

Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
Legislative Issues Committee Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Physical Meeting Location:

Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Headquarters
1917 S. Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78745

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

1. Preliminary Matters (Coleen Johnson, Chair)

A. Call to Order

Ms. Johnson, Chair, called the Legislative Issues Committee meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to order at 9:02 a.m. at the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors at 1917 S. Interstate 35, Austin, TX. (NOTE: all votes are unanimous unless noted.)

B. Roll Call

Mr. Sims called the roll. It was noted for the record that a quorum was present.

The following Committee members were present:

Coleen Johnson, R.P.L.S.	Chair
Karen Friese, P.E.	Member
Ademola Adejokun, P.E.	Member
Kiran Shah	Member

The following staff members were present:

Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E.	Executive Director (appeared via Zoom)
Rick Strong, P.E.	Director of Licensing and Registration
Michael Sims, P.E.	Director of Compliance and Enforcement
Elissa Mazza	Staff Attorney
Jeff Mutscher	Chief Financial Officer
Ed Brannan, P.E.	Technical Engineering Specialist
Jeff Rodriguez	Board Staff
Julia Estrada	Board Staff

C. Excuse absent Committee members

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Johnson/Friese) to excuse Mr. Cheng from the Legislative Issues Committee meeting. A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

D. Welcome Visitors

Catherine Norwood, P.E., Board Member; Scott Stewart, ACEC Texas; Jon Hodde, R.P.L.S., Advisory Member; Govind Nadkarni, P.E., Board Advisory Member, Sina Nejad, P.E., P.Eng., Board Member; Davey Edwards, R.P.L.S., L.S.L.S., Advisory Member; Mark Neugebauer, R.P.L.S., L.S.L.S., Board Member; Mitch Brackin, Fittz & Shipman; and Colby Brackin, S.I.T. and C.F.M. were present.

E. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. May 11, 2023, Legislative Issues Committee Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Shah/Adejokun) to approve the May11, 2023, Legislative Issues Committee minutes as presented. A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

3. Update on bills relating to the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors passed during 88th Regular Session.

Dr. Kinney reviewed bills passed during the 88th Regular Session., No changes were made to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Acts.

Other bills passed included a 5% salary increase for state employees to account for cost-of-living adjustments and help with employee retention and changes to the Public Information Act. A Sunset Bill moving regulatory agency sunset dates to 2033, including the review of TBPELS was also passed.

4. Monitoring for bills relating to the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors during 88th Special Sessions.

Dr. Kinney reported two special sessions have been held since the regular session ended but neither impacted TBPLES. Board staff would continue to monitor any future special sessions for issues impacting the Board.

5. Future Committee Meetings: Agenda items, dates, locations, and other arrangements

No issues were presented or addressed for consideration at the next Committee

meeting.

6. Adjourn

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Johnson/Shah) to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

Date Board approved minutes: November 9, 2023