

**General Session Minutes
State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers
January 31, 2005**

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers met at the WVU College of Engineering and Mineral Resource Building, Andrews Conference Room, in Morgantown, WV on January 31, 2005. Those present for the general session were:

Leonard J. Timms, Jr.	President
Edward L. Robinson	Vice-President
Bhajan S. Saluja, Jr.	Secretary
Richard E. Plymale	Member
Lesley L. Rosier	Executive Director
Don Johnson	Board Investigator
Debra Hamilton	Legal Counsel

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Robinson moved, with a second by Mr. Saluja, that the Board meeting minutes of November 16, 2004, executive and general session, be approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Robinson moved with a second by Mr. Saluja, the Special Meeting Minutes of November 29, 2004 be approved. Motion carried.

The Board budget summary for November and December 2004 was received and reviewed. The purchase of a Board automobile was discussed. State Fleet Management rules require that most agencies lease vehicles rather than purchase them. Due to structure of the leases and added state charges and record-keeping requirements it is currently not cost effective to lease a vehicle. Arrangements have been made to rent vehicles on an as-needed basis through Enterprise. A motion to approve the expenditures and purchasing card transactions was made by Mr. Plymale, seconded by Mr. Saluja. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosier presented the Executive Director's report and addressed all Board questions and comments.

The lower than normal pass-fail rates for the November exams were discussed. It was suggested that the Board work with WVU, WVUIT, or other interested parties to encourage development and offerings of FE and PE review courses. Ms. Rosier will explore the options and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

The FE exam fee waiver for full time WV students ends with the April 2005 exam. A motion was made by Mr. Plymale, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to extend the fee waiver for five more exam periods through the October 2007 exam. Motion carried.

The Annual PDH Audit was discussed. A total of twenty-four (24) PE licenses were suspended as a result of the audit. Only one was a WV resident.

Mr. Saluja moved to enter into executive session, seconded by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried.

At the conclusion of the executive session, Mr. Robinson moved to enter into general session with a second by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried and the Board took the following actions:

1. The Board directed Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Johnson to continue on the investigation of complaint C2004-2 including depositions if necessary. No motion needed.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Plymale on complaint C2004-4 to increase the amount of the fine to \$5000 and to delay reinstatement of the respondent's license for one year due to additional information gained during the investigation. Motion carried. Ms. Hamilton will contact the respondent and attempt to negotiate a new consent agreement.
3. The Board directed Ms. Hamilton to reschedule the hearing on complaint C2004-6 due to schedule conflicts of the Board members. The hearing will be scheduled for March 21, 2005.
4. The Board accepted the information provided and actions taken by the respondent on complaint C2005-1. The Board agreed to close the complaint upon receipt of money due without further action. Mr. Johnson was directed to notify the respondent after the COA is approved and tell him that future violations would be pursued.
5. Mr. Robinson moved that inquiry I2005-2 be received and filed as complaints (C2005-2 and C2005-3). Motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried.
6. The following Special Cases were denied with Board action and Ms. Rosier is to contact them with the following information:
 - a) Venugopala R. Parepalli – PE application denied until additional experience requirements are met.
 - b) Rubina Tabisum – PE application denied until additional experience requirements are met.
 - c) Barry R. Guise – Comity application denied because applicant has not taken and passed the FE exam.

Ms. Rosier, Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Johnson will look into instituting bi-monthly Board teleconferences in between the regularly scheduled Board meetings to expedite on-going investigative matters.

The NCARB publication *Architecture as it Differs from Engineering* was discussed. The Board agreed with the action taken by NCEES and asked to be kept informed on the matter.

Candidates for various NCEES offices were discussed. No Board recommendation or action will be taken until the full field of candidates is identified.

Planning for the 2006 Northeast Zone meeting of NCEES in Charleston is in progress. Ms. Rosier is working with NCEES on the details.

The Architects and Engineers jointly prepared "Professional Use of Seals" brochure has been agreed on, printed and distribution is in progress. Copies were provided to the Board.

Preparation for the 2005 WV Expo on March 23rd and 24th is in progress. The Board will have a booth and be involved in various seminars. The schedule has not been finalized.

The issue of defining senior status for student applicants before they can sit for the FE exam was discussed. The Board agreed to discuss with the WVU faculty and get their input before deciding on a position.

A draft of the newsletter was reviewed and comments solicited.

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday March 21, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will take place in the office WV State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, 300 Capitol Street – Suite 910, Charleston, West Virginia.

Upon motion by Mr. Saluja, seconded by Mr. Plymale the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The Board members will be compensated one day per diem plus travel expenses.

Leonard J. Timms, Jr., P.E.
Board President

Bhajan S. Saluja, P.E.
Board Secretary