

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF GEOLOGISTS
Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2004
Nebraska State Office Building - 301 Centennial Mall South 6th Floor - Lincoln, Nebraska

Board Members

Richard L. Ehrman, Chairperson, Lincoln; John (Jack) Shroder, Vice-Chairperson, Omaha; David J. Becker, Secretary, Omaha;
Jeffrey S. Johnson, Lincoln; Susan Olafsen Lackey, Winside; Terrance L. Thonen, Omaha; Andrew E. Grimm, Omaha;
Nan Lindsley-Griffin, Emeritus Member, Lincoln; Sandra J. Weaver, Administrative Assistant, Lincoln

Call to Order

Vice-Chairperson, Shroder, called the meeting of the Nebraska Board of Geologists to order at 1:00 p.m. Chairperson, Ehrman, was unable to attend, due to work related duties in another part of the state.

Roll Call

Richard L. Ehrman, Chairperson, Professional Geologist – Lincoln – Absent
Dr. John (Jack) Shroder, Vice-Chairperson, Educational Member, Professional Geologist – Omaha
David J. Becker, Secretary, Professional Geologist – Omaha
Jeffrey S. Johnson, Professional Geologist – Lincoln
Susan Olafsen Lackey, Professional Geologist – Winside
Terrance L. Thonen, Professional Geologist – Omaha
Andrew E. Grimm, Public Member – Omaha – Absent
Dr. Nan Lindsley-Griffin, Emeritus Member, Professional Geologist – Lincoln
Sandra J. Weaver, Administrative Assistant – Lincoln

Guest: Duane Eversoll arrived at 1:45 p.m.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by Johnson to approve the August 5, 2004, Board meeting minutes. Second by Olafsen Lackey. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Officer Report

None

Financial Report

Weaver provided the Financial Report for the months of July, August, and September of 2004. Motion by Thonen to approve the Financial Report as provided by Weaver. Second by Becker. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Fiscal Year Activity Report

Weaver provided the Fiscal Year Activity Report from July 1, 2004, through October 21, 2004. It was reported that there are currently 266 professional licenses valid until December 31, 2004, and seven unpaid renewals for 2004. License renewals for 2005 are in progress. Five applicants were listed that had not met the experience requirement, but had taken and passed the Fundamentals (FG) examination. Two of these met the experience requirement this year and were approved for the Practical (PG) examination on October 8, 2004. They are awaiting exam results that will be sent in December of 2004. The Geologist-intern designation will be incorporated into the Geologists Regulation Act as of January 1, 2005. The Board will be able to take action on the designation at the January 2005 Board meeting. Motion by Johnson to approve the Fiscal Year Activity Report as provided by Weaver. Second by Thonen. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

New Applications

04-007 Mark G. Densmore (IL) – Requesting registration by reciprocity

Pending Applications

04-005 James A. Roberts (NE) – Correspondence concerning meeting the requirements to take the ASBOG exams

Motion by Becker to go into executive session at 1:06 p.m. Second by Thonen. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Thonen to leave executive session at 1:23 p.m. Second by Becker. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Applications Approved

Motion by Applicant Screening Subcommittee to approve Mark G. Densmore for registration by reciprocity. No further discussion. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Pending Application Action

Weaver will send a letter to James Roberts asking him to state his intentions so the file can be left open if he wishes to proceed with meeting the requirements.

ASBOG

1. The annual meeting and COE Workshop, will be held at Boise Idaho, November 1-7, 2004. The Board discussed appointing a voting representative. No Board members were able to attend. Weaver stated that she had talked to Duane Eversoll and he was willing to act as a voting delegate. The certification of the voting delegate was due on the 15th. Motion by Thonen to designate Duane Eversoll as voting delegate for the annual ASBOG meeting on November 1-7, 2004. Second by Olafsen Lackey. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: Weaver will immediately e-mail the proxy form for Duane Eversoll as voting delegate and send a hard copy in the mail to Executive Director, Sam Christiano.

Lindsley-Griffin noted that Ehrman would need to prepare a state report for Eversoll to take to the annual ASBOG meeting. The Board discussed the overlap between the ASBOG fall meeting with the Geological Society of America, and the assessment of the same annual ASBOG dues regardless of the number of a state's registrants.

Action Item: Weaver will prepare a draft for the Nebraska State Summary Report and send to Thonen and Becker for additional input. The report will include a paragraph with the Board's concerns about the assessment of the annual dues. When finished, it will be sent to Ehrman for final approval. The completed report will be e-mailed to ASBOG and also to Duane Eversoll.

2. A draft of the ASBOG[®] Code of Ethics was reviewed by the Board.

Duane Eversoll entered the Board meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Eversoll stated the Code of Ethics draft would be voted on at the Annual ASBOG meeting. The basis of the annual dues for ASBOG was discussed. Eversoll suggested that a representative be sent to the meeting and they should talk to someone on the financial committee so they could bring up the issue.

A question was asked about whether the Nebraska Board of Geologists' should create a code of ethics. It was brought up that the code of practice is implicit in the law that regulates the Nebraska Board.

New Business

1. Johnson raised a question regarding the number of Natural Resources and Environmental studies majors. Lindsley-Griffin commented that over the last three years, fewer than five geology majors at UN-L had completed all the core courses that the Board has on their list. Becker mentioned the need for support for the Earth Science offering by the Explorer Post program, which is a nationwide career-development effort, organized through the Boy Scouts. Shroder suggested mentioning this in the Board newsletter. Johnson asked about the role of the Board in facilitating the improvement in the stature of the geology departments in the University of Nebraska system. Becker suggested that the Board push for academic standards at the University so that the graduates will meet the requirements for registration. It was general consensus that the Board should advocate ethical professional behavior. Shroder stated that it would be better for the Nebraska Geological Society to push for improvements in the University stature and recommended efforts be directed at the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Action Item: Becker will meet with a representative concerning the explorer post area and write an article for the newsletter that will promote exposure to earth sciences to raise awareness among students and the public.

Old Business

1. LB890, which provided for enrollment of geologist-interns, was approved by the Governor on April 9, 2004. Weaver inserted the amended sections into the Geologists Regulation Act and submitted the updated version to the Board. The amended statutes become operative on January 1, 2005. The Board reviewed the current forms and discussed the process of enrolling interns. Past policies were researched for geologists-in-training and the Board discussed the need for a new reference form that could be used as a character reference for geologist-interns. Motion by Becker to authorize Weaver to revise a policy for Geologist-interns and design a reference form as discussed for submission to the Board. Second by Olafsen Lackey. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: Weaver will create a character reference form for a geologist-intern and write a policy for processing geologist-interns. The application form will also be checked for needed updates along with information available on the web site. Weaver will send out the forms to the Board as created and they will be reviewed at the January Board meeting for approval.

2. Weaver presented a copy of the 2004 Newsletter in progress. Shroder had submitted an article about his trip to Kabul, Afghanistan to meet with the U.S. Geological Survey. The Board discussed other articles that could be added to the newsletter.

Action Item: Ehrman will submit a "Message from the Board Chairperson" and possibly a Rules and Regulations update. Becker will submit an article about the Geologist-interns authorized by passage of LB890 and an article promoting awareness of Earth Science education using the Explorer Post Program. Olafsen Lackey, Johnson and Grimm will submit a biography or submit information for the administrative assistant to write a biography. Lindsley Griffin took digital snapshots of Olafsen Lackey and Johnson to use with the biographies in the newsletter. Since Grimm was absent, Weaver will check to see if he has an electronic snapshot that can be used.

Johnson departed from the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

3. Pursuant to 273 NAC 16-001, the Department of Administrative Services approved the recognition program plan for the Nebraska Board of Geologists that will be placed on file at DAS – Accounting. This policy is necessary to present awards to departing Board members for past services. It may be updated at anytime and sent to the Department of Administrative Services for approval.

At the October meeting in 2003, the Nebraska Board of Geologists met with the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects to get acquainted and exchange information about their Boards. At that time, plans were made to have another joint meeting. The Board discussed setting up a meeting in 2005.

Action Item: Weaver will ask Mr. Charles Nelson, Executive Director of the Board of Engineers and Architects if the Board of Geologists could meet with their Board in October of 2005.

Adjournment

Motion by Thonen to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Second by Lackey. Voting aye on the motion: All. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Board Meeting Date:

January 13, 2005, 1:00 p.m., Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, 6th Floor, Lincoln, Nebraska

Board Member

Title