

Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
Licensing and Registration Committee Meeting
August 07, 2024
2:00 pm Central Time

Physical Meeting Location:

Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
1917 S. Interstate 35
Austin, TX 78741

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

1. Preliminary Matters - Officer Presiding

a. Call to Order

Ms. Catherine Norwood, P.E., Chair, called the Licensing and Registration Committee meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to order at 2:00 p.m. (NOTE: all votes are unanimous unless noted.)

b. Roll Call

Ms. Trevino called the roll. It was noted, for the record, that a quorum was present.

The following Committee members were present:

Catherine Norwood, P.E.	Chair
Ademola Adejokun, P.E.	Member
Albert Cheng	Member
Coleen Johnson, R.P.L.S.	Member

Mr. Steven Ogle, Assistant Attorney General and General Counsel for the Board, was present via Videoconference to provide legal counsel to the Board.

The following staff members were present:

Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E.	Executive Director
Rick Strong, P.E.	Director of Licensing and Registration
Michael Sims, P.E.	Director of Compliance and Enforcement
Ed Brannan, P.E.	Technical Engineering Specialist
Brian Waltman, P.E.	Technical Engineering Specialist
Odilia Trevino	Executive Administrator
Mason Schoolfield	Director of Operations (via Zoom)

c. Excuse absent Committee members

All Committee members were present.

d. Welcome Visitors

Roberto Moreno, P.E., Board Member; Kiran Shah, Board Member; Mark Neugebauer, R.P.L.S., L.S.L.S., Board Member (via Zoom); Colby Brackin, S.I.T. and C.F.M.; Personal Appearances: Benjamin E. Isaak and Ernest Herrera, James M. Smith, Koruin V. Vartevan, and Anthony R. Venson were present.

e. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. May 15, 2024, Licensing and Registration Committee Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Johnson/Cheng) to approve the May 15, 2024, Licensing and Registration Committee minutes as presented.

A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

3. Applications for Licensure

• **Personal Interviews Cases:**

○ **Isaak, Benjamin Earl**

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Cheng/Johnson) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Board meeting on August 8, 2024, for Mr. Isaak to be approved for Texas PE licensure after passing the NCEES PE exam, submitting documentation of the successful completion of the 60-hour Intermediate Level Ethics course from Texas Tech Murdough Center for Engineering then return for a personal appearance before the Licensing Committee.

A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED

○ **Smith, James McClellan**

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Cheng/Johnson) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Board meeting on August 8, 2024, for Mr. Smith to be approved for Texas PE licensure after submitting documentation of completing one additional year of qualifying engineering experience from August 7, 2024, provide two additional favorable PE references from professionals that are familiar with his additional engineering work, and successful completion of the 60-hour Intermediate Level Ethics course from Texas Tech Murdough Center for Engineering,

A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

- **Vartevan, Koruin Vahan**

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Norwood/Cheng) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Board meeting on August 8, 2024, for Mr. Vartevan, an applicant for re-licensure, to be approved for Texas PE licensure with a FE exam waiver after passing the NCEES PE exam, and submitting documentation of the successful completion of the 60-hour Intermediate Level Ethics course from Texas Tech Murdough Center for Engineering.

A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

- **Venson, Anthony Ray**

A motion was passed in the Licensing Committee (MOVED/SECONDED: Norwood/Johnson) to table this applicant's review until the November 2024 committee meeting.

No vote was necessary.

4. Recommendation on Adoption of Amendments to 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 134, Subchapter D – Education

§134.31 Educational Requirements for Applicants

Mr. Sims briefed the committee on the changes to the Rule. It affects the educational requirements for Surveyors In Training (SITs) to become a Registered Professional Land Surveyor (R.P.L.S.) or a Licensed State Land Surveyor (L.S.L.S.). It has been posted, as required, to the Texas Register and there were no public comments. It would go into effect January 2026.

It was moved/seconded (Johnson/Adejokun) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Board meeting on August 8, 2024, to adopt the rule amendments in Chapter 134, Subchapter D.

A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

5. Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors' Land Surveying Exam Update

Mr. Strong provided a summary of exam statistics. He reported that all 8-hour exam disciplines have been converted to computer-based testing (CBT).

He stated that the Licensed State Land Surveyor Exam administered on April 19, 2024, was a success with four exams scored and two passed. The two new L.S.L.S.s will be recognized at the Regular Quarterly Board meeting on August 8, 2024.

There have been three successful Texas Specific Surveying Exam (TSSE) exams administered. The next TSSE exam is scheduled for October 18, 2024. There are three TSSE exams scheduled for 2025 at the Norris Center. In 2025 staff and the exam work teams will look at the number of exams for 2026 and also review possible exam locations.

Dr. Kinney thanked Mr. Strong and his staff for their hard work with the exams.

No action required on this item.

6. International Licensure Report

7. Dr. Kinney stated the Texas delegation will sign the MRA with the Engineering Council of the UK at the NCEES Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Dr. Kinney and Dr. Nejad will sign on behalf of Texas.

No action required on this item.

7. Licensing and Registration Director's Report

a. Engineer Results and Statistics: Licensing Application and Examination Report

Mr. Strong reviewed the applications and exam results exhibits provided to the Committee members. He indicated we have approved 928 new licensures in this quarter. Texas PE license active and inactive totals are now over 75,000.

b. Surveyor Results and Statistics: Registration Application and Examination Report

Mr. Strong reviewed the applications and exam results exhibits provided to the Committee members. He stated we are up to 60 L.S.L.S. and approved an additional 21 R.P.L.S.

No action required on this item.

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

Personal Appearance for Venson, Anthony Ray.

9. Adjourn

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Norwood/Cheng) to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

thereby creating a quorum of the Board. This agenda does not authorize Board members, other than the Licensing and Registration Committee members, to deliberate or vote on matters before the Licensing and Registration Committee. All matters reported out of this Committee will be presented at a future Board meeting for deliberation and possible action.

Note: This meeting may be held by videoconference call pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.127. The member presiding over the meeting will be physically present at the location of the meeting listed above and will preside over the meeting at that location. The meeting will be accessible to the public at the physical location listed above.

The Committee may meet in closed session on any agenda item listed above as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Individuals needing auxiliary aids or services should contact the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors at (512) 440-7723, in a timely manner.

Date Committee approved minutes: 11/13/2024

Date Board approved minutes: 11/14/2024