

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

9643 Brookline Ave., Ste. 101, Baton Rouge, LA 70809



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

Physical meeting at

GEC, Inc. Building

8282 Goodwood Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

and

Virtual Public Meeting Hosted on Zoom

MINUTES

Chair David Ray Williamson called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2025, and commenced roll call.

Present: David Ray Williamson, David Culpepper, William R. Finley, Elizabeth McDade, William Schramm, Michael Simms, and Melanie Stiegler, Board Members; David Peterson, Legal Counsel; Brenda Macon, Executive Secretary; Sadé Dennis and Seija Meaux, Project Coordinators.

Absent: Chantel McCreary, Assistant Executive Secretary.

Guests: None.

Quorum was established.

Public Comment Period

No comments were forthcoming.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the July 8, 2025, regular board meeting were reviewed. Stiegler moved to accept the minutes as presented; McDade seconded the motion. Williamson called for discussion; none was forthcoming. He then called for a vote, and the motion passed.

Presentation on Louisiana's Occupational Licensing Review Program (OLRP)

Jessica Weimer, with the Louisiana Department of Justice, presented information on the state's Occupational Licensing Review Program (OLRP) and explained how the board could participate. Board members asked questions and discussed the importance of becoming participants but were concerned

about the potential costs. The consensus was that the board should participate if at all feasible. Board Member Culpepper moved to investigate the cost of participating and to initiate an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Justice if the investigation showed that the board could financially afford to do so. Finley seconded the motion. Williamson called for discussion of the motion and a vote. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Finley presented his report on expenses and revenue for the period July through early September. He reminded the board that revenue is still in the low cycle of the budget year and explained that the cycle is beginning to trend upward, as it usually does during the period September through January. He reiterated his explanation from previous meetings that the board's three high-yield savings accounts are in position to offset the losses during the annual low cycle to even out funds over the long term. Board members briefly discussed the impact of expenses incurred during the administrative office's recent move to a new location. Schramm moved to accept the treasurer's report; Stiegler seconded the motion. Williamson called for discussion; when none was forthcoming, he called for a vote. The motion passed.

Standing Committees

Application Review Committee: Committee Chair Melanie Stiegler mentioned that one of the candidates for ASBOG testing on the list in the board members' packets was actually a candidate for full license and the placement of this application on the list was in error. She pointed out that candidate 2 on the list had already completed both ASBOG exams and met all the requirements for license, so she asked that the list be amended to reflect this information. She then reported that five (instead of four) applications for license and four ASBOG testing requests had been reviewed. On behalf of the committee, Stiegler recommended license applications 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 be approved. She further recommended that ASBOG testing candidates 1, 3, 4, and 5 be approved. Stiegler then moved to accept the recommendations; Finley seconded. Williamson called for discussion. Brief discussion for clarification of the clerical error ensued. Williamson then called for a vote, and the motion passed. Williamson then recommended that each applicant be reviewed by the same committee member throughout the candidate's progress to full licensure. Board members agreed with this suggestion.

License Examination Committee: Williamson reported that the next ASBOG testing session will be held on October 2 and 3.

Compliance Committee: Schramm reported on the progress of the 2025 continuing education audit. He said that, of the two audits reviewed in the committee's meeting earlier in the day, one from the 2024 audit had been approved. He said the other would need additional hours.

Schramm then reported that a proposed list of randomly selected licenses had been created for the 2026 audit. He said the letters informing those license holders of the audit would be sent as soon as possible to give the auditees sufficient notice to prepare for the audit.

Outreach Committee: Culpepper reported that he and Macon will be working on several articles for the upcoming journal issue. He mentioned the survey of current licensees that was proposed at the July meeting and said he would like feedback on a list of questions for that survey. Discussion ensued.

Strategic Five-year Plan & Rules Review Ad Hoc: McDade reported that she and her committee members are still working on changes to the rules and are making good progress. Discussion ensued.

Office Committee:

Board-specific Emails

Macon reminded board members once again that, if they want board-specific email addresses, she will help them set up Gmail accounts that are all linked to the board's Google account. She explained that she could work with them to set up the accounts but that some information would need immediate verification through their own devices that she could not provide. She asked them to contact her directly for more information.

New Office Space

Macon then reported that the meeting room at the new office location is not yet set up for board meetings. She reminded board members that the office was without internet access until late August, and no electronic equipment was yet available for providing virtual meetings. She also reminded board members that the space is much smaller than the conference room at the previous location, so she is looking for ways to maximize that space. She said that LES has just acquired an Owl 3 device to facilitate meetings; that device will be available for LBOPG to rent for \$25 per meeting as soon as it can be set up and tested. She said the room will also need a smart TV that is an appropriate size for the space and mentioned that she has been researching the best options.

She then reported that the move to the new office had provided the administrative staff with enough space to accommodate another filing cabinet. She explained that, at the previous location, the staff had been using cardboard boxes for files that would not fit in the existing file cabinets because there was no room for an additional cabinet. She said she was looking forward to having all the files out of boxes.

Search Committee for the next Executive Secretary

Macon explained that David Williamson had asked her to add this to the meeting agenda. She reminded board members that she plans to retire at the end of December 2026. She said Williamson and she had agreed that the new executive secretary would need to train for six months to be able to learn the many facets of the position. Discussion ensued, with David Culpepper volunteering to work with Macon to identify prospective candidates for the position.

New Business

Macon reported that she and David Peterson had agreed that seeking additional legal counsel may become necessary. She explained that Peterson is struggling with a serious personnel shortage at LDOJ at a time when the board, for the first time since its creation, is receiving what appear to be legitimate complaints through the online complaint reporting system. Peterson said that several attorneys in the area have experience in working with state boards but added that the cost of legal counsel outside of state government will cost around \$300 per hour. Discussion ensued.

Old Business

Williamson asked Macon about the progress on getting the board's resolution commending Lloyd Hoover's service to the board printed and ready to present to Hoover's family. Macon reported that she was working with the printer, who had problems with the length of the document. She is editing the resolution so that it will meet print specifications.

Adjournment

The date of the next regular meeting of the board was scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, at 1:00 pm, with the location to be determined later. Meetings for the Compliance Committee and Ad Hoc Rules Committee were also scheduled for that date at 10 am and 11 am, respectively. Finley then moved to adjourn; Schramm seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.