

Nebraska State Board of Geologists
Board Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2010

301 Centennial Mall South, State Office Building, Conference Room 1Y, Lincoln, NE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held at 301 Centennial Mall South, Conference Room 1Y, Lincoln, NE. Chairperson Shroder called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and informed the public of the location of the Open Meeting Act.

Roll Call: Thomas Correll, Andrew Grimm, Ralph Martin, Martha (Marty) Link, John (Jack) Shroder, David Svingen; Absent: Dennis Anderson, Emeritus Member Nan Lindsley-Griffin (non-voting).

Staff Present: Sandra Weaver, Administrator (AD); Jean Lais, Administrative Assistant (AA)

Public Comments/Appointments

None scheduled

Agenda Items

No corrections or adjustments were made

A Consent Agenda

1 Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2010 meeting minutes approved with a correction made from Well Builders Board to Well Drillers Board

2 Organizational Practice – Certificate of Authorizations

Barker Lemar & Associates Inc, CAG0057; Petrotek Engineering Corporation, CAG0058

Approval of Consent Agenda

Action Motion by Grimm, second by Link to approve the Consent Agenda. Voting Yes: Correll, Grimm, Shroder, Martin, Svingen, Link; Voting No: None; Absent: Anderson

B Financial Reports/Matters

1 Budget Status Report – July, August, September 2010 – EnterpriseOne reports provide for review.

2 MTD General Ledger Detail – July, August, September 2010 – EnterpriseOne reports provide for review.

3 Fund Summary Report – July, August, September 2010 – EnterpriseOne reports provide for review.

4 Financial Profile Report – July, August, September 2010 – Database report provided for review.

5 Fiscal Activity Report and Trends in Licensure – FY 10/11 – Database reports provide for review.

6 Other Financial Matters

2011-2013 Biennium Budget Approval

AD Weaver explained the projection budget for the 2011-2013 biennium does not include an increase of fees and reflects the original MOU with the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA) cost. If the board does not raise fees during this period the cash fund at the end of FY 2012 will be approximately \$27,790.00.

7 Contract Review and Approval – *None*

Approval of Financial Matters

Action Motion by Correll, second by Martin to accept the Financial Reports/Matters. Voting Yes: Correll, Grimm, Shroder, Martin, Svingen, Link; Voting No: None; Absent: Anderson

AD Weaver left the meeting at 1:15pm

C Applications

1 Application Overview Sheet, Core Course Equivalency and Rational Lists

Form/Lists provide for review

2 Licensure/Examination

Applications for Licensure by Reciprocity

Approved: Robert L. Kaspzyk, MO

Applications for Licensure Reinstatement – *None*

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Applications for Geologist-Intern by ASBOG FG Exam – None
Applications for Licensure by FG/PG ASBOG Exams – None
Applications for Licensure by PG ASBOG Exam – None

3 Appeals – None

Approval of Licensure/Examination Applications

Action: Motion by Svingen, second by Link to accept the recommendations on applications as discussed.
Voting Yes: Correll, Grimm, Shroder, Martin, Svingen, Link; Voting No: None; Absent: Anderson

D Compliance Cases

- 1 Logs - None**
- 2 New Cases – None**
- 3 Pending Cases – None**
- 4 Case Recommendations – None**
- 5 Compliance Issues – None**

E General Information/Committee Reports

1 Meeting Schedules/Rosters

Board Meeting Schedule

AA Lais explained the schedule has been updated with meeting dates through calendar year 2012. AA Lais is to check with the Governor's office on the requirements for applying for reappointment for the members whose terms expire in February 2011.

Roster of Board Members

2 Committee Reports

Officers Report - None

3 ASBOG

Slate of Officers for 2011, the proposed 2010 Annual Meeting Agenda, and the Nebraska Annual State Summary Report provided for review.

4 Office/Staff – None

F New Business

1 Governance Issues

Board Actions - Board Action Summary provided for review.

Rules and Regulations – None

Statutes – None

Legislative Items – None

2 Geologist Items

Emeritus Board Member approval

The Board voted to renew Lindsley-Griffin as the Emeritus Board Member with a term expiration of July 22, 2011

Action Motion by Correll, second by Martin to renew Nan Lindsley-Griffin as an Emeritus Board Member for the term expiring July 22, 2011. Voting Yes: Correll, Grimm, Shroder, Martin, Svingen, Link; Voting No: None; Absent: Anderson

Strategic Plan

A summary of the September 21, 2010, Strategic Planning Meeting was provided for review. Svingen provided a copy of an email from Anderson. A memo from the Attorney General's office with regards to contracting the board's administrative functions was provided for review.

Link has been unable to schedule a meeting with HHS with regards to joining with the Well Drillers Board or to discuss administrative services. Martin has not completed the formal merger proposal as discussed at the September Strategic Planning Meeting.

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Svingen sees the board has until 7/1/11 to determine which direction they want to go or will not have a home unless they sign another Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NBEA. He feels the Well Drillers are open to the possibility of merging or at least offering administrative services. Svingen spoke with Krista Kester with the NBEA Legislative Committee, but has not received an indication one way or the other on the NBEA's opinion in a possible merger with their board. He has held off with serious talks with them until the board gets a solid feel as to how the NBEA would accept a merger. Shroder would like to stay as a standalone board and pay for administrative services. Link stated if this is the decision of the board, they would need to study raising fees and projecting costs. She questioned how this would affect licensees and/or companies where there is more than one licensed geologist in a firm. Correll felt most licensees would still keep their license even if the company did not pay their renewal fees.

Svingen feels the need to merge with other board is the most logical direction and would like to move forward in talks whether it be with the Well Drillers or NBEA. Correll would like to see what the "Pay for Service" costs would be with HHS before making a final decision. Shroder inquired about the disadvantages of contracting with HHS. Link informed the members that after estimating time needed, at approximately 1/3 of a full time position, the cost would still be around \$28K per year. The board would still run short of funds at some point in the future.

Shroder expressed a concern that there are no education members in line to fill board vacancies in the future and that there are only two persons currently qualified to fill those vacancies with no others becoming licensed in the future.

Grimm stated a merger may legislate the board out of existence, but no matter the decision, the board needs to show due diligence to the legislature no matter the outcome.

Svingen stated with the mission and purpose of the NBEA being similar to that of the board's, a merger with the NBEA would continue to insure qualified geologists are doing the work to achieve the board's mission of protecting the public welfare. Merging with the NBEA would also help strengthen enforcement.

Correll expressed concern on insuring the visibility of the profession is solid and clear in statute if a merger takes place.

Shroder questioned what the next step should be if they were to merge with the NBEA. Correll stated the need to draft a proposal of the board's desires. He also stated that with the amount of time taken to get the board up and running, it should be with certainty as to the final and consensual agreement of the board. Shroder suggested the board approach the Nebraska State Board of Landscape Architects (NSBLA) to join together in their discussion of a merger with the NBEA. The NSBLA has recently voted at their last board meeting to approach the NBEA on a possible merger.

The members agreed the following should be included in the Merger Proposal Document:

- Assurance fees are equitable with other professions (same or no more than 10% more)
- Ability to attend national meetings
- Advisory Committee (application review, etc.)
- Representation on the board (2 members?)
- Professional Recognition
- Subject to statutes and regulations
- Proposed merger to be presented to the legislature in January 2012

Svingen suggested not making a final decision yet, but to contact and approach licensees for thoughts and concerns. Link to draft a letter to the licensees as to the direction the board is proposing and give them a deadline to receive responses.

Action Motion by Correll, second by Martin for the board to investigate merging or joining with another state board and develop elements of a proposal to be communicated for the purpose of seeking comments to the licensed geologists of Nebraska. Voting Yes: Correll, Grimm, Shroder, Martin, Svingen, Link; Voting No: None; Absent: Anderson

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Adjournment Motion by Martin, second by Link to adjourn the meeting at 3:10pm

The next Board of Geologist board meeting will be held on January 13, 2011 at 1:00pm at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska on the Fifth floor, in the Large Conference Room.

Board Member

Date