

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS
1800 City Farm Drive, Building 5B, Baton Rouge, LA 70806



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 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 Michael Simms called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m., Wednesday, November 12, 2025, and commenced roll call.

Present: Michael Simms, William Schramm, Melanie Stiegler, Williams Finley, David Culpepper, and David Ray Williamson, Board Members; David Peterson, Legal Counsel; Brenda Macon, Executive Secretary; Chantel McCreary, Assistant Executive Secretary; and Seija Meaux, Project Coordinator.

Absent: Elizabeth McDade, Board Member; Sadé Dennis, Project Coordinator.

Guest: Elizabeth Levy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Quorum was established.

Public Comment Period

Levy addressed the board to introduce herself and to seek advice on venues for presenting information from EPA.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the November 12, 2025, regular board meeting were reviewed. Williamson moved to accept the minutes as presented; Schramm seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion; none was forthcoming. He then called for a vote, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

McCreary presented the results of her investigation on saving the board money on postage. She explained that processing license renewals currently includes sending a physical letter and license card each time a

licensee renews. She cited the increasing cost in first-class letter postage and provided a graph that showed that the board's costs were rising dramatically. She recommended emailing the letters and drawing the licensees' attention to the available tool for printing their own license cards directly from their online accounts. Board members were in favor of notifying licensees by email, but Peterson warned that changing the method of sending out the cards could be in violation of the statute or rules. Discussion ensued, with Peterson volunteering to check on the legality of changing the method of sending license cards.

Finley presented the treasurer's report, pointing out that the trend that has been recognized in prior years continues. This trend shows that income builds in the second quarter of the fiscal year. Finley stated that the CDs at Campus Federal Credit Union are generating significant income. Macon pointed out that the budget v. actual report contained an error that she did not notice in time to correct prior to the meeting. She said she would investigate the cause of the error and submit a more accurate report at the March meeting. Schramm moved to accept the report; Culpepper seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion; when none was forthcoming, he called for a vote. The motion passed.

Standing Committees

Application Review Committee: Committee Chair Melanie Stiegler reported that the committee had reviewed four applications for license, eight applications for GIT certification, and twelve ASBOG testing (7 PG; 4 FG; and 1 both FG and PG) requests. On behalf of the committee, Stiegler recommended approval of license applications 1, 2, 3 and 4 and GIT applications 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. She further recommended that ASBOG testing candidates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 be approved. Stiegler then moved to accept the recommendations; Finley seconded. Simms called for discussion; with none forthcoming, he called for a vote. The motion passed.

License Examination Committee: Williamson presented data from the October 2025 testing session; he said that eight candidates passed and three failed the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam, and two passed and one failed the ASBOG Practice of Geology (PG) exam in Louisiana.

Williamson and Schramm reminded the board that they are scheduled to offer a presentation to potential examination candidates on Wednesday, January 28, at 6 pm.

Schramm also mentioned that the next ASBOG COE meeting will be held in Branson, Missouri, in April. He said he plans to attend. Board members agreed that he should attend.

Compliance Committee: Schramm reported on the progress of the 2026 continuing education audit, announcing that six sets of audit materials were reviewed at the meeting held earlier in the day. He cited problems with auditees' documentation of activities is ongoing.

Outreach Committee: Culpepper reported on his participation at the annual ASBOG meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, in October 2025. He focused particularly on the AGI report that indicates salaries for geologists have increased 2% over ten years, with a 3.7% increase in jobs for geologists during that same period.

Regarding the survey of licensees that had been proposed previously, he said his research has indicated that several similar surveys have already been done. He decided, therefore, to shorten the proposed survey/poll and perhaps to send a question each month. He reasoned that this approach will enhance the board's state strategic plan, specifically, "How can the board best serve licensees?"

Strategic Five-year Plan & Rules Review Ad Hoc: The committee opened a discussion among board members on the need to develop a plan for submitting changes to the legislature.

Office Report: Macon reported that she has not yet set up the boardroom at the City Farm Drive address but will start on that immediately.

She also reported that she had received a questionnaire from Comit Developers on the “bulletin board” page to be added to the website. She pointed out that she had previously sent the questionnaire to board members and had not received feedback, so she put a copy of the questionnaire and a second version with her responses in their packets for additional review. Board members agreed with her responses and encouraged her to move forward with this plan.

Macon reported that she still has had no response from the LDOJ on the proposed contract she submitted to that agency in April 2025. She then reminded board members that she desperately needs guidance on issues requiring legal counsel and that they would be discussing the need for outside counsel later in the meeting.

Finally, she pointed out that the draft ad for the position of executive secretary with the changes the board had requested in November was in their packets for a final review. She reminded them that they wanted it to be published on the website and in the soon-to-be released journal issue and asked them for feedback. Board members were satisfied with the ad and recommended moving forward with publication.

Old Business

On the issue of outside legal counsel, the board decided to defer the resolution until March at the recommendation of Assistant Attorney General Peterson. No further discussion was forthcoming.

New Business

Simms recommended that the board go into executive session to discuss potential staff salary increases and related issues. Schramm moved to go into executive session; Williamson seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion; with none forthcoming, he called for a voice vote: Culpepper, Finley, Schramm, Stiegler, Williamson, and Simms voted yes; none voted no; the motion passed unanimously.

When board members returned, Simms called for a motion to resume the regular meeting. Again, Culpepper, Finley, Schramm, Stiegler, Williamson, and Simms voted yes; none voted no; the motion passed unanimously. Simms announced that the board had approved the recommended raises for Macon and Meaux. However, because the board was unclear on the status of Dennis and McCreary, as both have dual employment with both the board and other state agencies, they deferred their wage increases until Peterson provided clarification of the law.

Discussion then turned to committee assignments for 2026. Board members reviewed their assignments and generally agreed, with Schramm adding that he would like Dennis to continue in her capacity as assistant.

Adjournment

The date of the next regular meeting of the board was scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 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. Williamson then moved to adjourn; Schramm seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.