

Nebraska Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Agenda – April 5, 2023, 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 Hallum called the meeting to order at 1:10 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: Douglas Hallum, Harmon Maher, Nancy Mann, Michael O’Hara, Jeffrey Seymour; Absent: Charles Joyce, Ralph Martin

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board Policy G-P13.01 was provided. Per the policy, Martin will move to Chairperson, Mann to Vice-Chairperson, and Seymour was elected as Secretary. The officers’ terms began following the meeting.

Motion by Mann, second by O’Hara to elect Martin as Chairperson, Mann as Vice-Chairperson, and Seymour as Secretary. Voting Yes: Mann, Maher, Seymour, O’Hara, Hallum; Voting No: None; Absent: Joyce, Martin

PUBLIC COMMENT/APPOINTMENTS

No members of the public were present.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

[January 19, 2023, meeting minutes](#)

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

B. MEETING REPORTS

[Nebraska Geological Society](#)

Hallum reported a field trip has been planned for the members on the first Saturday in May, with a rainy day set for the second Saturday. Urban geology will be the focus of the trip.

[Office/Staff](#)

APO Lais reported the database conversion kick-off meeting was held on February 22, 2023. Each profession will go live once it has been completed. The order of completion is landscape architects; geologists; engineers and architects. No firm target date has been set for geologists, but will most likely be the Spring or Summer of 2024.

Gail Parris, Administrative Programs Officer, resigned from her position with the Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA) effective March 16, 2023. APO Lais and NBEA Executive Director Wilbeck are currently interviewing for her replacement.

C. OLD BUSINESS

ASBOG

[Spring 2023 Exam Administration Update](#)

APO Lais reported there were two candidates who took the FG and two who took the PG during the March 2023 administration. ASBOG extended the testing period to two days, March 16th and 17th, to address issues encountered by candidates not being able to find a test center and/or time slot. As a result, rescheduling fees were waived for this administration.

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Legislative

[LB16 Universal Licensing Update](#)

LB16 was advanced out of committee with AM748 on March 13, 2023. A copy of the opposition letter submitted by the Board was provided along with the Committee Statement summarizing AM748, LB16 as introduced, and AM748. The bill would require boards and commissions to license/credential individuals from other jurisdictions if they met certain criteria, even if they do not meet Nebraska's requirements.

APO Lais provided a comparison of the bill and amendment's requirements versus the Nebraska requirements for licensure as a professional geologist.

The members raised concerns with the required sixty (60) day turnaround for approving applications. The requirement would require the Board to meet more frequently. Concern was also raised that the experience requirements would enable the licensure candidate to "shop around" for the jurisdiction with the lowest initial license experience before seeking licensure in Nebraska. The members also discussed the reason for requiring an applicant to be a Nebraska resident. Currently, over 50% of professional geologists licensed in Nebraska live out of state.

A discussion was held on what the next steps should be in order to seek an exception similar to what the Board of Engineers and Architects was granted. An ad hoc committee was created with Seymour, Hallum, and O'Hara as members to begin discussions with Senator Briese and possible members of the Government, Veterans Affairs, and Military Committee regarding the exception. Suggested talking points included the rigorous licensing requirements already in place to ensure the health, safety, and welfare (HSW) of the residents of Nebraska, the likelihood that additional meetings would need to be held to meet the requirements set forth in the bill, and the need for the Nebraska residency requirement. Seymour will head the committee. APO Lais volunteered to attend the meetings to assist with answering any administrative questions.

Motion by Mann, second by Seymour to appoint Seymour, Hallum, and O'Hara to an ad-hoc committee to contact the senators to discuss an exemption from LB16. Voting Yes: Mann, Maher, Seymour, O'Hara, Hallum; Voting No: None; Absent: Joyce, Martin

Other Old Business

[History Nebraska Presentation Report](#)

Chairperson Hallum reported on the presentation by History Nebraska on the Nebraska Archaeological Resources Preservation Act held on January 31, 2023.

D. NEW BUSINESS

ASBOG

[AGI Geoscience Communication Training](#)

A copy of the email communication extending the availability of the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) communication training course to ASBOG® members was provided.

[ASBOG Call for Nominations](#)

A copy of ASBOG's call for nominations for Secretary on the ASBOG Executive Committee was provided. Nominations are due by May 31, 2023. Individuals may be nominated by a member board or be self-nominated. Candidates must be a member of a member board at the time of the nomination, US citizen, and licensed geologist.

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Board Meeting Agenda – April 5, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
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Other New Business

April 2024 Board Meeting Date

The April 2024 Board meeting is currently scheduled for April 5-7, 2024. There is a potential conflict between the April 2024 Board meeting and the ASBOG® Spring COE Workshop. The staff has reserved the conference for both April 3rd and 10th. A decision was tabled as to which date the meeting should be scheduled until the July meeting.

E. COMPLIANCE – None

F. APPLICATIONS

The Core Course Equivalence Chart and Rationale were provided.

Administratively Approved

Certificates of Authorization – *None*

Temporary Permits – *None*

Licensure/Examinations

Licensure from Other Jurisdictions

Approved: Roscoe Finn Sopiwnik

Licensure by Experience

Approved: Robert William Henthorne, Clair Ernest Ruenger

Licensure by Reinstatement – *None*

FG Exam Approvals – *None*

FG/PG Exam Approvals – *None*

PG Exam Approvals

Approved: Patrick Douglas Boulas

FG Exam Re-Approvals

Approved: Bryan Nicholas Lucke

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

G. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Reports – January, February, March (as of 3/29)

Budget Status Report

MTD General Ledger Detail Reports

Fund Summary Reports

FY22-23 Financial Profile

APO Lais with just under 75% of the fiscal year elapsed, 57.32% of the appropriated expenditures have been used and 83.21% of the projected revenue has been received. The decrease in spent appropriation is mainly due to less travel by the members to national meetings.

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

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Other Financial Matters

[NBEA Administrative Services Contract](#)

The contract between the Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA) provides administrative services to the Board. Staff time spent on NEBOG was averaged over the last three calendar years. The resulting percentage is applied to the appropriated expenses for the contract period and the cost of travel to the National Association of Boards of Geology (ASBOG) annual meetings. The cost for the FY 2023-24 contract is \$18,109, to be billed on a quarterly basis. Additional services provided outside the provided services list will be charged at a weighted hourly rate of \$21.031 and must have signed approval. The contract reflects a \$1,695 increase over the FY2022-23 contract.

Motion by Maher, second by O’Hara to approve the administrative services contract with the Board of Engineers and Architects. Voting Yes: Mann, Maher, Seymour, O’Hara, Hallum; Voting No: None; Absent: Joyce, Martin

[Review of Fee Schedule](#)

The Board reviewed the fee schedule and determined no adjustments are needed at this time. The staff will continue to monitor the Cash Fund and advise the Board if fees should be adjusted during the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Motion by Maher, second by Seymour to maintain the fees at the existing levels for FY2023-24. Voting Yes: Mann, Maher, Seymour, O’Hara, Hallum; Voting No: None; Absent: Joyce, Martin

H. GENERAL INFORMATION

A schedule of the upcoming meeting and events was provided. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska, in the fifth-floor conference room.

[Trends in Licensure](#)

Numbers as of March 30, 2023

Professional Geologists.....	295
Certificates of Authorization.....	66
Temporary Permits	1

Other Information

[Website Dashboard Report](#)

January Total Visits	535
February Total Visits	439

The approved Board policies as of January 20, 2021, were provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Seymour, second by Maher to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Board Member

Date