

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1433
April 22, 2024

At 9:00 a.m. on April 22, 2024, Connie P. Betts, P.E. called the meeting to order at the Board's office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the following members present:

Connie P. Betts, P.E.	Chairman
Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.	Vice Chairman
Linda H. Bergeron, P.E.	Treasurer
Byron D. Racca, P.E.	Secretary

James H. Chustz, Jr., P.L.S.
Janice P. Williams, P.E.
Vijaya Gopu, Ph.D., P.E.
Gordon E. Nelson, P.E.
John J. Plaisance, II, P.E., P.L.S.
Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.
Wilfred J. Fontenot, P.L.S.

Also present: Donna D. Sentell, Executive Director
Cheron Seaman, Deputy Executive Director
D. Scott Landry, Board Attorney
Joe Harman, P.E., Technical Advisor
David Patterson, P.L.S., Technical Advisor
Bill Tripoli, IT Director
Janet Lindsey, Application Manager
Chris Aaron, Staff
Morgan Georgetown, Staff
Rhett Rayburn, Staff

The invocation was led by Mr. Jeter and the pledge was led by Ms. Bergeron.

Public comment time was recognized by Chairman Betts.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Plaisance, to accept the April 22, 2024 proposed Call and Agenda for the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Dr. Gopu, to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2024 Board meeting.

Chairman Betts reviewed the committee assignments for FY 2024-2025 and appointed Ms. Bergeron, Ms. Williams and Dr. Gopu to the Building Committee.

Compliance and Enforcement

Case # 2023-72 – Ms. Georgetown reported on an unlicensed firm which (a) practiced and/or offered to practice engineering and used the words “engineer”, “engineering” or any modification or derivative thereof in a person’s name or form of business or activity without proper licensure and (b) committed fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or gave false or forged evidence, in applying for a license with the Board. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$3,750
2. Costs of \$1,521.62
3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
4. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Winkelmann & Associates, Inc.**

Case # 2023-73 – Ms. Georgetown reported on a professional engineer who (a) committed fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or gave false or forged evidence, in applying for a license with the Board and (b) aided or assisted another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$1,500
2. Costs of \$1,521.62
3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
6. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
7. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Michael D. Clark, P.E.**

Case # 2023-48 – Mr. Rayburn reported on an unlicensed firm which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering without proper licensure. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$3,000
2. Costs of \$501.23
3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
4. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Smith Emery Laboratories, Inc.**

Case # 2023-55 – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineer who practiced and/or offered to practice engineering services in Louisiana with an expired professional engineer license on two projects in Louisiana between October 2022 and April 2023. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$1,000.00;
2. Costs of \$156.77;
3. Successful completion of Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher;
4. Successful completion of Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz with a score of 90% or higher;
5. Publication of consent order on the Board's website and summary of consent order in the Journal identifying by name; and
6. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name.

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion to approve the signed consent order made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu. The name of the Respondent is **Gabriel S. Arias, P.E.**

Case # 2023-57 – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineer who practiced and/or offered to practice engineering with an expired license. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$1,000
2. Costs of \$694.13
3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
6. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
7. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Gary A. Storm, P.E**

Case # 2023-59 – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineering firm which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering in Louisiana with an expired firm license on 21 projects in Louisiana between October of 2018 and October of 2023. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$5000;
2. Costs of \$182.05;
3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal identifying Respondent by name; and
4. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name.

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz, and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Allied Engineering Design, LLC.**

Case # 2023-60 – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineer who aided or assisted the professional engineering firm where he was supervising professional in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board when the firm offering to provide engineering services in Louisiana with an expired firm license. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$500;
2. Costs of \$182.05;
3. Successful completion of the Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz with a score of 90% or higher;
4. Successful completion of the Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz with a score of 90% or higher;
5. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal identifying by name; and
6. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name.

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz, and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Noel K. Clary, P.E.**

Case # 2023-74 – Mr. Rayburn reported on an unlicensed firm which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering without proper licensure. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$3,000
2. Costs of \$418.50
3. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal with name
4. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **DBR Engineering Consultants, Inc.**

Case # 2023-75 – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineer who aided or assisted another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$500
2. Costs of \$418.50
3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
6. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal with name
7. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Kenneth L. Roland, P.E.**

Case # 2022-11 – Mr. Aaron reported on an unlicensed firm which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering without proper licensure in violation of La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1) and (9), *to wit* LAC 46:LXI §2301B. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

5. Fine of \$3,000
6. Costs of \$246.96
7. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Board’s official Journal identifying Respondent by name.
8. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr. Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **AMMTEC Consultants PLLC.**

Case # 2022-13 – Mr. Aaron reported on a professional engineer who aided or assisted an unlicensed firm which practiced in Louisiana without proper licensure in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board in violation of La. 37:698(A)(12). The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

7. Fine of \$500
8. Costs of \$246.96
9. Completion of the Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher
10. Completion of the Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher

1 11. Publication on the Board's website and in the Board's official Journal
2 identifying Respondent by name.

3 12. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name

4 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the
5 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Dr.
6 Gopu, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is
7 **Alan E. Money, P.E.**

8 9 10 **Committee Reports**

11 **Laws and Rules Committee**

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14 Mr. Landry reviewed pending House and Senate bills for the 2024 Regular
15 Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

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17 The Board recessed at 10:33 a.m. and resumed at 10:50 a.m.

18 **Finance Committee**

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21 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Plaisance, seconded
22 by Mr. Racca, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with
23 **Tri- Core Technologies, L.L.C.** to provide maintenance and support of the
24 LOLA information technology system. The term of the contract will be for
25 three months, **beginning July 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2024**, in
26 the total amount not to exceed **\$36,270**.

27
28 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by
29 Ms. Bergeron, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with
30 **Red Stick Solutions, L.L.C.** to provide information technology support
31 services for the Board. The term of the contract will be for one year,
32 **beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025**, in the total amount not to
33 exceed **\$21,600**.

34
35 Chairman Betts presented the financial report for FY 23-24. After discussion,
36 the Board unanimously approved the motion made by John Plaisance,
37 seconded by Jimmy Chustz, to accept the year-to-date financial report for FY
38 23-24 as presented.

39
40 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by
41 Mr. Racca, to authorize the Executive Director/Deputy Executive Director to
42 invest **\$150,000** in a Certificate of Deposit or savings account, whichever
43 provides the better interest rate, at **JPMorgan Chase Bank**.

44
45 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by
46 Ms. Bergeron, to authorize the Executive Director/Deputy Executive Director
47 to invest **\$150,000** in a Certificate of Deposit or savings account, whichever
48 provides the better interest rate, at **Hancock/Whitney Bank**.

49 **Old Business/New Business**

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52 Ms. Sentell updated the Board on the lease agreement with Stirling Two United
53 Plaza, L.L.C. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion
54 made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Dr. Gopu, to authorize the staff to purchase
55 the furniture items offered by the current tenants, Cross Country Mortgage, at
56 a total amount not to exceed \$2,000.

57
58 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded
59 by Dr. Gopu, to schedule the next Board meeting for Monday, June 10, 2024.

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61 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by
62 Mr. Fontenot, to request NCEES Associate Member status for Chris Aaron.
63

1 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Chustz, seconded
2 by Dr. Gopu, to approve Board and staff members to attend the NCEES Annual
3 Meeting in Chicago, IL on August 14-17, 2024.
4

5 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by
6 Mr. Jeter, to approve Board enforcement staff to attend the Law Enforcement
7 program at the NCEES Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL on August 16-17, 2024.
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9 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by
10 Ms. Bergeron, to not participate in the ceremonial signing for the UK Mutual
11 Recognition Agreement (MRA) at the NCEES Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.
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13 The Board recessed for lunch at 11:25 a.m. and resumed at 12:05 p.m.
14

15 **Closing Business**
16

17 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by
18 Mr. Jeter, to approve all committee recommendations and actions.
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20 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded
21 by Mr. Chustz, to acknowledge and confirm all licenses and certificates issued
22 and renewed since the last Board meeting.
23

24 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by
25 Mr. Jeter, to approve all Board expenses.
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27 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by
28 Mr. Plaisance, to adjourn.
29

30 The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m. on April 22, 2024.
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36 Connie P. Betts, P.E.
37 Chairman
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Byron D. Racca, P.E.
Secretary