

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1433
February 27, 2024

At 9:00 a.m. on February 27, 2024, Edgar P. Benoit, P.E. called the meeting to order at the Board's office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the following members present:

Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.	Chairman
Wilfred J. Fontenot, P.L.S.	Vice Chairman
Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.	Secretary
Connie P. Betts, P.E.	Treasurer

Linda H. Bergeron, P.E.
Byron D. Racca, P.E.
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.

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
Kelly McAdams, Staff
Morgan Georgetown, Staff
Rhett Rayburn, Staff
Brittany Nuccio, Staff

The invocation was led by Ms. Bergeron and the pledge was led by Ms. Williams.

Public comment time was recognized by Chairman Benoit. New employees, Kelly McAdams, Morgan Georgetown, Rhett Rayburn and Brittany Nuccio, were introduced to the Board.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr. Plaisance, to accept the February 27, 2024 proposed Call and Agenda for the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2024 Board meeting.

Compliance and Enforcement

Case # 2021-58 – Mr. Aaron reported on an unlicensed firm which practiced 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 \$546.77
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 **John Beath Environmental LLC**.

Case # 2021-96 – Mr. Aaron reported on an unlicensed individual who practiced 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 \$1,500
- 2. Costs of \$546.77
- 3. Cease and desist
- 4. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal with name
- 5. 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 **John M. Beath**.

Case # 2023-19 – Mr. Aaron reported on a professional land surveyor who practiced and/or offered to practice land surveying 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 \$1,000.00;
- 2. Costs of \$183.82;
- 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 by name;
- 6. Report to NCEES 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 **George A. Evans, P.L.S.**

Committee Reports

Laws and Rules Committee

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

Mr. Landry presented the proposed revisions to Rule 2911. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to amend Rule 2911 as follows:

§2911. Mineral Unitization Survey

- A. ...
- B. Scope and Product. A mineral unitization survey shall, as a minimum, consist of the following elements.
 - B.1. ...
 - 2. The professional land surveyor shall determine, on the ground, the location of the unit well and the location of sufficient tract lines in order to determine the subsurface mineral tracts located inside the unit boundaries. Geologically significant wells, as identified by the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation field order or the client, will be located with respect to the unit boundaries. Installation of new monuments defining the limits of the unit, or of the tracts which comprise the unit, is not required.
 - 3. The professional land surveyor shall prepare a unitization plat or map (Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation field order unit, voluntary unit or declared unit) showing the mineral participant(s) and limits of the tracts (or portions of tracts) which

are included in the proposed mineral unit. These plats or maps shall be prepared in compliance with those requirements for property boundary survey plats or maps that are specifically contained in §2907.G.1, 2, 6, 7 and 14. These plats or maps shall contain bearings and distances around the perimeter of the unit boundary, but are not required to depict or list such calls for the individual tracts which comprise the unit. Final plats or maps issued to the client shall contain a statement by the professional land surveyor certifying its authenticity (that it represents his/her survey) and stating that the mineral unitization survey complies with the applicable standards of practice as stipulated in this Chapter. In addition, the plats or maps, when applicable, shall be in compliance with the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation’s requirements governing unit plats and survey plats (LAC 43:XIX.Chapter 41).

B.4. ...

Mr. Landry presented the proposed revisions to Rule 1101. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by Mr. Fontenot, to amend Rule 1101 as follows:

§1101. Approved Curricula

A. – F. ...

G. To qualify for certification as a land surveyor intern pursuant to §907.A.1, an applicant may be required to submit to the board an evaluation of the “30 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, in land surveying, mapping, and real property courses” prepared by a board-approved education credential evaluation service.

Mr. Landry presented the proposed revisions to Rule 907. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Plaisance, seconded by Ms. Bergeron, to amend Rule 907 as follows:

§907. Land Surveyor Intern Certification

A. The requirements for certification as a land surveyor intern under the two alternatives provided in the licensure law are as follows:

1. the applicant for certification as a land surveyor intern shall be a graduate holding a baccalaureate degree from a curriculum of four years or more who has completed at least 30 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, in land surveying, mapping, and real property courses approved by the board (as discussed in §1107), who is of good character and reputation, who has passed the examination required by the board in the fundamentals of land surveying, who was recommended for certification by a professional land surveyor holding a valid license to engage in the practice of land surveying issued to him/her by proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, who has submitted an application for certification in accordance with the requirements of R.S. 37:694, and who was duly certified as a land surveyor intern by the board; or

A.2. – B. ...

Mr. Landry discussed some minor changes to the proposed revisions to Rule 1703 which were approved at the January 16, 2024 Board meeting. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Plaisance, seconded by Mr. Racca, to amend Rule 1703 as follows effective January 1, 2025 (with this version of the amendment to replace the version approved at the January 16, 2024 Board meeting):

1 §1703. Fees

2 A. ...

3 B. Application fees, renewal fees and other fees shall be as follows:

Application Fees	
Licensure as a Professional Engineer by Examination	\$50
Licensure as a Professional Engineer by Comity	\$200
Licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor by Examination	\$50
Licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor by Comity	\$200
Louisiana Laws of Land Surveying Examination	\$100
Temporary Engineering Permit (Individual)	\$400
Temporary Land Surveying Permit (Individual)	\$400
Certification as an Engineer Intern	\$20
Certification as a Land Surveyor Intern	\$20
Licensure as a Professional Engineering Firm	\$185
Licensure as a Professional Land Surveying Firm	\$185
Temporary Engineering Permit (Firm)	\$370
Renewal Fees	
Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Engineer in Active Status	\$140
Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Engineer in Retired Status	\$70
Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Engineer in Inactive Status	\$140
Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor in Active Status	\$140
Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor in Retired Status	\$70
Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor in Inactive Status	\$140
Renewal of Certification as an Engineer Intern	\$60
Renewal of Certification as a Land Surveyor Intern	\$60
Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Engineering Firm	\$140
Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Land Surveying Firm	\$140
Late Renewal Fees	
Late Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Engineer in Active Status <i>(within 120 days after expiration)</i>	\$210
Late Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Engineer in Retired Status <i>(within 120 days after expiration)</i>	\$105
Late Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Engineer in Inactive Status <i>(within 120 days after expiration)</i>	\$210
Late Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor in Active Status <i>(within 120 days after expiration)</i>	\$210
Late Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor in Retired Status <i>(within 120 days after expiration)</i>	\$105
Late Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor in Inactive Status <i>(within 120 days after expiration)</i>	\$210
Late Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Engineering Firm <i>(within 120 days after expiration)</i>	\$210
Late Renewal of Licensure as a Professional Land Surveying	\$210

Firm (<i>within 120 days after expiration</i>)	
Reactivation Fees	
Reactivation of Expired Professional Engineer License (<i>more than 120 days after expiration</i>)	\$200
Reactivation of Expired Professional Land Surveyor License (<i>more than 120 days after expiration</i>)	\$200
Reactivation of Expired Engineer Intern Certification (<i>more than 120 days after expiration</i>)	\$60
Reactivation of Expired Land Surveyor Intern Certification (<i>more than 120 days after expiration</i>)	\$60
Reactivation of Expired Professional Engineering Firm License (<i>more than 120 days after expiration</i>)	\$200
Reactivation of Expired Professional Land Surveying Firm License (<i>more than 120 days after expiration</i>)	\$200
Other Fees	
Examination for Record Purposes (Professional Engineer)	Pay NCEES directly
Academic Credential Evaluation	Pay NCEES directly
Continuing Professional Development Failure to Comply	\$200
Change Firm Name	\$25
Certificate Replacement	\$30
NSF Check	\$25 plus \$100 administrative fee
Public Records	\$0.25 per page plus notary and postage charges
Licensee Mailing List	\$100 minimum for first 1,000 licensees, plus \$0.10 per each additional licensee
Board Presentation	\$400, plus actual expenses

The Board recessed at 10:18 a.m. and resumed at 10:31 a.m.

Continuing Professional Development Committee

Ms. Bergeron presented the report from the Continuing Professional Development Committee. The Committee was charged with reviewing the Board’s continuing professional development (CPD) requirements to determine whether the Board should consider reducing the annual PDH requirement for active licensees at a certain age or with a certain number of years of licensure. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Dr. Gopu, seconded by Ms. Betts, to accept the recommendation from the committee to not make any changes to the current CPD requirements.

Building Committee

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a lease agreement with Stirling Two United Plaza, L.L.C. for office space on the 9th floor of the United Plaza II Building, 8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The term of the lease agreement will be for ten years **beginning December 1, 2024 and ending November 30, 2034**, in the annual amount not to exceed \$166,660.68.

Finance Committee

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr. Fontenot, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with **Celia Cangelosi** to serve as legal counsel and as a prosecuting attorney for Board disciplinary and enforcement hearings. The term of the contract will be for three years **beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027**, in the total amount not to exceed \$108,000.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr. Plaisance, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with **D. Scott Landry of Chaffe McCall, L.L.P.** to serve as legal counsel and as a prosecuting attorney for Board disciplinary and enforcement hearings. The term of the contract will be for three years **beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027**, in the total amount not to exceed \$450,000.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr. Racca, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with **D'Pat, L.L.C.** to serve as technical advisor to the Board. The term of the contract will be for three years **beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027**, in the total amount not to exceed \$90,000.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Ms. Bergeron, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with **Joe H. Harman & Associates, LLC** to serve as technical advisor to the Board. The term of the contract will be for three years **beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027**, in the total amount not to exceed \$180,000.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Dr. Gopu, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with **L.A. Champagne & Co., L.L.P.** to provide accounting services for the Board. The term of the contract will be for three years **beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027**, in the total amount not to exceed \$84,000.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr. Plaisance, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors to provide subject matter expert services for the administration of the Louisiana laws of land surveying examinations for the Board. The term of the contract will be for three years **beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027**, in the total amount not to exceed \$16,800.

Ms. Betts presented the financial report for FY 23-24. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to accept the year-to-date financial report for FY 23-24 as presented.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to renew the certificate of deposit at United Community Bank when they mature on March 10, 2024.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to renew the four certificates of deposit at Investar Bank when they mature on April 4, 2024.

1 **Nominations and Awards Committee**

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3 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Nominations and
4 Awards Committee to elect the following Board officers for 2024-2025:

- 5
6 • Connie P. Betts, P.E – Chairman/Vice Chairman
7 • Reginald L. Jeter, P.E. – Vice-Chairman/Chairman
8 • Byron D. Racca, P.E. – Secretary
9 • Linda H. Bergeron, P.E. – Treasurer

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11 **Old Business/New Business**

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13 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Plaisance, seconded by
14 Dr. Gopu, to allocate \$500 for Ms. Bergeron’s campaign for the NCEES Southern
15 Zone secretary position at the upcoming zone meeting in Ashville, NC.

16
17 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by
18 Ms. Bergeron, to approve Board and staff members to attend the Louisiana Society
19 of Professional Surveyors convention in Lake Charles, LA on April 10-12, 2024.

20
21 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Fontenot, seconded by
22 Dr. Gopu, to schedule the next Board meeting for Monday, April 22, 2024.

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24 At 11:34 a.m., the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts,
25 seconded by Mr. Fontenot, to enter into executive session to discuss personnel
26 matters.

27
28 At 12:02 p.m., the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca,
29 seconded by Mr. Jeter, to exit the executive session.

30
31 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Dr.
32 Gopu, to authorize a 7% salary increase for the Executive Director, effective
33 February 27, 2024.

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35 The Board recessed for lunch at 12:04 p.m. and resumed at 12:40 p.m.

36
37 **Closing Business**


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39 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Chustz, seconded by
40 Dr. Gopu, to approve all committee recommendations and actions.


41
42 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Ms.
43 Bergeron, to acknowledge and confirm all licenses and certificates issued and
44 renewed since the last Board meeting.

45
46 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr.
47 Racca, to approve all Board expenses.

48
49 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr.
50 Plaisance, to adjourn.

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52 The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m. on February 27, 2024.

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58 Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.
59 Chairman

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 Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.
 Secretary