

**South Carolina Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2007**

The Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on June 12, 2007, 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; the South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers (SCSPE); and Capitol Consultants, Inc.

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., P. L.S. Mitchell Tibshrary, Jr., P.E., attended the meeting until 10:45 a.m.

Also present were Jan Simpson, Board Administrator; Todd Bond, Investigator; Charlie Ido, Chief Investigator; and Sharon Dantzler, Advice Counsel.

Administrator Simpson reviewed the agenda, resulting in reordering of certain items.

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

Minutes - Motion by Sprague/Dinkins to approve the April 17, 2007, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Compliance/Violations Report

Todd Bond reported on behalf of the Investigative Review Committee on cases recently reviewed:

Cases Recommended for Formal Complaint

2007-9

2007-10

2007-13

Motion by Sprague/Dinkins: To accept the IRC's report for cases recommended for Formal Complaints. Motion carried.

The Board also reviewed three Consent Agreements previously signed by the Chairman.

Chairman Love added to the agenda a discussion of a closed disciplinary case involving second offense unlicensed practice recently brought to the attention of several board members. Discussion ensued regarding prioritizing types of cases and reconsideration of the current policy of allowing unlicensed practice for a period of 15 months following the

**S.C. Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors
Meeting Minutes
June 12 and 13, 2007**

expiration of the license. Chairman Love asked the board to review policies, procedures and parameters for various types of infractions. He suggested educating licensees about offenses, fines, and types of sanctions through newsletter articles and a “case study” of a hypothetical situation. Chairman Love asked Charles Ido, OIE investigator, to review relevant policies.

Responses received to the Board’s Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Surveyor recruitment – LLR Procurement Director Shannon Hicks briefly reviewed activity to date and asked the Board to set a budget for the initiative. Expanding the scope to include engineers was discussed if qualifications of the vendor would be the same. The next step is to issue a Request for Proposals from the top three companies that responded to the RFQ. It was agreed that the funding for this initiative cannot be a recurring annual budget item. Board members discussed the dual program in Florida, the impetus for recruiting more surveyors. A vote on the issue was postponed until later in the meeting.

Committee Reports

Communications with Licensees – Andy Kinghorn noted the newsletter and attendance at SCSPE meetings are both good vehicles for relaying to licensees the many issues considered by the Board.

Career Enhancement – Cecil Huey reported that Clemson University has some funding available for surveyor education. While he believes Clemson might be able to positively impact surveyor issues, he does not believe there will a significant change in the number of faculty members who become licensed which is another issue of importance to the Board. He said there is support for the philosophy but there is little movement toward licensure because of the perceived lack of need. Dr. Huey believes students are aware of licensure issues and taking the exam.

Photogrammetry exam – Gene Dinkins reported the examination is nearly finished and should be ready in Fall 2007. The Colonial States Boards of Registration for Surveyors (CSBRS) Board of Directors agreed to let the South Carolina Board use GIS questions from the exam pool. The Board has contracted with an exam expert to extract the questions and create an exam. Also, Sid Shrum has agreed to extract relevant questions on GIS from the State Surveyor exam in the next 30-60 days. Administrator Simpson will contact Mr. Shrum to finalize the contract and future grading of exams.

Outside Reviewers for Applications

Recently, the Board distributed letters to former Board members to inquire about their availability and interest in reviewing licensure applications. Several responded affirmatively. Confidentiality, privacy, and consistency among reviewers are issues that must be addressed. The Board would like such reviewers to attend one Board meeting annually to discuss issues related to applications. Guidelines for review and the amount of compensation were discussed. The Board suggested \$50 per application.

**S.C. Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors
Meeting Minutes
June 12 and 13, 2007**

Motions by Dinkins/Amick: To employ outside reviewers for engineer and surveyor applications. Individuals must be former board members, currently licensed and in good standing. The Board will develop criteria and guidelines. Motion carried.

Hassam Haj – Mr. Haj became licensed in Israel in 1997 and trained two years in that country. He holds a degree in geodetic engineering. He queried the Board about acceptance of his foreign surveying experience. Motion by Sprague/Dinkins: If the experience is documented and meets the same requirements as domestic experience, the Board will accept foreign surveyor experience for evaluation. Motion carried.

Exam application deadlines – Deadlines were changed to June 15 for the October exam and December 15 for the April examination. The change should allow more individuals (who often graduate in mid-May or June and mid-December) to meet the 4-year work experience requirement by the application deadline.

Drafting Regulations – The S.C. Society of Professional Engineers has requested to assist the Board in drafting revisions to Regulations. The Board decided to draft the initial revisions then to ask for feedback from the engineering and surveying professions. A Notice of Drafting with a request for responses will be posted on the Board's web site and published in the newsletter.

Application Packets – For Non-Model Law Record holders, Board members asked that the application packet include the summary sheet provided by NCEES as well as one completed by Board staff. Andy Kinghorn recently sent suggestions to better organize these Records to make them easier to review.

Continuing Education – The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) queried licensing boards about acceptance of professional development hours (PDHs) gained by reading articles in technical journals or magazine with successful completion of a test on the information. The consensus of the board was that PDHs obtained in this manner would not meet South Carolina requirements and would not be accepted.

Deadlines for Surveyors to meet Education Requirements – Responding to an e-mail from David Cresswell, the Board clarified transition issues related to an increase in the education requirements for surveyors in 2010, as follows: The cut-off date for LSIT applications from individuals with a two-year associate degree is June 30, 2010. There is no cut-off date for LSIT applicants to take the LSIT exam. Individuals applying for licensure must have completed the two-year degree requirement and the experience requirement and must have applied to the Board by June 30, 2010, or they will be subject to the four-year degree requirements beginning July 1, 2010.

**S.C. Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors
Meeting Minutes
June 12 and 13, 2007**

Attorney Dantzler suggested inserting into the Regulations a provision that applicants who have taken the LS exam under the two-year degree requirement but failed will be allowed to re-take the exam without meeting the four-year degree requirement.

Control Systems – Responding to a request for clarification regarding Control systems information published in the May 2007 newsletter, the Board agreed that if the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) is furnishing components of a system to a third party, no license is required. If the OEM is designing the system, the OEM must be licensed. Andy Kinghorn will assist with finalizing the response for publication on the Web site.

Professional Training - Board members noted their belief that attending NCEES national and/or regional meetings would be beneficial to the Board's investigators.

Annual Meeting issues – Discussion ensued on obligations of individuals who serve on national boards, prompted in part by issues being considered by the NCEES Board of Directors. Member Tibshrary said all members should be ethical, courageous, willing to take challenges, and should be prepared to make tough decisions.

Legislation- The Board will draft revisions to regulation to be previewed by Attorney Dantzler in preparation for a Board legislative workshop on July 11.

Legislation-related Changes - The Board discussed changes necessitated by passage of H. 3722 on June 6, 2007. A list of changes was compiled by Administrator Simpson. Policies should also be reviewed.

Licensure of individuals who hold technology degrees – the Board stated that individuals not previously licensed in South Carolina as Category B engineers must submit the entire application. Category B engineers may submit a “short form” application. The Board also discussed composition of the committee that will review such applications.

Engineers and Surveyors Education and Research Fund – created by passage of H. 3722. Motion by Dinkins/Amick: to allot \$10 from each renewal fee to the Fund. Motion carried.

Other legislation issues - Member Tibshrary met with Mr. Maurice Washington, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at S.C. State University, and pledged the Board's support for the University's initiatives for a dual degree program and for an accredited engineering degree program. Mr. Tibshrary and Mr. Dinkins will meet again with the Mr. Washington to discuss other related issues.

**S.C. Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors
Meeting Minutes
June 12 and 13, 2007**

Motion by Tibshrary/Sprague - To present Resolutions to Mr. Washington, Dr. Ken Lewis, and SCSU President Hugine for their efforts in supporting the Board's legislation and for benefits that will accrue to South Carolina because of their work and dedication. Also, to present a resolution to Joe Jones for his efforts in the passage of H. 3722.

RFP for Surveyor project - This issue was revisited from the morning session. Motion by Dinkins/Sprague: To issue an RFP to the top three firms for the surveyor recruitment program, funding to be handled within LLR's authorization. The charge is to create a program and an implementation schedule/plan. Motion carried.

Other: A recent article in The State newspaper reported that Clemson University and Converse College have agreed to offer a dual degree program in engineering in response to a need for more female engineers and women in science. Participants will complete studies in one of Converse's science and math programs for three years then relocate to Clemson to complete the additional credits required for an engineering degree.

Administrator's Report

Disciplinary Actions

All disciplinary actions taken by the Board since publication of the last paper newsletter have been entered on the NCEES disciplinary database. As a reminder, all disciplinary actions taken by the Board since July 1, 2004, are posted on the Web site.

New Employee

Melissa Jones has joined the staff of the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and the Board of Architecture. Her main responsibilities are legislation, newsletters, and Hearings/Non-routine applications. She will assist in other areas, as well. She was previously a paralegal who provided support for three attorneys.

License Statistics as of 5/31/07

TYPE OF LICENSE	NUMBER ACTIVE
Professional Engineer-A	13,006
Professional Engineer-B	21
Land Surveyors-A	1006
Land Surveyors-B	35
Geodetic Surveyor	17
Geographic Information System Surveyor	55
Photogrammetric Surveyor	146
Certificate of Authorization	2374

**S.C. Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors
Meeting Minutes
June 12 and 13, 2007**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. to be reconvened on June 13 for an Application Hearing and continuation of Board business.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan Simpson".

Jan Simpson, Administrator