

**South Carolina Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2006**

The Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on November 14, 2006, at 110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Columbia, S.C.

Official notification of the meeting was sent to LLR's Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs and the Office of General Counsel; appropriate newspapers; WIS-TV; and the South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers (SCSPE).

Chairman M.L. Love, Jr., P.E., called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Board Members present were Vice-Chairman Gene L. Dinkins, P.L.S and P.E.; Board Secretary Gaye Sprague, P.E.; Cecil Huey, Jr., P.E.; Andy Kinghorn, P.E.; Thurl Amick, Sr., L.S. and Mitchell Tibshrary, Jr., P.E. later attended the meeting. Public Member Preston Young informed Board Staff that he will not be able to attend this meeting.

Also present were Jan Simpson, Board Administrator; Stacy Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Todd Bond, Investigator; and Sharon Dantzer, Advice Counsel. Charlie Ido, Chief Investigator, briefly attended the meeting. Guests included Reese Finn, Applicant; Ben Christensen, SCSPLS; Walter E. Castro, PhD, Consulting Services, Inc. and Joe Jones with SCSPE.

Administrator Simpson reviewed the agenda.

Where action is recorded below, it was taken in each case on motion duly made, seconded and carried.

Motion by Sprague/Amick to approve the September 26 & 27, 2006, Board meeting minutes as amended to include day two of the Application Hearing and meeting on September 27, 2006. Motion carried.

Compliance/Violations Report:

Todd Bond reported on behalf of the Investigative Review Committee on cases recommended for Dismissals, Formal Complaints and Letters of Cautions. Those cases are as follows:

<u>Cases for Dismissal</u>	<u>Cases Recommended for Formal Complaint</u>	
2006-63	2005-86	2006-74
2006-65	2006-9	2006-108
2006-73	2006-12	2006-111
2006-94	2006-28	
	2006-66	

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Cases Recommended for Letter of Caution

2006-43

2006-80

2006-97

Motion by Sprague/Dinkins: To accept the IRC's recommendations report given for Dismissal, Formal Complaint and Letters of Caution. Motion carried

Reese Edward Finn: Mr. Finns' application was initially disapproved by a Board Member due to insufficient verifiable work experience. Mr. Finn provided additional experience verifications as requested, which the full Board reviewed.

Motion by Kinghorn/Dinkins: To approve Mr. Finns' application by comity. It was also noted that Mr. Finn is the primary owner of a company, and if Mr. Finn proceeds with a project in this state, he must obtain a Certificate of Authorization for his company as well. Motion carried.

Ben Christensen (SCSPLS): Mr. Christensen attended the meeting to discuss surveying issues including continuing education activities not allowed for license renewals. Member Dinkins noted the impact that SCSPLS can have on recruiting future surveyors, beginning with middle school students. There is a need for an educational program to interest students in surveying. The Board supports collaboration between USC and Midlands Technical College to provide an equivalency to a 4-year surveying degree. Mr. Christensen agreed that the number of surveyors is declining while the demand has increased. The Board requested that Administrator Simpson research the possibility of funding someone to serve as a speaker, rather than having board members assume that responsibility, and to report findings at the January Board meeting. Member Dinkins will contact Pam Nobles, a member of the FL Surveyors Board, for information regarding that Board's efforts to promote surveying as a career.

Walter E. Castro, PhD (Consulting Services, Inc.): Dr. Castro evaluates transcripts of applicants who do not have an EAC/ABET degree. He spoke to the Board regarding EAC/ABET accreditation, and he explained how he uses ABET's "Criteria 2000" in reaching his decision regarding equivalency of coursework with an accredited degree. Resources he uses for evaluation include: EAC/ABET Criteria, directories of International Programs, individual faculty members, and students.

Dr. Castro asked for the Board's approval of his assessment approach and asked if they could approve his use of at least two of the character references from the applicant's application. He proposed contacting the References to ask how well the individual

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functions in an integrated working environment. This information could assist Dr. Castro in assessing outcomes of education. The Board asked that Dr. Castro format a few questions regarding outcome assessment for their review to ensure consistency and fairness in all reviews.

In addition to the services Dr. Castro currently provides, he has designed a seminar program for graduate students and faculty that will provide registration information as well as provide impetus for curriculum modification. The Board approved.

Committee Reports:

Communication with Licensees:

Member Kinghorn reported that the next electronic newsletter will be published in March/April of 2007. However, there are over 8000 licensees for whom the board has no e-mail address. Administrator Simpson asked Board members to inform their professional societies that e-mail addresses are needed to more widely distribute the newsletter and to ask for their assistance in gathering the contact information.

Career Enhancements/Licensure:

Member Young was not present to give an update. Chairman Love spoke about a National Science Foundation program for middle school students aimed at interesting them in a career in Engineering and Surveying.

Interface with Engineering Colleges:

Member drafted a letter to the Deans of engineering schools in the state's colleges and universities requesting their attendance at a Deans' meeting to discuss common issues. Dr. Huey also noted the possibility of relaying information about licensure through statements in each school's student catalogs. Chairman Love asked Huey to contact the Dean at Clemson University to schedule a date to meet in 2007 with other deans, Board members, Administrator Simpson, and Joe Jones (SCSPE).

Joint Degree Initiative:

Member Tibshrary updated the Board on his recent meeting with the Board of Trustees at S.C. State University to discuss the possible approval of an ABET-accredited engineering degree program. Mr. Tibshrary and Trustee Maurice Washington also presented the Board of Trustees with a Resolution of support from the Board of Engineers and Surveyors. Legislative issues were discussed and it was clarified that the request should be for a joint degree, not a dual degree. (Dual degrees must be approved by the S.C. Commission on Higher Education which can be a lengthy process.) Mr. Tibshrary described the meeting as positive and beneficial.

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Photogrammetry/GIS Examinations, Surveyors:

Member Dinkins did not attend the recent Colonial States Meeting but reminded the Board that the exam is still expected to be ready in the spring of 2007.

Other Business:

Mr. Laary Cushman, an Environmental Consultant, requested clarification of the Board's recently-issued Wetlands policy. Mr. Cushman will be invited to attend the next Board meeting to present examples of work products about which he has concerns. The Board suggested creating a sub-committee to assist Mr. Cushman and others who may have questions about the "gray" areas of the policy.

Review of Policies:

Board Members were given five policies to review for accuracy and to ensure they are up-to-date. Member Sprague requested that Staff gather as many policies as possible for review after proposed legislation has been approved by the General Assembly to ensure they conform to new legislation. Members made a few revisions to the Statement of Policy for Renewal of License and Reinstatement of Lapsed Licensed, and they revised the wording in the policy on renewals to state it is "biennial" rather than "annual."

Motion by Sprague/Huey: to adopt the policy change for wording purposes. Motion carried.

Legislation:

Members Amick and Dinkins made a slight revision to the definition of the Practice of Surveying for clarity.

To change to the status of Emeritus Engineer or Emeritus Surveyor, the following requirements were approved:

- the individual must have been registered for 15 consecutive years in any state, also,
- must be 60 years old or older, and
- must be retired from active practice.

Member Sprague/Amick moved to accept the revisions made to both the final draft of the Legislation and to Emeritus requirements.

Motion carried.

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Old Business:

Member Amick suggested that the Board postpone the discussion of 3-D Modeling, Grading and Stake-out until after he receives information he requested from other state Boards. The information should allow the Board to give a more accurate response to e-mails regarding this to topic.

Special Inspections Proposed Legislation:

The Board reviewed the proposed statutory amendment to Title 6 Chapter 9 (Building Codes Council) to register Special Inspectors in one central office. They noted the language does not state that licensed Engineers are exempt from being registered as Special Inspectors by virtue of their license as engineer. The Board asked that Administrator Simpson contact the amendment sponsors for clarification and report at the next Board meeting.

Letter to USC Provost:

Dinkins worked with Dominick towards a joint degree in surveying between Midlands Technical College and USC. Dinkins will write a letter of support to the USC Provost.

Administrators Report:

Administrator Simpson informed the Board that staff will begin imaging files within 3-4 months as well begin cross-training and updating their Desk Manuals.

License Statistics as of November 1 are as follows:

- Professional Engineer-A 12,454
- Professional Engineer-B 20
- Land Surveyors-A 977
- Land Surveyors-B 35
- Geodetic Surveyor 17
- GIS Surveyor 55
- Photogrammetric Surveyor 146
- Certificate of Authorization 2,264

2006 Individual Renewals

- Renewals mailed on 5/2/06 14,176
- Renewals Processed 13,933
- Renewals Processed On-Line 3,410

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Administrator Simpson reported on changes to procedures for processing applications and renewals that contain information about disciplinary actions taken by other states against the applicant. This new process will increase the licensure staff's work load. Member Tibshrary and other Board Members voiced their concern regarding the new procedure, especially in regard to holding Application Hearings, and asked to meet with LLR Administration to discuss it.

Investigator Ido explained to the Board that there is no recourse in terms of the procedures in general. However, as a Board, they can create internal procedures for handling "problem" applications such as having a one- or two-person panel to review these applications, or identifying one person to serve as a Hearing Officer for application Hearings rather than having the entire Board adjudicate. The Board will discuss this issue again at the January meeting.

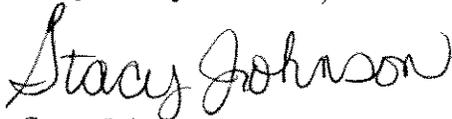
The Board will carry over the following agenda items to the January Board meeting:

- 2007 Board Changes
- Policy for Proctoring Candidates
- Nomination for NCEES National Awards
- Finance Report

The next Board meeting will be held on January 9, 2007, Room 111, and, if necessary, January 10, 2007, Room 201-03.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Johnson
Administrative Assistant