

January 17, 2001 Minutes

Indiana Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 17, 2001

Members present:

Eric Fry
Dick Harris
Hal Roepke
John Steinmetz

Others Present:

Amanda Wilson

Visitors:

David Nance, IDNR Division of Water
Kevin Strunk, Wabash Resources

The meeting was held in Conference Room SL-118A of IUPUI Geology Department, 402 Blackford Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. John Steinmetz called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. The agenda distributed by John Steinmetz was amended to add a discussion item regarding the Board's agreement with the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®) for providing examinations. The amended agenda was accepted unanimously.

The minutes of the December 12, 2000 meeting were distributed for Board member approval. John Steinmetz asked that one typographical error be corrected. Hal Roepke moved that the amended minutes be approved. Dick Harris seconded. The amended minutes were unanimously accepted.

John Steinmetz updated the Board on the status of reciprocity agreements with other states. There was no progress to report.

John Steinmetz updated the Board on the status of the Governor's appointment of a Board member. The Governor has not made an appointment yet. John Steinmetz will again send a letter to the Governor's office regarding the Board vacancy.

John Steinmetz asked Amanda Wilson to summarize for the Board members financial information for the Licensing program from the last three years. After the Board members discussed various options for raising renewal rates, Hal Roepke moved that the renewal rates be raised to \$90.00 for three-year renewal, effective immediately. Any Indiana LPG who has received a renewal notice prior to this date may renew at the old

rate of \$60.00 for the three-year period. All other rates will remain the same. Dick Harris seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved.

John Steinmetz asked Dick Harris to give a summary of the proposed amendment to Title 305 IAC. Dick Harris explained that with the proposed language, it will require a license as a professional geologist to perform services as a geologist for a state, county, or local government entity where those services may have an effect upon the health, safety, or welfare of the people of Indiana. Hal Roepke moved that the Board accept the proposed amendment as non-rule policy and begin the rule promulgation process. Dick Harris seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved.

John Steinmetz summarized for the Board the “Agreement for Providing Examinations” sent to the Board for signature by the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®). The agreement makes minor changes to the previous agreement with ASBOG®. Dick Harris again requested information on ASBOG® regarding financial status and historical information of the organization. Amanda Wilson stated that the best information was probably contained in the ASBOG® meeting books from previous years. She will prepare a summary of information for the Board members. In the agreement it is noted that the cost of the Fundamentals of Geology examination has decreased to \$125.00. The Board agrees that it will not decrease the fees for the exam due to the budget that was presented earlier in the meeting. The Board incurs minor costs in proctoring the examination. Dick Harris moved that the agreement be signed and returned to ASBOG®. Hal Roepke seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved.

John Steinmetz renewed discussion of the proposed code of ethics for professional geologists in Indiana. John Steinmetz thanked David Nance and Mike Nickolaus for bringing the Florida Association of Professional Geologists (FAPG) Code of Ethics to the Board’s attention. John Steinmetz then stated that he finds the FAPG code to be thorough and concise and suggests that the Board consider discarding the previous efforts at a code of conduct and accepting the FAPG code as a starting point to draft a code of ethics for Indiana. Hal Roepke and Eric Fry agreed. Dick Harris pointed out that this code is written for a volunteer membership organization and is not law. Dick Harris suggests that a draft be prepared from the FAPG code and presented to the Board in that format. Hal Roepke stated that he would like to see language similar to the Arkansas code sections 8-2 through 8-4 in any draft code presented to the Board. Board members will continue to review other states’ codes of ethics for geologists. John Steinmetz and Amanda Wilson will prepare a model for the Board’s consideration from the FAPG code of ethics.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for July 17, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. Amanda Wilson will look into scheduling a room at the Indiana Government Center if possible. David Nance offered assistance from the Division of Water at IDNR if necessary. Location of the meeting will be announced as soon as possible.

The Board then convened to executive session to discuss applications for licensure. The Board discussed one application as old business. The application was again approved pending outcome of a possible ethics violation. The Board discussed two applications as

new business. The Board also reviewed the transcripts of a person who would like to apply for licensure but was unsure if they had enough geology credits.

The Board then returned to open session to vote on applications. One application was unanimously approved. One application was approved pending confirmation of a passing score on the California Registered Geologist examination and proof of licensure in that state.

The Board also discussed the possibility of distributing the newsletter to a larger audience, perhaps including geosciences departments at universities.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by Amanda R. Wilson, Board Secretary, January 23, 2001.

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