

AGENDA
SURVEYING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
1917 S. IH-35
Austin, Texas 78741
January 7, 2020—10:00 AM

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:03 .m.
- Attendees:
 - Jon Hodde, RPLS – Chair
 - Manny Carrizales, RPLS
 - Mary Chruszczak, RPLS
 - Davey Edwards, PhD, RPLS, LSLS
 - Coleen Johnson, RPLS
 - Paul Kwan, RPLS
 - Mark Neugebauer, RPLS, LSLS
 - Lamberto Balli, PE – Board Liaison
 - Rolando Rubiano, PE – Board Liaison
 - Lance Kinney, PhD, PE – TBPELS Executive Director
 - Michael Sims, PE – TBPELS Director of Compliance & Enforcement
 - Rick Strong, PE – TBPELS Director of Licensing & Registration
 - Natalie Jackson – TBPELS Licensing & Registration Staff

2. Update on Agency Merger

- Dr. Kinney provided a summary of agency events to-date
- The committee discussed the renewal period that had just concluded Dec. 31, 2019, and asked for a demonstration of the new renewal system.
- Outreach to surveyors as discussed. TBPELS has been attending and presenting at TSPS chapter events all over the state. Next meeting, staff will provide a list / map of events. Include outreach for SITs.

- The SAC also discussed renewal timeframes and was in favor of going to monthly firm renewals.

3. Review of Compliance with Sunset Recommendations / Report

- Dr. Kinney presented a summary of the Sunset report issues and that the agency is complying with all issues. Board Rules are ongoing to support changes to processes.

4. Exam Development Update and Discussion: NCEES PS / RPLS / State Specific Exams

- Mr. Strong presented information on the timeline for exam delivery, new exam development, and the work plan to move to the PS exam with Texas state specific components. Interest from the committee members and liaisons was strong to ensure the new exam is developed with competency in mind, and that we can meet the 2021 proposed target date. Staff will continue to work with the exam workgroups to change over from RPLS exam development to focus on a state-specific exam.
- It was noted that the current reciprocal exam is a good blueprint for the state-specific exam, as it currently is coupled with the NCEES PS exam for reciprocal registrants (the exact model proposed for new RPLS).
- Staff will provide an ongoing update of the timeline for exam development.
- Staff is working to develop exam specs for the new exam from which the item writers and QA/QC workgroups can assemble an exam.
- LSLS exam workgroups are also being developed to support the LSLS exam and licensure process per Sunset recommendations.

5. Rules Discussion: Chapter 131 – TBPELS Operations

- Dr. Kinney reviewed the draft rules for Chapter 131. Chapter 131 is the operations chapter of the rules and combines agency functions into one chapter. Most of this consisted of adding ‘registrants’ or ‘land surveyor’ to current TBPE rules.

6. RPLS Registration Process Discussion

- Mr. Strong reviewed the requirements for an RPLS to become registered. Several issues were discussed as part of the Chapter 134 rule discussion below.

7. Rules Discussion: Chapter 134 – Surveyor Registration

- Dr. Kinney reviewed the draft rules for Chapter 134. Chapter 134 is a new chapter of the rules to cover registration of RPLS, certification of SIT, and licensure of LSLS candidates. The previous surveyor rules were not particularly clear or complete; items were inter-mixed and the process was not linear in the rules. Staff has taken the approach to copy the format of Chapter 133 – engineering licensure rules – and then edit to include the surveyor requirements. Therefore, Chapter 134 is a different format to previous surveying rules.
- The committee reviewed the major content areas and provided feedback on some questions:
 - Removal of requirement for sample surveys. The previous surveying rules required two sample surveys for applicants. This is not supported in statute, and a process review showed that this was a verification of both experience and similar to part of the examinations. In addition, it was reviewed for general compliance and not graded. The SAC supported the recommendation to REMOVE this requirement in the rules.
 - Criminal Background Checks. This is required by statute and will begin during 2020 for the December 2020 renewals. The system is being

finalized and will announced in March / April, giving surveyors the remainder of the year to complete the process.

- Current rules allow on the Southern Association of Colleges and ABET accredited programs to be accepted for registration; there are other regional associations. Engineers allow all US associations. SAC agreed to open this provision to include programs from all over the US.
- Experience had been previously reported by *hours* (target – 4000 hours) and signed off by an RPLS. No other state does this. This is not supported by statute, which simply requires 2 years of experience. This was also not included as a rule. Staff will remove this requirement from the process and require applicants to report on their 2 years of experience.
- Surveying experience from outside the US is not considered acceptable and the SAC supported this.
- In the engineering rules, licensees are allowed to take the PE exam for record purposes (already have a license but need the exam for other reasons). This was not covered in surveying rules. SAC supported this addition for surveyors.
- The SAC supported a waiver of the FS exam for out-of-state applicants who are registered in another state. This is provided for in the statute. Staff developed a process based on the engineering FE exam waiver model.

8. Rules Discussion: Chapter 136 – Surveyor Firm Registration

- Dr. Kinney presented the draft rules for firm registration. Similar to the Chapter 134 discussion, Chapter 136 is formatted similarly to the engineering firm Chapter 135. The

committee discussed the firm registration process for surveyors and the many similarities to the engineering firm requirement. One notable difference is the lack of requirement for sole practitioners to be registered as a firm for surveyors.

9. Issues for consideration for future committee meetings

- Staff is developing Chapter 138 (surveyor compliance) and Chapter 139 (combined enforcement processes) and will present those to the SAC via Basecamp for comments and feedback. The goal is to present all rule packages to the Board at the February 20, 2020, Board meeting.

10. Select next committee meeting date(s)

- March, date TBD.

11. Adjourn