

STATE BOARD FOR ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING AND GEOLOGY

New York State Education Department
Office of Professions

Via Webex

June 9, 2022

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Board Members Present: Chair – M. Noviello, Vice Chair – J. Martin, D. D’Angelo, D. Franzi, B. Holbritter, W. Kelly, R. Frandina, J. Patota, A. Friedman, & T. Mitchell

Board Member Absent: L. Woods

Extended Members Present: E. Haas, A. Lopez, & W. Shover

Subject Matter Experts Present: H. Palmer, J. Berger

Key Department Personnel: E. Greppo – Executive Secretary, J. O’Brien – Education Program Assistant II, M. Slivinski – Administrative Assistant, M. Heinrichs – Education Program Assistant I, R. Lopez – Executive Secretary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, S. Benson – Deputy Commissioner for the Professions, D. Hamilton – Assistant Commissioner for the Professions, O. Donovan – Executive Coordinator of Professional Practice

Key Guests: John Nadeau – Executive Director for the New York State Council of Professional Geologists (NYSCPG), Campbell Wallace – ACECNY, Emily Whalen – NYSAPLS, Mark Kriss – NYSSPE

Call to Order – Open Session

Chair Noviello called the Open Session to order at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions of Guests and Board Members

Board Members and Guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

On a motion by Member Friedman, Seconded by Extended Member Shover, the minutes of the March 10, 2022 open meeting were reviewed and approved conditional on correction to show Member Mitchell as joining at 1:05p.

Chair Report – Chair Noviello reported one (1) land surveyor member is on leave, and only two (2) voting members were at the last Land Surveying committee meeting. He would like to add additional surveyors to the Board.

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Chair Noviello indicated he intends to attend the NCEES Annual Meeting in August now that SED has approved the travel.

Chair Noviello discussed NYS Education law outlining that the extended board members' primary function is to serve on OPD cases (hearings) and simultaneously reminded the group of the knowledge and value they contribute to the board functions.

Chair Noviello noted his virtual participation in the NCEES June State of the Council meeting and discussed key initiatives proposed.

Chair Noviello reminded the board of the lifetime legal liabilities currently inherent to design professionals and specifically discussed the liabilities of the current "Industrial Exemption."

Vice Chair Report - Vice Chair Martin stated he will cover his topics in the Legislation and Professional Engineering portion of the meeting.

Executive Secretary Report – Executive Secretary Greppo thanked Architecture Board Executive Secretary Lopez for the acting role he recently held over the Engineering board, including the development of emergency regulations.

Executive Secretary Greppo indicated that travel is occurring more frequently and it is hoped that the board meeting in September will be in person.

Executive Secretary Greppo congratulated Roman Figler on his 2nd term appointment as an Extended Board Member.

Executive Secretary Greppo announced that Nancy Wiley (Associate in Professional Education) has retired as of May 26. Recruitment for replacement is underway and it's hoped a new hire will start this summer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Access to the Professions – Committee Chair Patota reported that she and Matthew made a virtual presentation on licensure to approximately 60 engineers and geologist employees in the NYC Office of Design and Construction. Patota also participated as a virtual judge for the Tri-County Science Fair in April, including elementary through high school students in Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties. She noted that STEM has not been represented well since the pandemic and offered to be a mentor to students.

*** Aside to the Committee Reports***

Sarah Benson – Entered the meeting and introduced herself stating that she has worked numerous times with this Board office and Executive Secretary Greppo is off to a tremendous start. She introduced the new positions in the Office of the Professions – David Hamilton – Assistant Commissioner and Owen Donovan – Executive Coordinator of Professional Practice.

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Resumption of Committee Reports

Legislation - Committee Chair Martin stated he had been working on the engineering education regulations for three (3) years. He indicated that there is another bill before the Legislature now regarding Design Professional Corporations.

Land Surveying – Committee Chair Holbriiter reported the Land Survey committee met on 4/18/22 and 6/3/22 via Webex to strategize and review the April exam and work on the October exam. They are meeting again on 7/21/22 to finalize the October exam.

Professional Engineering – Committee Chair Martin stated the Board has been busy with application reviews and reducing the backlog. The new regulations were approved in April 2022. Rob Lopez discussed how the new regulations provide alignment with most states' practices and reviewed the general composition of the regulatory changes.

Education, Experience and Examinations - Committee Chair Mitchell stated there were no new proposals since the last meeting and there are two (2) open proposals. There will be discussion regarding these proposals in the Executive Session.

Environmental – Committee Chair Patota commented there was no pending Environmental legislation since the last meeting. She discussed concerns of DEC accepting certain work by non-licensed individuals. It was generally agreed that a future environmental committee meeting could be utilized to review these concerns.

Continuing Education – Committee Chair Len Woods was not present. Members discussed ways to notify stakeholders of regulatory changes.

Project Delivery Methods – Committee Chair D'Angelo reported no pending legislation. There are some issues on the federal level that he is monitoring. He suggested the possibility of a joint meeting with the Architecture Board to review depending on discipline overlap.

Geology Committee – Committee Chair Kelly proposed follow-up discussion on the following:

- Education Review – Modifications to the application forms as some information appears contradictory.
- Licensure Qualifying Programs/Courses
- Guidelines for Practice of Geology – Draft in the style of engineering and land surveying guidelines.

A geology committee meeting is planned to develop these discussions.

Construction Supervision – Committee Chair D'Angelo indicated his intention to call for a committee meeting as one hasn't been held in some time.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

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Budget, Staff, Technology Update – Executive Secretary Greppo reported that there is an updated contact list on the Board Members Only website. There is a new Board Members website coming soon that will allow better organization and document sharing. Implementation is planned for the July/August time frame. Any feedback from board members will be appreciated once the new site is established. There is upcoming SED training regarding the discipline process and interested members may participate.

Executive Secretary Greppo reminded all participants that additional board members are needed from all disciplines and to submit nominations through the board office.

Executive Secretary Greppo reminded board membership that travel receipts should be submitted within 30 days of completion. For processing, it is imperative to keep fiscal years separate and use exact dates.

NEW BUSINESS

Member Patota asked how engineering applicants are made aware of the new education requirement. Executive Secretary Greppo and R. Lopez reported that applicants can look at the advisory notice on the OP website, Linked In, Twitter, SED social media and by contacting associations. Additional outreach by the board office will likely be coordinated for awareness of regulatory changes.

It was generally agreed that the next board meeting will be held on September 8, 2022 at 9:30a.m. in person at the State Education Building in Albany.

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – On a motion by Member Mitchell and seconded by Member Kelly, the Board voted to move into Executive Session. Call to order at 11:49 a.m. by Chair Noviello.

ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Member Friedman, seconded by Member Kelly, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.