

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



REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 1:00 P.M.

Physical meeting at

1800 City Farm Drive, Building 5B

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

and

Virtual Public Meeting Hosted on Zoom

MINUTES

Chair Michael Simms called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2026, and commenced roll call.

Present: Michael Simms, William Schramm, Melanie Stiegler, David Culpepper, and David Ray Williamson, Board Members; David Peterson, Legal Counsel; and Brenda Macon, Executive Secretary.

Absent: William Finley and Elizabeth McDade (virtual attendance), Board Members; Sadé Dennis and Seija Meaux, Project Coordinators; and Chantel McCreary, Assistant Executive Secretary.

Guest: Rochelle Moore, LA Office of the Attorney General.

Quorum was established.

Public Comment Period

Applicant Joseph Houk requested a refund of the application fee because he felt he would not qualify for licensure in Louisiana. The board discussed his petition and decided that the stated board policy that fees are non-refundable is applicable to this situation. Board members encouraged Houk to continue his application for the license since he has already paid the fee.

Louisiana Professional Geoscientist licensee Chase Cromwell, a geologist with LEAAF Environmental and a member of the New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS) board, has been tapped by ASBOG to serve as an at-large member of the organization because of his exemplary work promoting licensure to geology students at universities in the New Orleans area. The Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists officially agreed to endorse Cromwell's ASBOG at-large membership.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January 14, 2025, regular board meeting were reviewed. Williamson moved to accept the minutes as presented; Stiegler seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion; none was forthcoming. He then called for a vote, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer William R. Finley, the treasurer's report and budget v. actual report were given by the executive secretary, Brenda Macon. She reported that revenue exceeded expenditures in both January and February, as the ongoing trend for this time of the year continues. She pointed out that, so far this fiscal year, the budget is steady, with revenue exceeding expectations by \$1,667 and expenses in close alignment with those projected. Simms called for a motion to approve the report. Williamson moved to approve, and Stiegler seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion; with none forthcoming, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committees

Application Review Committee: Committee Chair Melanie Stiegler reported that the committee reviewed seven applications for Louisiana Professional Geoscientist licenses, and they recommended applications 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 for approval by the board. She further reported that the committee had reviewed one application for a Louisiana Geoscientist-in-Training (GIT) certificate, and they recommended the one application for approval for GIT certification. Finally, she reported that the committee reviewed six testing candidate applications – four to take the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam only, one to take the ASBOG Practice of Geology (PG) exam, and one to take both exams. She said the committee recommended applications 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 for approval by the board. Simms called for a motion on the committee's recommendations. Williamson moved to approve the applications for licenses, GIT, and testing; Schramm seconded the motion. Simms called for discussion. With no discussion ensuing, he called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

License Examination Committee: Committee Chair David Ray Williamson reported that, as of the date of the board meeting, nine Louisiana candidates had registered for the ASBOG FG exam and thirteen had registered for the ASBOG PG exam. Brief discussion ensued. No motions were made.

Compliance Committee: Committee Chair William H. Schramm reported on the progress of the ongoing 2026 continuing education audit. He said one audit was approved at the meeting held earlier in the day, which brought the total number of approved audits to 20. He said that eight audits are still pending because the auditees' expiration dates were more than 60 days into the future, and four were in noncompliance because their licenses expired without response to the audit. Brief discussion ensued.

Outreach Committee: Committee Chair David B. Culpepper reported on progress in outreach and presented a career pathways infographic from the London Geological Society that indicates directions in which the geology profession is going worldwide. This graphic inspired discussion regarding the declining student enrollment in geology programs across the nation and declining participation in the state's geological societies. Williamson commented that the membership in the Shreveport Geological Society has declined significantly in the last year; the society's membership now stands at 109 active members compared to 130 last year. Williamson also noted encouraging developments at Centenary College, where seven undergraduates attended a presentation he gave. Macon and Schramm also reported on a good turnout for a presentation they gave for the Geology Club at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Strategic Five-year Plan & Rules Review Ad Hoc: Committee Chair Elizabeth C. McDade was unable to attend in person but reported through Zoom that the committee is still working through the rules to make changes.

Office Report: Macon reported that the announcements page that the board had recommended for the website is in the works with the web development company Comit Developers. She said the company estimates the creation of the new page will take between six and ten hours, at a cost of \$125 per hour, for a total expense of between \$750 and \$1250.

She also reported that she attended the Joint Engineering Societies Conference (JESC), March 3-5, in Lafayette, Louisiana. She said the board's booth was in a prime location, next to the Louisiana Professional Engineering & Land Surveying Board (LAPELS), and foot traffic was great. However, she noticed far fewer LBOPG licensees attended than in past years and recommended that this would be the last year to have a booth at this conference. Brief discussion ensued, with board members agreeing that this conference was not a good fit for the board.

Macon also mentioned that the board has an opportunity to share a table with the Baton Rouge Geological Society at the upcoming Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) conference in Baton Rouge later in March. She said she would report on that experience at the May meeting. Brief discussion ensued.

Finally, Macon reminded board members of the May 15 deadline for submitting their annual financial disclosure reports to the Louisiana Board of Ethics. She also reminded them to take the required ethics training for board members and to use the email she had sent previously to access the two required training videos – one on Preventing Sexual Harassment and one on Cybersecurity – from Louisiana Civil Service. She mentioned as well that the state's Defensive Driving course is available on the website for the Office of Risk Management. She said she would send links to all of these after the meeting.

Old Business

The interagency renewal agreement between the board and the Louisiana Department of Justice for participation in the Occupational Licensing Review Program during the 2026-2027 fiscal year was discussed. Simms called for a motion to approve the agreement. Culpepper moved to approve the agreement, and Williamson seconded the motion. Simms called for any additional discussion; with none forthcoming, Simms called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

The board then discussed going into executive session to discuss sensitive personnel matters. Schramm moved to go into executive session; Stiegler seconded the motion. Simms then conducted a roll call vote. The results were five ayes, zero nays, and no abstentions:

Culpepper: Aye

Schramm: Aye

Simms: Aye

Stiegler: Aye

Williamson: Aye

The board returned from executive session at 3:59 pm. Culpepper moved to continue research on dual employment; Schramm seconded. Simms called for a vote. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The date of the next regular meeting of the board was scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 1:00 pm, at the Board office (1800 City Farm Drive, Building 5B, Baton Rouge). Meetings of the Compliance Committee, Ad Hoc Rules Committee, and Outreach Committee were also scheduled for that date at 10 am, 11 am, and 12 pm, respectively. Simms then moved to adjourn; Stiegler seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm.