

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD
8550 UNITED PLAZA BOULEVARD, SUITE 903
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1433
February 4, 2025

At 9:12 a.m. on February 4, 2025, Reginald L. Jeter, P.E. called the meeting to order at the Board's office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the following members present:

Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.	Chairman
Connie P. Betts, 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.
Susan H. Richard, P.E.
Byron E. Trust, P.E.
Robert L. Wolfe, P.E., P.L.S.

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

Ms. Bergeron led the invocation and the pledge was led by Mr. Wolfe.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the February 4, 2025, proposed Call and Agenda for the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Ms. Bergeron, to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2024 Board meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr. Chustz, to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2024 Board meeting.

Compliance and Enforcement

Case # 2023-45– Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional engineer who failed to disclose disciplinary actions in another jurisdiction on an application for a license renewal. 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 \$1000;
2. Costs of \$791.06;
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 made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Chustz, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Andrew D. Leone, P.E.**

Case # 2024-21 – Mr. Rayburn reported on a professional land surveyor which violated the Standards of Practice for Boundary Surveys. 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 \$2,262.55;
3. Completion of the Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher;
4. Completion of the Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher;
5. Completion of the Louisiana Standards of Practice for Boundary Survey Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher;
6. Correction of the Standards of Practice violations on revised survey plats, provide the revised survey plats to the Board for review, properly file the revised survey plats into the public record, and provide copies of the filed revised survey plats to the Board;
7. Submit to the Board all property boundary survey plats or maps of property located in Louisiana which have been prepared and issued by Respondent since January 1, 2020;
8. Publication on the Board's website and in the Board's official Journal identifying Respondent by name; and
9. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name.

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Williams, Dr. Gopu, and Mr. Nelson, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **John O. Hebert III, P.L.S.**

Case # 2024-64 – 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 \$1,500
2. Costs of \$341.90
3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Board's official Journal identifying Respondent by name.
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. Williams, Dr. Gopu, and Mr. Nelson to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Property Imaging Experts, LLC.**

Case # 2024-73 – 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 \$301.84
3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Board's official Journal identifying Respondent by name.
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. Williams, Dr. Gopu, and Mr. Nelson, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Becker Engineering, Inc.**

Case # 2024-74 – 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 \$301.84
3. Completion of the Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher
4. Completion of the Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher
5. Publication on the Board's website and in the Board's official Journal identifying Respondent by name.
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. Williams, Dr. Gopu, and Mr. Nelson, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Gregory T. Becker, P.E.**

Case # 2023-63 – Ms. Georgetown 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 \$378.21
3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Board's official Journal identifying Respondent by name.
4. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Dr. Gopu, Mr. Chustz, and Mrs. Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Olsson Industrial Electric, Inc.**

Case # 2023-62 – Ms. Georgetown reported on a professional engineer who 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 \$1,500
2. Costs of \$378.21
3. Completion of the Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher
4. Completion of the Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher
5. Publication on the Board's website and in the Board's official Journal identifying Respondent by name.
6. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Dr. Gopu, Mr. Chustz, and Mrs. Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Jason T. Schmutz, P.E.**

Case # 2024-36 – Ms. Georgetown reported on an engineering firm who failed to disclose disciplinary actions in another jurisdiction on application of a 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 \$1001.47
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. Williams, Dr. Gopu, and Mr. Nelson, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Prairie Engineers, P.C. Corporation**.

Committee Reports

Laws and Rules Committee

Mr. Landry discussed the new requirements of La. R.S. 49:964(D) with respect to annually reviewing Board rules and submitting reports to the legislative oversight committees. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the Laws and Rules Committee's review and proposed action regarding Rules 101 through 729.

The Board approved the motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Ms. Richard, to have Mr. Landry draft the proposed rule revisions to Rules 701, 703, 707 and 709 and present them for review at the next Board meeting.

Applications

Application Appeals

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Dr. Gopu, to affirm the reviewing committee's decision to *disapprove* the application of **Paul Finger Lynes** for licensure as a professional engineer by comity based on not satisfying the educational requirements of the Board.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Ms. Betts, to affirm the reviewing committee's decision to *disapprove* the application of **Patrick Taylor** for licensure as a professional engineer by comity based on not satisfying the educational requirements of the Board.

Committee Reports (continued)

Land Surveying Committee

Mr. Chustz presented the updated Compendium of Louisiana and Federal Laws Relating to Land Surveying for 2025.

Mr. Landry exited the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Finance Committee

Ms. Bergeron presented the financial report for FY 24-25. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to accept the year-to-date budget for FY 24-25 as presented.

The Board unanimously approved the motion by the Finance Committee to renew the certificate of deposit at United Community Bank when it matures on March 10, 2025.

Ms. Bergeron presented the proposed budget for FY 25-26. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to accept the proposed budget for FY 25-26 as presented.

1 **Nominations and Awards Committee**

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3 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Nominations and Awards
4 Committee to elect the following Board officers for 2025-2026:

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6 Byron D. Racca, P.E. – Chairman/Vice Chairman
7 Linda H. Bergeron, P.E. – Chairman/Vice Chairman
8 James H. Chustz, Jr., P.L.S. – Secretary
9 Janice P. Williams, 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. Nelson, seconded by Ms.
14 Bergeron, to approve Board and staff members to attend the Louisiana Society of
15 Professional Surveyors convention in Lake Charles, LA on April 7-11, 2025.
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17 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr.
18 Trust, to approve Board and staff members to attend the NCEES Southern Zone
19 meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas on April 24-26, 2025.
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21 Ms. Bergeron presented an update from the Building Committee. After discussion, the
22 Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Ms.
23 Williams, to authorize Ms. Sentell to contact the Division of Administration concerning
24 additional office space.
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26 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Chustz, seconded by Mr.
27 Trust, to schedule the 2025-2026 Board meeting dates as follows:
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 - Monday, March 31, 2025
 - 30 • Monday, June 16, 2025
 - 31 • Monday, August 4, 2025
 - 32 • Monday, September 29, 2025
 - 33 • Monday, November 17, 2025
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35 **Closing Business**

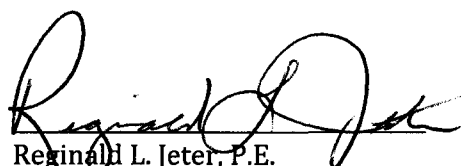
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37 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr.
38 Chustz, to approve all committee recommendations and actions.
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40 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr.
41 Racca, to acknowledge and confirm all licenses and certificates issued and renewed
42 since the last Board meeting.
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44 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr.
45 Nelson, to approve all Board expenses.
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47 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Dr. Gopu, seconded by Mr.
48 Racca, to adjourn.
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50 The meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m. on February 4, 2025.
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57 Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.
58 Chairman

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65 Byron D. Racca, P.E.
66 Secretary