



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

DATE: December 05, 2024
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Video Conference via Microsoft Teams

BOARD MEMBERS: **Carla Brock**, LG/HG, Chair
Carrie Gillum, LG, Vice Chair
Jim Struthers, LG/EG, Secretary
Bill Halbert, LG/EG/HG, Board Member
Casey Hanell, LG/EG, State Geologist, Board Member
Noah Dudley, LG/EG, Board Member

STAFF MEMBERS: **Sydney Muhle**, Program Specialist
Lauren Gilmore, Regulatory Review and Legislative
Policy Analyst
Ben Harbaugh, Management Analyst
Tanya Hessler, Program Manager

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Carla Brock called the meeting to order at **10:00 a.m.**

2. Roll Call

Program Specialist Alyssa Woods conducted roll call. All board members were present.

3. Approval of Agenda

Board Member Casey Hanell made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda as presented. Board Secretary Jim Struthers **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 6-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Special Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2024

Secretary Struthers made a **MOTION** to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2024, as presented. Board Vice Chair Carrie Gillum **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 6-0.

5. Awards/Recognition

None.

6. Old Business

6.1. National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Report Out

Chair Brock shared her experience attending the ASBOG annual conference. She said discussion topics included changes within the organization, updates to computer-based testing and technology, and ASBOG's budget.

Board Member Hanell asked questions about discussion on national trends in candidates taking the test, and about other states' changes to licensing requirements, which Chair Brock addressed.

7. New Business

7.1. License Review Act Update

Board staff will provide an update on the License Review Act.

Program Specialist Sydney Muhle provided a brief overview of the License Review Act, 2023 House Bill (HB) 1301, and introduced the team that was spearheading the review.

Regulatory Review and Legislative Policy Analyst Lauren Gilmore provided information on DOL's process for license review, the status of the 2024 review, and upcoming listening sessions regarding the topic. She assured the Board that the focus of the review was not to deregulate the industry or eliminate licensure. She explained that it was part of a 10-year rotating cycle of review that DOL operated with all business and professional licenses under its purview.

Ms. Gilmore also introduced Management Analysts Bennett Harbaugh, Austin Kohler, and Taylor Hughes. They provided summaries of the work they were performing in support of the review and additional information respective to their individual areas of expertise.

Board Member Hanell asked whether, during the listening session introductions, DOL would reiterate that the review was not focused on deregulating the industry. Mr. Harbaugh said the focus of the listening sessions would be to hear from the public on topics related to licensure.

Board Member Dudley asked when the report would be available, which Ms. Muhle and Ms. Gilmore addressed.

Action Item: Staff will provide a link to the 2023 License Review data for reference.

7.2. Fall Exam Results

Board staff will provide an update on Fall examination results.

Ms. Muhle provided a summary of pass/fail statistics for the Fall 2024 examination cycle.

7.3. Adoption of 2025 Meeting Dates

Board staff will present proposed board meeting dates for 2025 to the Board for adoption.

Ms. Muhle presented the proposed meeting dates for 2025 to the Board.

Board member Hanell made a **MOTION** to approve the 2025 meeting dates as proposed. Board Member Halbert **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 6-0.

7.4. Discussion of 2025 Board Goals and Priorities

The Board will review previously set goals and priorities and establish its areas of focus for 2025.

Ms. Muhle provided a summary of the accomplishments on the 2024 goals. She asked the Board to review the priorities and determine whether there were any changes to goals or priorities beginning in 2025.

8. Reports

8.1. Committee/Task Force Reports

8.1.1. Engineering Geologist Exam Review Committee

Ms. Muhle said staff and the Engineering Geologist (EG) Exam Review Committee met with Oregon and collaboratively reviewed and updated the co-owned EG examination.

Board Members Struthers and Hanell thanked staff for the effort they put into updating the exam.

8.1.2. Hydrogeologist Exam Review Committee

Ms. Muhle said the Hydrogeologist (HG) Exam Review Committee had not met since staff had been focusing on the EG exam. Now that the EG exam updates were wrapping up, the HG Exam Committee would be meeting to review and update the HG exam.

8.1.3. Application Requirements Verification Committee

Ms. Muhle said the Application Requirements Verification Committee had met and reviewed several applications submitted with non-traditional qualifications. She said staff and the Committee would be reaching out soon to those who qualified to sit for examinations.

Ms. Muhle said Board Member Struthers would be stepping back from the Committee, which provided the opportunity for two other board members to join. Board Member Dudley volunteered to serve on the Committee.

8.1.4. Working Titles Committee

Ms. Muhle discussed whether this committee could be suspended and the subject moved to the action items list for the time being.

Ms. Muhle, the Board, and Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Elizabeth Lagerberg discussed the history of Board and staff work related to this topic, associated statutes, the limited influence on the use of working titles and job classifications at state agencies, and the overlap of similar issues for other license types. The Board and staff discussed solutions, including educating other state agencies on relevant statutes and other information that could be shared on this topic.

The Board agreed that this item could be moved to the Master Action Items List for staff to address through outreach to other state agencies.

8.1.5. WAC Review Committee

Ms. Muhle said, due to staff shortages, no Committee meetings had been scheduled since the last board meeting. She said the next meeting would most likely be in January, 2025.

8.2. Centralized Investigations and Audits Unit Reports

8.2.1. Complaint Status Report

Ms. Muhle reviewed the Complaint Status Report with the Board.

8.3. Licensing Customer Support Services Reports

8.3.1. Licensee Count Reports

Policy Advisor and System Liaison Julia Manley reviewed the Licensee Count Report with the Board.

Board Member Hanell asked when the most recent pass/fail rate data would be provided. Ms. Manley said that data would be on the next meeting's report.

8.4. Boards, Commissions and Outreach Reports

8.4.1. Review of Master Action Item List

Ms. Muhle reviewed the Master Action Item List with the Board.

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.

There were no written public comments.

Olu Akeroro addressed the Board and shared concerns regarding the ASBOG exam and asked whether there were alternative pathways, such as reciprocity, for geologist licensing. They said they were representing several people who had graduated from college over 20 years ago, sat for the exams, and passed one portion of the ASBOG exam, but not the other.

10. Conclusion

10.1. Announcements

None.

10.2. Requests for Future Agenda Items

- Continue refining process for reviewing applications and review of internal processes for application reviews.
- Discussion: alternative pathways to licensure through reciprocity

10.3. Review of action items and items for next meeting

Ms. Woods reported the agenda and action items captured for the next meeting.

- Staff will provide a link to the 2023 License Review data for reference.
- Ms. Muhle will find how many testing centers are within Washington to share with the board.
- Board staff will work with Board Member Halbert and Vice Chair Gillum to finalize the Hydrogeologist exam review.
- Ms. Muhle will move the working titles to the master action items list.
- WAC review committee to hold a meeting no later than January, 2025.

11. Adjournment

Chair Brock adjourned the meeting at **11:20 a.m.**

Next Board Meeting:


March 13, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Virtual via Teams

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

3/13/2025
Date

Approved by: 
Carla Brock, Board Chair

3/13/2025
Date