



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

**DATE:** September 14, 2023  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** Remote 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

**STAFF MEMBERS:** **Marcus Glasper**, Director  
**Susan Nieves**, Program Specialist  
**Sydney Muhle**, Program Specialist  
**Debra Allen-Bâ**, Assistant Administrator

**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.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Board Member Eileen Webb made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Chair Carla Brock **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 6-0.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**4.1. Special Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2023**

Secretary Thomas Tebb made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as presented. Board Member James Struthers **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 6-0.

**5. Awards/Recognition**

**5.1. Welcoming New Board Member**

*Carrie Gillum was appointed to the Board as of July 1, 2023. This is an opportunity for her to introduce herself to the Board and public.*

Board Member Gillum introduced herself and the Board welcomed her.

## **5.2. Introduction of Department of Licensing (DOL) Director Marcus Glasper**

*Director Glasper will introduce himself to the Board.*

Program Specialist Sydney Muhle introduced Director Glasper to the Board.

Director Glasper shared the history of his career and provided an outline of what he will be working on with DOL in the coming years.

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1. Outreach Discussion**

*The Board will discuss outreach opportunities and visiting universities.*

Ms. Muhle said Kristin Evans with the University of Washington's (UW) Earth and Space Science program reached out to her inquiring about Board outreach at UW. Ms. Muhle will work with Ms. Evans to determine potential dates, then reach out to Board members regarding availability.

The Board discussed the need to update the university contact list and outreach materials, and who had original copies of the list.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Muhle to coordinate between UW representative and the Board for the Board to present at UW.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to update and distribute university contact list and outreach materials.

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1. Discussion About Professional License for Geomorphology and Fluvial Geomorphology**

*The Board has requested a discussion regarding geomorphology and fluvial geomorphology in relation to Washington State Geologist licensing.*

Chair Hanell led the discussion which was originally presented to the board by a member of the public at the previous meeting questioning the necessity of a geology license to practice fluvial geomorphology and suggesting the creation of another license specific to geomorphology and/or fluvial geomorphology.

Board members discussed:

- Similarities to issues around other geology fields, such as wetland scientists or hydrogeologists, and suggested specialty licensure or certification as a possible solution.
- The overlap in disciplines, similar to engineering, and how the Board could resolve that overlap.

- Whether a separate program could be justified if the number of fluvial geomorphology practitioners is small.
- Fluvial geomorphology and geomorphology were covered under the current Washington Administrative Code (WAC) and on the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) exam.
- Education requirements and programs for geomorphology.
- That Washington law addressed when licensed geologists practiced in an area, they had no training or experience in. Those scenarios would require a complaint to be filed, prompting an investigation and corrective action.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to provide data on the total number of geomorphologist licensees and, of them, how many are fluvial geomorphologists.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to provide data on the number of customer service complaints received regarding geomorphology and fluvial geomorphology related issues.

## 7.2. 2023 National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Annual Meeting, Field Trip and Workshops.

*The Board will discuss member attendance and select a voting delegate for ASBOG's Annual Meeting.*

Ms. Muhle informed the Board that ASBOG would only have enough physical space for one board member to attend the Annual Meeting portion of the ASBOG conference. For the Field Trip and Council of Examiners (COE), as many board members can attend as the budget would allow for. There was an allotment in the budget for attendance by one staff member and one board member, who would serve as the Board's voting delegate. Ms. Muhle would make a request to the agency to fund an additional Board Member to attend the Field Trip and COE portions of the conference.

The Board discussed items that would be voted on during the conference. There was a correction needed to the 2022 minutes: It inaccurately stated that Washington State had no licensing complaints.

Secretary Tebb made a **MOTION** to advance Board Member Webb as the voting delegate. Vice Chair Brock **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 6-0.

Board Member Webb made a **MOTION** for the voting delegate to vote in the affirmative on all topics, with an amendment to the 2022 minutes as discussed. Vice Chair Brock **SECONDED** the motion, and it was approved by a vote of 6-0.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to process the travel request for Board Member Webb to attend the full conference as the voting delegate and Vice Chair Brock to attend the Field Trip and COE.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to provide accurate complaint data to ASBOG and request an update to the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes.

**7.3. Report-out of Historical Data from Specialty Exams Pass Rates**

*Assistant Administrator Debra Allen-Bâ will share the data she gathered for the pass rates with specialty exams.*

Assistant Administrator Debra Allen-Bâ provided ASBOG and specialty exam pass rate data from Spring 2017 to current. She said Oregon, who had similar pass rates, was reviewing their specialty exam question bank to determine whether the questions are still relevant. She advised that the Board's Specialty Exam Review Committee will be doing the same.

**8. Complaint Cases for Review\***

**8.1. 2022-03-0414-00GEO (Struthers)**

Board Member Struthers read the Case Manager Report to the Board as the case manager.

Secretary Tebb made a **MOTION** to close the case with a letter of education. Vice Chair Brock **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5-0.

**8.2. 2022-03-0415-00GEO (Struthers)**

Board Member Struthers read the Case Manager Report to the Board as the case manager.

Board Member Webb made a **MOTION** to close the case with a letter of education. Secretary Tebb **SECONDED** the motion, and it was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5-0.

**9. Reports**

**9.1. Committee/Task Force Reports**

**9.1.1. Engineering Geologist (E/G) and Hydrogeologist (H/G) Exam Review**

Ms. Muhle informed the Board that the H/G exam review was scheduled for September 22, 2023, and staff is in the process of scheduling the E/G exam review. She said the E/G would be a very large review and the Committee may need to meet more than once.

**9.2. Central Investigations and Audits Unit Reports**

**9.2.1. Complaint Status Report**

Ms. Muhle provided a summary of the Complaint Case report data.

**9.3. Licensing Customer Services Reports**

**9.3.1. Licensee Count Report**

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

### **9.3.2. Fall Exam Update**

Ms. Muhle provided the Board with information about the Fall ASBOG computer-based exams and DOL specialty exams for engineering geology and hydrogeology exam.

## **9.4. Boards, Commissions and Outreach Reports**

### **9.4.1. Program Funding Overview**

Ms. Muhle provided a breakdown of the Geologist Program budget explaining where funding comes from and how it is distributed. She said staff is looking into ways to increase funding, such as updating the WAC regarding late fees for expired licenses.

Ms. Muhle and Ms. Allen-Bâ informed the Board that staff was aware of fee amounts in other states, however those numbers were not a deciding factor in Washington Geology fees.

Chair Hanell asked what discretion the DOL Budget Office had regarding funding shared services across programs and the decision-making process for shared service costs. He asked where Geology ranked in terms of active licensees compared with other Washington industries licensed by DOL. Ms. Muhle said the new Budget Manager reviewed all programs, especially the Geologist program, and made any cost sharing adjustments she could for the 2023–2025 biennium.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to provide detailed statistics on renewal rates.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to provide data on the number of Geologist licensees relative to the other Washington State industries licensed by DOL.

### **9.4.2. Oregon Board Reported Newsletter Structure and Practices**

Ms. Nieves provided information to the Board regarding the Oregon board's newsletter.

Ms. Nieves said there was a space on the DOL website for the Washington Geologist Board to provide content with an option to be notified of site updates via Listserv. The Board and staff would need to establish a process for creating internet content for submission.

The Board discussed using the site as an outreach tool, including informing the public on in-person Board outreach events. They also discussed the need for informing licensees about the main Geologist ListServ.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to send information to the Board on how to sign up for the Listserv and see if Listserv sign up information can be included on the auto-renewal license email.

### 9.4.3. Action Item List

Ms. Nieves provided updates on items on the Master Action Items List.

## 10. 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](mailto: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.*

None.

## 11. Conclusion

### 11.1. Announcements

None.

### 11.2. Requests for Future Agenda Items

None.

### 11.3. Review of action items and items for next meeting

Ms. Nieves reviewed the action items from this meeting:

- Staff to coordinate outreach between UW and the board.
- Staff to update and distribute university contact list and outreach materials.
- Staff to provide data on the total number of geomorphologist licensees and, of them, how many are fluvial geomorphologists.
- Staff to provide the number of customer service complaints received regarding geomorphology and fluvial geomorphology related issues.
- Staff to process the ASBOG travel request for voting delegate, Eileen Webb, and make a request for Carla Brock for the field trip and COE.
- Staff to provide accurate complaint data to ASBOG and request an update to the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes.
- Staff to provide detailed statistics on renewal rates.
- Staff to provide data on the number of Geologist licensees relative to the other Washington State industries.
- Staff to send information to the Board on how to sign up for the ListServ, and to ensure that there is ListServ information on the auto-renewal email.
- Staff to provide detailed statistics on renewal rates.

## 12. Adjournment


Chair Hanell adjourned the meeting at **12:03 PM**.

**Next Board Meeting:**

December 7, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Virtual via Teams

Submitted by:   
Debra Allen-Bâ, Assistant Administrator

December 7, 2023  
Date

Approved by:   
Casey R. Hanell, Board Chair

December 7, 2023  
Date