



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

General Issues Committee Meeting

April 28, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.
William P. Hobby Building
333 Guadalupe Street, Tower III, Room 102
Austin, Texas 78701

MINUTES

- A. The regularly scheduled meeting of the General Issues Committee of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists was called to order at 1:01 p.m. in room 102 of the William P. Hobby, Jr, building. Roll was called and a quorum of members was certified. In attendance were Committee Chairman Christopher Mathewson, PhD, PE, PG, Joseph P. DeWoody, and Bereket M. Derie, PhD, PG. Member Steven Fleming, PG, was unable to attend.
- B. The minutes from the General Issues Committee meeting held on February 4, 2016 were unanimously approved as written.
- C. Public comment. No comments from the public were given.
- D. Regarding the document titled, “The Value of Professional Geoscience Licensing in Texas” for TBPG’s use to address the following Sunset Occupational Licensing/Regulation standard: “Regulation should protect the public from a potentially serious threat to its health, safety, and welfare.” The Committee unanimously approved for Dr. Mathewson to contact the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG) in order to request that the document be updated to include current geological issues, as needed.
- E. Regarding the development of an advisory committee to inform the TBPG regarding opportunities to comment to any federal or state agency regarding the need to include Professional Geoscientists as individuals qualified to perform work that includes the public practice of geoscience in relevant agencies’ proposed rules. The Committee unanimously approved the need for an “ad hoc” committee that could be utilized on an as-needed basis. This ad-hoc committee could be formed to address these issues as they arise, and to make specific recommendations to the General Issues Committee regarding any proposed action. Further, the General Issues Committee recommends that:
 1. TBPG have a central contact point assigned to receive information from individuals about any proposed rules that could affect PGs;
 2. TBPG create an information page on the agency website for individuals to report these types of issues and rules;
 3. TBPG possibly include an article in the upcoming newsletter informing the Board’s licensee base about this new arrangement; and
 4. TBPG engage the community in order to facilitate the forwarding of this information to TBPG so as not to miss opportunities to make comments
- F. Regarding possible activities to address the Sunset Occupational Licensing / Regulation standard: “Regulatory agencies should make consumer information available to the public.” The Committee identified the need for additional publications regarding:
 1. What is a Geologist?
 2. What is a Geophysicist?
 3. What is a Soil Scientist?
 4. The Benefits of hiring a licensed Professional Geoscientist
 5. Short 3-minute type videos regarding “this is what a geologist does”
- G. Date and agenda items for next meeting. Next meetings are July 21 and 22, 2016.
- H. The Committee adjourned at 2:26 p.m.