

December 13, 2001 Minutes

Indiana Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 13, 2001

Members present:

Chad Crabtree
Eric Fry
J. Richard Harris
Harlan Roepke
John Steinmetz

Others Present:

John R. Hill
Amanda Wilson
Steve Lucas

Visitors:

David Nance
Kevin Strunk
Bob Sonnefield
Larry Studebaker

The Board met in executive session at 1:16 p.m. to review applications for licensure as Professional Geologists. The Board reviewed six applications. Executive session was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Public session began at 1:35 p.m. John Steinmetz welcomed the visitors and introduced Chad Crabtree who was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the Board until December 31, 2001, to complete the member-at-large appointment. Mr. Crabtree will be re-nominated by the Governor to serve a new four-year term in January 2002.

The Board voted on six applications. The results were as follows:

Unanimously Approved

Jeffrey Bahling
Mark Howell
Ronald Price
William Wilder
Derek Faulk
Mark Breting

Unanimously Denied
Robert George

Administrative Law Judge Steve Lucas addressed the Board regarding the appeal process. Mr. Lucas reminded the Board of their statutory authority and the options available when an appeal is filed.

The minutes of the October 13, 2001 Board meeting were distributed for review. Hal Roepke moved that the minutes be approved. Chad Crabtree seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The modified version of the Request for Letter of Reference form was distributed for review. Hal Roepke moved that it be approved pending one grammatical correction. Eric Fry seconded. The form was approved pending the correction by a vote of four and one abstention.

The Board began discussion of the definition of the public practice of geology. Dick Harris and Kevin Strunk were to have collaborated on language to propose changes to the definition. Mr. Harris suggests that the changes be discussed and presented to the Legislators in the long session instead of the short session, which begins January 7, 2002. Mr. Strunk agreed that would be agreeable but would like the Board to look at wordsmithing the entire law. John Steinmetz turned the floor over to Kevin Strunk to discuss his recommendations. Most strongly Mr. Strunk recommends that a work group be established to evaluate the language used and make recommendations for changes. John Steinmetz agrees to work toward that. Hal Roepke moves that the discussion be tabled until the Board has time to evaluate the documentation that Mr. Strunk provided. Eric Fry seconded. The Board unanimously approved. Dick Harris would like to proceed with the minor change to the statute that he presented to the Board about a year ago, regarding the requirement of a license as a professional geologist to perform services as a geologist for a state, county, or local governmental entity where those services effect the public health, safety, or welfare. Mr. Harris moved that the Board give approval for him to proceed. Eric Fry seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

John Steinmetz brought to the Board's attention the AIPG publication "Geologic Ethics and Practices 1987 – 1997." Discussion of the proposed code of ethics was postponed due to time constraints. John Steinmetz recommends that the Board meet in January to discuss the proposed code of ethics. In the mean time, Dr. Steinmetz will order a copy of the AIPG publication for each Board member to read.

Visitors were asked for comments at this point. It was mentioned that Kevin Strunk is the new president of PGI and Bob Sonnefield is vice-president. Kevin Strunk then gave an update on PGI's new board members and new goals. Discussion turned to the pass/fail rate of the ASBOG® exam. Several of the visitors expressed concern about the difficulty of the examination.

The Board will set a date in January to meet to discuss only the proposed code of ethics.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Amanda R. Wilson, Board Secretary, December 20, 2001.

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