

TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

General Issues Committee Meeting

(Clark, Krenz-Doe, Kitchens, Knobloch)

333 Guadalupe St., Tower 2, Suite 500

Austin, Texas 78701

August 13, 2009

Approved Minutes

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.
- B. Roll was called and a quorum was certified. Board members in attendance were Charles Knobloch, PG, Ronald Kitchens, Kelly Krenz-Doe, PG, and Committee Chair Y. Lynn Clark, PG. Matthew Cowan, PG, was present as a member of the public.
- C. No public comments were given.
- D. The minutes from the last General Issues Committee on April 23, 2009 were unanimously approved as written.
- E. Proposed changes to 22 TAC 851.106 relating to a geoscientist's responsibility to the profession were discussed. Several issues were addressed related to reporting requirements to authorities, the definition of "geoscience decisions and practices", the ambiguity of the word "welfare", and whether to use the words "any" or "shall". It was noted that TBPG rules do not require Professional Geoscientists to report unethical or dangerous practices. The committee unanimously approved inviting comments from licensees to weigh in on this issue before an amendment is proposed to the full Board.
- F. Proposed changes to 22 TAC 851.30 regarding engineering exemptions to firm registration were discussed. The committee unanimously agreed to allow the amendment to expire. The committee will revisit this rule at a later date to consider clarifying the language.
- G. Advisory Opinions were discussed. Research materials and examples of Advisory Opinions were considered. The committee directed staff to create an Advisory Opinion form for use by TBPG. It will be sent to committee members, updates will be made, and all unresolved issues will be forwarded to the Chair. Also, rules will be drafted for the next meeting and sent out to the committee ahead of time.
- H. The next committee meeting will be October 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Future topics include items E, F, and G. Also, staff is directed to contact individuals licensed in two disciplines to advise them that two licenses are not required. Another item requested was information from other committees that pertains to the GI committee.
- I. The committee adjourned at 9:35 p.m.