

# LOUISIANA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

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



## REGULAR MEETING OF LBOPG

Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 1:00 P.M.

Louisiana Engineering Society Building Conference Room  
9643 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809

## MINUTES

Chairman William Finley called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m., Tuesday, December 13, 2016. He then commenced roll call.

Present: William Finley, Lloyd Hoover, Art Johnson, John Johnston, Thomas Klekamp, William Meaney, and L. Todd Perry, Board Members. Harry Vorhoff, Legal Counsel; and Brenda Macon, Executive Secretary.

Guests: Donna Sentell, Executive Director, and Richard Savoie, Deputy Executive Director, LAPELS

Absent: Madhurendu Kumar and Daisy Pate, Board Members.

Quorum established. Roll Call sheet was circulated for signatures.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting Minutes of 10/11/2016 were reviewed. Johnson moved to accept the minutes; Johnston seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Johnson presented the October / November 2016 Treasurer's Report. Bank account was reconciled for both October and November, and all is in order. A graph was presented that shows the account balance is stable, with very little change from previous months. Renewals for the last four months are at about 90%, which is good. Finley asked if any large expenses are expected soon; both Johnson and Macon replied that all expected large expenditures (e.g., ASBOG, DMV) have already been made. Revised report for October was included, with small changes for accuracy. Johnston moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Application Review Committee: Johnson reported that seventeen candidates for licensure were reviewed. He read the numbers of applicants recommended by the Licensing Application Review Committee for a Louisiana Professional Geoscientist license as follows: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 20 of the Licensing Review Committee List for December 13, 2016. Klekamp requested that number 8 be taken off the list for recommended approval and returned for discussion in committee. Johnson amended the list to reflect that request. Johnston moved to approve the recommended PG license applicants, except number 8, to be accepted for licensure; seconded by Klekamp. Motion carried

unanimously. Johnson then listed the GIT and ASBOG exam applicants who are recommended for approval. GIT certification recommendation from the GIT list: 4 and 5. Johnston moved to approve these two candidates; Johnson seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Johnson asked the board to clarify whether someone who had applied to take the ASBOG exam but did not meet the requirement of a degree in a geoscience field should be allowed to take the exam. The board discussed promulgating a new rule to clarify that an applicant without a degree in a geoscience field or who is otherwise not eligible to be certified as a GIT will not be allowed to take the ASBOG exam in Louisiana. Johnston moved to approve creating this rule; Johnson seconded; the motion carried. ASBOG testing approval: Johnson read 2, 3, 4, and 5 from the ASBOG testing list for approval to take the exam. Johnston moved to accept these candidates; Meaney seconded the motion; the motion carried.

License Examination Committee: Finley reported that, of the eight people who took the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam, seven passed. Of the six who took the Practice of Geology exam, all passed. The exams were given on Friday, September 30, 2016.

The next ASBOG testing date will be March 17, 2017. The ASBOG deadline for applying to take exams on that date is January 31, 2017; the LBOPG deadline for applicants to be approved to take exams is, therefore, December 31, 2016 (30 days prior to the ASBOG deadline).

Complaint Review Committee: Vorhoff outlined the procedure for adjudicating complaints that he had drafted for the board. Johnson asked Hoover how the procedure was handled by the engineering licensure board and made the point that the various boards' procedures should have some consistency. Discussion ensued. Another point that generated discussion was whether licensed PGs should be called upon to serve on an ad hoc committee to review complaints and to make recommendations to the board regarding those complaints; the majority agreed that outside PGs should serve on the committee. The discussion also led to an agreement that the committee chair would present the recommendation to the board but that members of the committee would be allowed to dissent from the chair's report. Final decisions would be made by the full board in a formal meeting. Klekamp asked if non-board members who serve on the complaint review committee would be compensated. The answer is no, but investigators and litigators in the formal review and hearing would be. The board must approve any expenses for these services. Vorhoff and Perry, the new Complaint Review Committee chair, will continue to develop and clarify the procedure. Johnson and Klekamp requested that a visual representation, perhaps a flowchart, be developed to illustrate the proposed procedure.

Office Committee: Johnston reported that Macon interviewed the top five applicants for the Assistant Executive Secretary position and referred three of those applicants to the Office Committee. Johnston, Johnson, and Finley then interviewed those three, selecting one – Chantel McCreary – for the position. If approved by the board and McCreary accepts the position and passes the background check, she would begin on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Meaney moved to accept the committee's recommendation; Perry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The board's fourth contract with L.A. Champagne, LLP, for annual accounting services has been approved, and the contract with Usable Creative for additional work to be done to the website has also been approved.

Legal Counsel's Comments: Vorhoff deferred his comments until the discussion of the special meeting held with LAPELS and DEQ on Tuesday, October 18.

Other Business: Regarding use of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam as an assessment tool, Macon reported that she and McNicholas had visited with faculty at Tulane and UNO in November. Both schools are interested in working with LBOPG and ASBOG. The two also attended the Shreveport Geological Society's meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. Johnson reported that he had made a presentation at LSU and had also made a strong pitch to the students to take the ASBOG FG exam.

### New Business

#### *Special meeting with LAPELS and DEQ, October 18, 2016:*

Finley summarized the meeting with LAPELS and DEQ that was held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 2 pm. After discussion of several key points in the act that established LBOPG, the groups came to an agreement. Discussion ensued; the majority of the board accepted that this agreement should be pursued and that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the draft of which was presented by Vorhoff, will be developed collaboratively with LAPELS. Additionally, the DEQ checklist that was previously agreed to be included in the LBOPG seal use guidelines will be removed from those guidelines. Johnston registered his dissent from the board's majority opinion to accept the agreements reached with LAPELS, citing the difference in experience required for LAPELS licensure (4 years) and LBOPG licensure (5 years) and his different interpretation of the law. Discussion ensued. Perry moved to accept Finley's summarized list as guidelines for developing a cooperative agreement with LAPELS; Meaney seconded the motion; the motion carried.

In presenting his draft MOU, Vorhoff explained that he had pulled language from several other states that have MOUs between the engineering and geoscience licensure boards to create the draft. He presented three options for handling situations in which inquiries or investigations overlap between the two licensure boards, providing for different mechanisms by which a collaborative process can be achieved. He will continue to work with LBOPG and LAPELS to finalize the draft. Vorhoff replied to several questions about the three options and the differences between them. Finley charged the board members to read and think about this draft and to be prepared to discuss it in more detail at the next meeting.

#### *ASBOG Annual Meeting, November 1-3, 2016, Lawrence, Kansas:*

Macon reported on the ASBOG administrators' workshop and annual meeting. Several topics touched on issues now being discussed in LBOPG meetings, making the workshop and meeting relevant to the board's work in Louisiana. She thanked the board for sending her to the meeting and asked to attend future meetings. She then outlined several goals she wanted to pursue, including building stronger ties with the four geological societies in the state and posting a code of ethics on the website. Several board members commented that the board should be completely separate from geological societies and that posting a specific code of ethics on the website would limit the ability of the board to enforce unethical behavior not spelled out in that code. Discussion by the board then provided guidance on specific goals for 2017.

Donna Sentell, Executive Director of LAPELS, invited LBOPG members to attend the LAPELS January 10 meeting for lunch. Board members accepted her invitation.

The next regular meeting of the board will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Johnston. Motion carried unanimously. Finley adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.