



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING
GEOLOGIST LICENSING BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

DATE: March 7, 2024
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Virtual Via Microsoft Teams

BOARD MEMBERS: **Casey Hanell**, LG/EG, State Geologist, Chair
Carla Brock, LG/HG, Vice Chair
Thomas Tebb, LG/EG/HG, Secretary
Carrie Gillum, LG, Board Member
James Struthers, LG/EG, Board Member
Eileen Webb, LG, Board Member (Absent)

STAFF MEMBERS: **Susan Nieves**, Program Specialist
Sydney Muhle, Program Specialist

1. Call to Order

Chair Casey Hanell called the meeting to order at **10:00 a.m.**

2. Roll Call

Program Specialist Susan Nieves conducted roll call. All Board members were present, except Board Member Eileen Webb who was excused.

3. Approval of Agenda

Secretary Tom Tebb made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda as presented. Board Member James Struthers **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Special Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2023

Secretary Tebb made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as presented. Board Member Carrie Gillum **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5-0.

5. Awards/Recognition

5.1. Recognition for Secretary Tom Tebb.

Secretary Tebb's term on the Board expires May 1, 2024. Board Members and staff may share appreciation for his service and departing thoughts.

Program Specialist Sydney Muhle announced that the meeting was Secretary Tebb's last official meeting. She thanked him for his many years of service and valuable contributions to the Board.

Ms. Nieves presented a plaque commemorating Secretary Tebb's service to the Board.

Secretary Tebb shared his experience and encouraged members of the Board to serve an additional term whenever possible.

6. Old Business

6.1. Outreach Update and Discussion

Board members will provide updates regarding outreach activities.

Ms. Muhle shared that one of the universities had requested information on outreach/networking with the Board for the fall semester. She said Ms. Nieves was updating the university outreach materials and contact list.

Secretary Tebb and Vice Chair Carla Brock said they would reach out to their contacts at Central Washington University.

Vice Chair Brock attended a professional development class at the University of Washington (UW). She spoke with geology, engineering, and geography students about consulting in the professional world. She said she would do it again.

Board Member Struthers said he had been invited to give a case histories presentation at Portland State about engineering geology. He said he would include information on Board and licensure in the presentation.

ACTION ITEM: Staff to develop outreach materials and information on how to network with the Board. Staff will provide drafts to the Board for review prior to finalizing.

7. New Business

7.1. Election of Officers

The Board will elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for the upcoming year.

Secretary Tebb nominated Vice Chair Brock to fill the position of Board Chair.

Board Member Struthers made a **MOTION** to elect Carla Brock as Board Chair for the 2024 term. Secretary Tebb **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5-0.

Secretary Tebb nominated Board Member Gillum to fill the position of Vice Chair.

Vice Chair Brock made a **MOTION** to elect Carrie Gillum as Vice Chair for the 2024 term. Secretary Tebb **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5-0.

Vice Chair Brock nominated Board Member Struthers to fill the position of Secretary.

Secretary Tebb made a **MOTION** to elect Board Member Struthers as Secretary for the 2024 term. Vice Chair Brock **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS: Staff to provide chair training to the newly elected officers.

7.2. Spring Exam Update

Board staff will give an update on spring examinations.

Ms. Muhle provided an update, including the number of applicants to date, on the spring examinations scheduled to take place on March 14 and 15, 2024.

7.3. Board Participation with Washington State Hydrogeology Symposium

A Board Member requested a discussion about the Board attending the Washington State Hydrogeology Symposium.

Ms. Muhle said the symposium was scheduled to take place April 22 through 25, 2024. She provided information, including the cost, for the Board to have an exhibitor table at the event. She said any fees would come out of the Board travel budget.

The Board discussed the benefits of attending the symposium, different options for tabling, who would attend, and who would have their costs covered by the travel budget. Secretary Tebb and Vice Chair Brock said they would be attending and that their costs would be covered by their employers. It was decided that Board Member Gillum would attend as the Board representative at the exhibitor table.

Secretary Tebb made a **MOTION** to approve the decision for the Board to participate in the Hydrogeology Symposium scheduled for April 22nd through 25, 2024, at the Muckleshoot Casino in Auburn, Washington with the cost of approximately \$800.00 to be paid out of the Board's travel budget, and for Board Member Gillum's attendance be funded as the Board representative. Vice Chair Brock **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5-0.

ACTION ITEM: Staff to print outreach materials and provide tabling supplies for the Hydrogeology Symposium.

ACTION ITEM: Staff to coordinate registration and travel with Board Member Gillum for the Washington State Hydrogeology Symposium.

8. Reports

8.1. Committee/Task Force Reports

8.1.1. Engineering-Geologist (EG) Exam Review Committee Update

Ms. Muhle provided an update on the committee's progress since the last Board meeting. She said the committee had finished reviewing both versions of the EG exam. She said she was compiling committee review notes and comments from previous examinees.

Ms. Muhle said the committee's next steps were to review the notes to determine an action plan. In addition, they would have a follow-up review in collaboration with the Oregon board's committee.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Muhle to compile committee review notes and comments from the previous examinees.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Nieves to schedule an EG Exam Review Committee meeting to review complied notes.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Nieves to schedule an EG Exam Review Committee meeting with the Oregon board.

8.1.2. Hydrogeologist (HG) Exam Review Committee Update

Ms. Muhle said the committee's review had been completed during the fall of 2023. She said she had compiled the notes, and the committee would meet again to review them.

Ms. Muhle said the committee would continue to leverage the experience and knowledge of Secretary Tebb until the work was complete.

ACTION ITEM: Schedule a HG Exam Review Committee meeting to review complied notes.

8.1.3. Working Titles Committee Update

Ms. Muhle provided background on the formation of the committee. She said the committee had met with the advising Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth Lagerberg who provided great feedback.

Ms. Muhle said the committee and AAG Lagerberg would put together a best practices document defining the work responsibilities associated with the titles of geologist, hydrogeologist, and engineering geologist. She said the committee would provide the final document to the Board once it was complete.

8.1.4. Application Requirements Verification Committee Update

Ms. Muhle said staff and the committee had reviewed over 30 non-traditional applicants. She said once the exam cycle ended, the committee would work on a strategy to improve the process for future cycles.

8.2. Central Investigations and Audits Unit Reports

8.2.1. Complaint Status Report

Ms. Muhle provided a summary of the Complaint Status Report data.

8.3. Licensing Customer Services Reports

8.3.1. Licensee Count Report

Ms. Muhle provided a summary of the Licensee Count Report data.

Ms. Muhle and the Board discussed the industry's aging demographic and the potential need to address a declining workforce.

8.4. Boards, Commissions and Outreach Reports

8.4.1. Budget Report

Ms. Muhle provided a summary of the Budget Report data and additional context, including a history of the Board's budget and spending authority.

8.4.2. Review of Master Action Item List

Ms. Nieves provided an update to the items on the Master Action Items List.

NEW ACTION ITEM: Staff to print off outreach materials and provide tabling supplies for the Hydrogeology Symposium.

9. Public Comments

The public may address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction, either verbally during the meeting or by submitting written comments in advance. Verbal comments are limited to one three-minute comment. Written comments are limited to no more than 500 words and must be emailed to DOLBoards@dol.wa.gov no less than two business days prior to the meeting with the subject line "Public Comment: Geologist Board". In response to all public comments, the Board is limited to requesting that the matter be added to a future agenda for discussion or directing staff to study the matter further. Inflammatory comments and language will not be permitted.

Greg Wessel addressed the Board and asked for information on the differentiating tasks between geologists and engineering geologists. He said he had a client dealing with a geologist trying to dictate to engineering staff parameters they should use in slope modeling, and he needed clarification on that. Ms. Muhle directed him to email DOLBoards@dol.wa.gov to request the information.

Mr. Wessel also commented on the age demographics of licensed geologists being heavy on the old side and light on the young. He said he was president of a nonprofit that was working on an initiative to deal with licensing and wanted to connect with the Board in a more formal way. He said he would email DOLBoards@dol.wa.gov regarding that topic as well.

10. Conclusion

10.1. Announcements

Ms. Muhle provided a Board member recruitment status update.

10.2. Requests for Future Agenda Items

None.

10.3. Review of Action Items and Items for Next Meeting

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ms. Nieves to develop outreach materials and information on how to network with the Board. Staff will provide drafts to the Board for review prior to finalizing.
- Ms. Muhle and Ms. Nieves to provide chair training to the newly elected officers.

- Ms. Nieves to print outreach materials and provide tabling supplies for the Hydrogeology Symposium.
- Ms. Nieves to coordinate registration and travel with Vice Chair Brock and Board Member Gillum for the Washington State Hydrogeology Symposium.
- Ms. Muhle to finish compiling committee review notes and comments from the previous examinees.
- Ms. Nieves to schedule an EG Exam Review Committee meeting to review complied notes.
- Ms. Nieves to schedule an EG Exam Review Committee meeting with the Oregon board.
- Ms. Nieves to schedule a HG Exam Review Committee meeting to review complied notes.

11. Adjournment

Chair Hanell thanked Secretary Tebb for his eight years of service to the Board. He also thanked the Board for his own opportunity to serve as Chair for the last year.

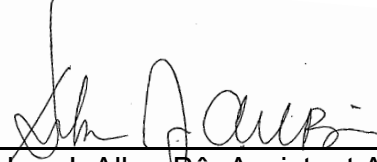
Chair Hanell adjourned the meeting at **11:27 a.m.**

Next Board Meeting:

June 13, 2024

10:00 a.m.

In-Person and Virtual via Teams

Submitted by: 
 Debra J. Allen-Ba, Assistant Administrator

June 13, 2024
 Date

Approved by: 
 Carla Brock, Board Chair

June 13, 2024
 Date