willow H. Nguy, NE; Melissa M. Pena, NE; Andrew J. Wheeldon, NE

PG Exam Applications

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2022

Approved: Stuart M. Anderson, HI; Colby D. Osborn, NE

Action

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

APO Lais entered the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

G FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Reports

Budget Status Report

MTD General Ledger Detail Report

Fund Summary Report

FY 2019-20 Financial Profile

APO Lais reported that with 50% of the fiscal year elapsed as of December 31, 2022, a little less than 51% of the appropriation has been expended, and about 77% of the projected revenue has been received. The Cash Fund balance is at \$72,448 which is less than twice the appropriation. A spreadsheet of expenditures for the year was also presented for review.

Action

Motion by Martin, second by Mann to approve the financial reports as presented and discussed. Voting Yes: Seymour, Martin, Man, Maher, Joyce; Voting No: None

APO Lais exited the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

H GENERAL INFORMATION

A schedule of upcoming meetings and events was provided for review. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2022, at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, large conference room beginning at 1:00pm.

A roster of the Board members was provided.

Licensing and Certification Trends

Individuals and organizations authorized to practice in Nebraska as of January 12, 2022:

Professional Geologists: 312

Certificates of Authorization: 71

Temporary Permits: 0

Other information

The website dashboard reports showed the following number of total visits:


October: 286

November: 303

December: 290

A copy of the approved Board Policies as of January 20, 2021, was provided for review.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Joyce adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.


Board Member

7/13/2022
Date

