

**NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF GEOLOGISTS**  
**Meeting Minutes – January 29, 2004**  
**Nebraska State Office Building - 301 Centennial Mall South 6<sup>th</sup> Floor - Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Board Members**

Terry Thonen, Chairperson, Omaha; Richard Ehrman, Vice-Chairperson, Lincoln; Bonner Bowden, Secretary, Kearney;  
David J. Becker, Omaha; James Cannia, Mitchell; Dr. John (Jack) Shroder, Omaha; Karen Jensen, Public Member, Lincoln;  
Dr. Nan Lindsley-Griffin, Emeritus Member, Lincoln; Sandra Weaver, Administrative Assistant, Lincoln

**Call to Order**

Thonen called the meeting of the Nebraska Board of Geologists to order at 1:20 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Terry Thonen, Chairperson, Professional Geologist – Omaha  
Dick Ehrman, Vice-Chairperson, Professional Geologist – Lincoln  
Bonner Bowden, Secretary, Professional Geologist – Kearney  
David J. Becker, Professional Geologist – Omaha  
James Cannia, Professional Geologist – Mitchell - Present by teleconference (Non-voting)  
Dr. John (Jack) Shroder, Educational Member, Professional Geologist – Omaha  
Karen Amen Jensen, Public Member – Lincoln  
Dr. Nan Lindsley-Griffin, Emeritus Member, Professional Geologist – Lincoln  
Sandra Weaver, Administrative Assistant – Lincoln

Guest: Mr. Duane Eversoll entered Board meeting at 3:08 p.m. and exited at 3:40 p.m.

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Motion made by Shroder to approve the October 24, 2003, Board meeting minutes, the October 24, 2003, Public Hearing minutes and the January 13, 2004, Audio Conference minutes with corrections to the October 24, 2003, meeting minutes as follows: “The university lobbyist ~~most often works with~~ is former Senator Ron Withem (Page 1), change “Bonner” to “Bowden” (Page 2) and correct the spelling of “Ehrman” under Adjournment. Second by Ehrman. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**Officer Report**

Thonen stated that his report involved several issues that were already on the agenda, so they would be brought up later in the meeting.

**Financial Report**

Weaver provided the financial report for the months of October, November and December of 2003. Motion by Shroder to approve the Financial Report as provided by Weaver. Second by Becker. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Bowden asked about the basis of Emeritus status. Thonen suggested postponing discussion until after Eversoll’s ASBOG report.

**Fiscal Year Activity Report**

Weaver provided the Fiscal Year Activity Report from July 1, 2003, through January 22, 2004. It was reported that there are currently 251 PG licenses valid until December 31, 2004, and 17 unpaid renewals. Weaver asked about adding the applicants who have not met the work experience but have taken the FG exam and passed. After discussion, it was decided they should be listed on the report and be added to the roster in the database. Their title should be referred to as “GI” (Geologist Intern). Motion by Shroder to approve the Fiscal Year Activity Report as provided by Weaver. Second by Becker. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**Action Item:** Weaver will add a line to the next Activity Report for GI (Geologist Intern) registrants and add the “Interns” to the Roster.

**Committee Reports**

Ehrman reported that the Rules and Regulations had been submitted to the Attorney General’s Office but the review would probably not be complete until June.

**Geologist Regulation Act Legislative Changes**

Committee: Ehrman, Cannia, Becker, Thonen

The hearing of LB890 took place on Friday, January 23, 2004. Steve Jorgensen testified in support. A slight change in language was suggested for clarification of references. Intern references will attest to character and not experience. The vote was unanimous to pass

the bill on to the floor. Good support was received from Senator Friend's office and the University lobbyist was helpful. They will be in hot pursuit of another priority bill to which LB890 can be attached. The bill will be on the floor in February and the Board will be kept informed about what is happening. Lindsley-Griffin, Becker, or Jensen will be available to go to the Capitol if their schedules allow.

**Action Item:** Becker will give a list of contacts to call to Senator Friend and Ron Withem to use if issues come up with LB890. Becker will keep the Board informed by email.

### **New Applications**

00-275 Robert T. Miller (NE) – GI requesting registration by ASBOG PG Examination  
03-010 Brett A. Fishwild (IA) – Requesting registration by ASBOG examination (wants to take FG only in March)  
03-011 Lauren P. Tice (NE) – Intern requesting to take FG examination  
03-012 Dwight D. Haney (KS) – Requesting registration by ASBOG examination  
04-001 Mark P. Molinari (WA) – Requesting registration by reciprocity

### **Pending Applications**

03-004 David M. Miller (NJ) – Updated professional experience as requested

Motion by Becker to go into executive session at 2:40 p.m. Second by Ehrman. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Becker to leave executive session at 3:08 p.m. Second by Ehrman. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Applications Approved**

On January 12, 2004, the above applications were reviewed by Ehrman, Jensen and Lindsley-Griffin. Informal approval to sit for exams was given on January 13, 2004, at a Board audio conference meeting.

Motion by Becker to approve the following applicants as recommended for ASBOG examination. Second by Jensen. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

To approve Robert T. Miller to sit for the ASBOG PG Examination.

To approve Brett A. Fishwild to sit for the ASBOG FG and PG Examinations.

To approve Lauren P. Tice to sit for the ASBOG FG examination.

To approve Dwight D. Haney to sit for the ASBOG FG & PG Examinations.

Motion by Becker to approve Mark P. Molinari for registration by reciprocity. Second by Bowden. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Pending Applications Approved**

On January 12, 2004, Ehrman, Jensen and Lindsley-Griffin reviewed the professional experience section of David M. Miller's application. Mr. Miller had been requested to update his application before being approved to take the ASBOG exams. Informal approval of his professional experience was given on January 13, 2004, at a Board audio conference meeting.

Motion by Ehrman to approve the professional experience section submitted by David M. Miller and allow him to sit for ASBOG exams. Second by Becker. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

### **ASBOG**

Cannia gave an ASBOG COE delegate report for the workshop held October 30–October 31, 2003. He encouraged the Board to continue sending representatives to the workshops. Some of the exam questions have direct bearing on Nebraska. If the Board must prioritize, the annual meeting would be most important to attend. Cannia stressed the importance of attending as many meetings as possible. Eversoll could be appointed as representative if no one from the Board could go. Bowden, Cannia and Lindsley-Griffin volunteered to attend future meetings as COE representatives if needed. The Board discussed the cost of attending. Cannia went on record that it is a good use of funding to send representatives to the meetings. Becker went on record that it may be too expensive for the budget to pay for more than one meeting a year. Thonen suggested that if there was enough in the budget, the Board could send a representative twice a year. Cannia recommended that someone should at least go to the annual meeting. The delegate could suggest that the meetings be held in areas that are less cost prohibitive.

Cannia ended teleconference connection with the Board at 3:00 p.m.

Eversoll entered the Board Meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Eversoll reported on ASBOG activities that he has been involved in. An ASBOG projected meeting calendar was distributed to the Board. Eversoll stated that he wished to thank Cannia for representing Nebraska at the 2003 COE Fall Workshop. The next COE Fall Workshop will be November 3-4, 2004, in Boise Idaho. ASBOG conducts task analysis surveys of the profession of Geology every

five years to maximize the relevance of the examinations for candidates seeking licensure. A shorter version of the survey would be worked on for 2005. Other changes to the questionnaire were presented and discussed. Eversoll stated that the psycometricians were asked to keep computerized exams updated.

Eversoll exited the Board meeting at 3:40 p.m.

The COE Spring Workshop will be held in Columbia, SC, April 2-3, 2004. The Board discussed sending a representative if possible. Shroder volunteered to attend if the expenses were paid. Bowden stated that he would be willing to go and pay all expenses except for room and board if Shroder would not be able to attend. Thonen noted that there was over \$300 for Board and Lodging and \$750 for Commercial Transportation left in the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004.

Weaver presented the October 2003 ASBOG Exam Scores to the Board. All Nebraska examinees received passing grades.

### **New Business**

The Board terms of Bowden, Cannia, and Jensen will expire on February 28, 2004. The members offered to stay on the Board until replaced. It was agreed that the Board should strive for a balance of representation from various sectors, although legislation only requires an education and public member. Consideration should be taken of experience (at least ten years would be helpful), representation of geographic areas and gender. Bowden commented that he would like to see someone on the NGS as part of the Board. After discussion, it was determined that a nominating committee could submit a group of people for the Governor to look at and a description of what the Board is looking for. Registrants need to know that there are three openings on the Board. A notice could be posted on the website. A date of March 1 should be set for a deadline to apply to the Board. Each member should call anyone they believe would do a good job. Jensen will call the Governor's Office and talk about criteria for applicants and whether a search committee could be established. The results will be reported via email. Jensen will complete a one-page summary of the proposed process for recruiting and replacing Board members. The Board should wait to take any action until Jensen obtains an answer from the Governor's office and sends an email.

**Action Item:** Jensen will call Governor's Office, talk about criteria for applicants, and ask if the Board could establish a structured recruiting process to search for new Board members. A report will be given the Board by email. If approved by the Governor's Office, the committee will consist of Jensen, Bowden, Cannia and Thonen. The process of looking for a new candidate will be documented.

**Action Items:** Shroder will contact an attorney (whose wife is a geologist) as a possible candidate for a public member. Cannia will contact two geologists who would be well qualified for Board members.

**Action Item:** Jensen and Lindsley-Griffin agreed to finish working on the listing of policies before Jensen leaves the Board.

The Board received an email from a registrant asking that consideration be given to a two-year renewal period for licensure. Discussion tabled to next meeting.

A concerned citizen contacted the Board office concerning Legislative Bill 111. The bill changes the penalty for possession of child pornography from a Class II misdemeanor to a Class IV felony. There was concern about felons obtaining licensure from different Boards or if a board could prevent someone who had committed a felony from obtaining a license. Thonen asked that the two-year renewal and applicant felony issue raised by the public be discussed by email in anticipation of further discussion at the April meeting.

### **Old Business**

It was determined at the October 24, 2004, meeting that Certificate of Authorization applications should be mailed to organizations along with an appeal letter written by Thonen. Discussion tabled to next meeting.

Motion by Ehrman to adjourn the Board meeting at 3:50 p.m. Second by Shroder. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Next Board Meeting Dates for 2004: Not set. Will be determined at a later date by email.

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Board Member

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Title