

**General Session Minutes
State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers
August 6, 2013**

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers met in their offices at 300 Capitol Street in Charleston, WV on Tuesday, August 6, 2013. Those present for all or part of the meeting were:

William E. Pierson	Vice-President
Bhajan S. Saluja	Secretary
Richard E. Plymale	Member
Lesley L. Rosier-Tabor	Executive Director
Don W. Johnson	Board Investigator
Debra L. Hamilton	Legal Counsel

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

The Board meeting minutes for May 28, 2013 (both executive and general session) were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as revised was made by Mr. Saluja, seconded by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried.

The Board budget summaries for May and June 2013 were received and reviewed. The detailed purchasing card expenditures were also received and reviewed. A motion to approve the current expenditures and purchasing card transactions was made by Mr. Saluja, seconded by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosier reported that the FY 2014 Budget and Expenditure Schedule submission was approved by the State Budget Office following our last meeting.

Ms. Rosier presented the Executive Director's report and addressed all Board questions and comments. Ms. Rosier discussed participation in recent events and presentations made by her to various groups since the last Board meeting. She also reviewed the office's schedule of upcoming activities. A motion was made by Mr. Plymale, seconded by Mr. Saluja, to approve attendance and travel for Board members and staff activities outlined in the Executive Director's report and updated 2013 calendar of events and travel, including the additional travel costs to be incurred by Ms. Rubenstein due to the scheduling issues involving her travel to the NCEES meeting. Motion carried. (The Board made clear that details regarding such changes in travel costs can be made by the Executive Director without Board action).

The annual license renewal season is proceeding on schedule. The 3rd courtesy e-mail was sent at the end of July to all Active PE's, Retired, and COA contacts yet to renew alerting them of the increasing late fees that would be incurred beginning August 1, 2013. As of the July 29th email, there were 474 PEs, 211 COAs and 30 Retired who had not renewed.

Ms. Rosier reported that she had accepted committee assignments on the NCEES MBA and Mobility Committees. Mr. Pierson reported that he was re-appointed to the Education and FE Exam Committees.

The upcoming October exams were discussed. Currently 86 PE applications have been received for review, including one requiring a repeat taker interview. Additionally, 181 FE applications have been received and will be processed next week. Mr. Pierson and Mr. Saluja discussed their interest in obtaining details on the pass rates for EAC vs. TAC vs. foreign degree holders vs. national averages.

Mr. Plymale made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:20 AM, seconded by Mr. Saluja. Motion carried.

After interviewing, the Board recessed the meeting in Executive Session at 10:00 AM to hold an informal conference for inquiry I2013-14 and for lunch.

The Board resumed the meeting in Executive Session at 1:00 PM.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Mr. Plymale moved to enter into General Session with a second by Mr. Saluja. Motion carried and the Board took the following actions:

1. Mr. Plymale made a motion that inquiry I2013-14 be filed as a Board-initiated complaint after the receipt of additional information, which may be taken into account by staff in determining the Complaint's allegations. Motion was seconded by Mr. Saluja and carried.
2. Mr. Saluja made a motion that inquiry I2013-15 be filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried.
3. Mr. Plymale made a motion that inquiry I2013-16 be filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Motion was seconded by Mr. Saluja and carried.
4. The Board prioritized the candidates interviewed and authorized the Executive Director to extend an offer of employment with a specified salary.

Based on a motion by Mr. Plymale, seconded by Mr. Saluja, the Board took the following actions on Special Cases for Board Action:

1. Justin R. Cooner's request to sit for the PE exam was held in abeyance until such time as he could supply additional, acceptable information requested by the Board regarding his response on the disclosure on the exam application.
2. Nathan T. Stark's request to sit for the PE exam was approved.
3. James D. Authur's request for comity was approved.
4. William B. Carpenter's request for comity was approved.
5. Douglas G. Kesner's medical exemption request to waive the remaining PDHs required to renew his license through June 30, 2014 was approved.

The action item list for the upcoming NCEES Annual Meeting was discussed. There will be a proposal presented to remove the 4 years experience requirement prior to sitting for the PE exam. A number of states already have different experience requirements.

Ms. Rosier reminded the Board members that as part of CBT implementation they had agreed to use the automatic registration option offered via NCEES for all FE examinees, with a post-application process for successful FE examinees to obtain EI certification. The Board also agreed to allow NCEES to release scores directly to the examinees at the same time that all other scores are released to candidates throughout the country. Our applicants will receive notification that their scores are available to preview by logging into the NCEES website. Official correspondence will then follow from the Board office within 5-7 business days of the score release.

The new NCEES Software Engineering exam was discussed. There are a number of open issues such as what measurable standards to use to evaluate acceptable software engineering experience. This topic will be discussed at the upcoming NCEES Annual Meeting in August 2013.

A number of jurisdictions are reporting that foreign engineers who have passed NCEES exams in foreign countries are querying the licensing boards throughout the country to determine which jurisdictions will accept them for initial licensure or certification. WV Engineering Law currently requires PE examinees to sit for the exam within WV in order to obtain initial licensure in our state.

Ms. Rosier and Ms. Hamilton reported that the new WV Engineering Law became effective July 1, 2013. Copies of the new law were provided to the Board and copies are available on the Board web-site. Legislative rules, which will also be filed as emergency rules, are being drafted and should be available for Board review at the September meeting.

Ms. Rosier reported that the entrance conference for the Legislative Performance Evaluation Review Division (PERD) was held on July 23rd. Mr. Robinson, Ms. Rosier and Ms. Rubenstein were in attendance and provided the initial information requested by PERD staff.

Ms. Rosier discussed the upcoming Fall 2014 ABET visit to Fairmont State University. Mr. Timms has agreed to be the Board observer for this general review.

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, September 17, 2013. The meeting will take place at the Board office at 300 Capitol Street – Suite 910, in Charleston, WV.

Upon motion by Mr. Saluja, seconded by Mr. Plymale, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The Board members will be compensated one day per diem plus travel expenses.

William E. Pierson, P.E., Ph.D.
Board Vice-President

Bhajan S. Saluja, P.E.
Secretary