

MEETING NOTES
SURVEYING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

January 27, 2022
2 - 3:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

- Call to Order – The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 2 p.m.
- Introductions / Agenda -Attendees
 - Jon Hodde, RPLS, SAC Chair
 - Davey Edwards, RPLS, LSLS, SAC Member
 - Heather Welch-Westfall, RPLS, SAC Member
 - Stan Piper, RPLS, LSLS, SAC Member
 - Paul Kwan, RPLS, SAC Member
 - Mary Chruszczak, RPLS, SAC Member
 - Coleen Johnson, RPLS, TBPELS Board Member Liaison
 - Mark Neugebauer, RPLS, LSLS, TBPELS Board Member Liaison
 - Dennis Chalaire, RPLS, Surveying Exam Workgroup
 - Paul Easley, RPLS, Surveying Exam Workgroup
 - Randall Kircher, RPLS, Surveying Exam Workgroup
 - Lance Kinney, PhD, PE, TBPELS Executive Director
 - Michael Sims, PE, TBPELS Director of Compliance and Enforcement
 - Rick Strong, PE, TBPELS Director of Licensing and Registration

- Discussion of Draft State-Specific Surveying Exam Specification

Dr. Kinney presented the draft exam spec for the Texas state-specific surveying exam that would be use in conjunction with the NCEES PS exam in the future. A group has been working to analyze the PAKS survey responses rating individual domains and sub-domains (topic areas) related to surveying knowledge and tasks related to practice in Texas. After reviewing the responses, the group has sorted the items and presented a draft specification for the SAC to review and possibly present to the board.

It was noted that this is the first-round specification that would be used to direct the exam workgroups in their work. This is NOT the final specification that would be published and released to examinees. One approved, the next step is to have the exam workgroups to go through the current

item back to classify the current questions according to the specification, to determine where the item bank is lacking, develop questions to augment the gaps in the item bank, and develop a prototype / first draft exam against the specification. If, after review of the item bank, there are topics currently included in the bank but NOT in the spec, those could be added to the spec; conversely, if there are items in the spec that should not be on the exams after review of the spec they could be removed. The spec items can also be edited or consolidated if appropriate after the workgroups complete their tasks.

The SAC then went through the items and exam workgroup representatives along with staff answered questions concerning the definition of terms, whether certain codes or cases listed were appropriate, and the grouping of items in domains.

After a discussion of all of these items, a motion was made to accept the draft specification and present it to the board for acceptance and approval. (Edwards / Kwan). The motion passed unanimously.

- Draft Exam Format

Dr. Kinney presented for discussion a draft proposal for the format and delivery of the state-specific exam. Currently, the RPLS exams are given 2x/year (April / October). When the board moves to the NCEES PS exam, it is offered via computer-based testing (CBT) on a daily basis all over the state. The state-specific exam will then be a limiting factor toward registration. Given that situation, the group is proposing that the exam possibly be offered 4x/year and the exam locations rotated through several locations around the state. The exam length would be initially developed to be 4 hours long, and have 2 scenarios (with 15-20 questions each) and a total length of 60-80 questions in total. There would be 6-8 static versions developed and rotated with no examinee seeing the same exam twice. Staff will also investigate the possibility of delivering this exam via CBT.

There will be a lot of work to be done to develop this new exam, but the workgroups are ready to start the process outlined in the section above with a proposed target of 2023 for a first exam. Of course, there will need to be a lead time to let examinees prepare for a new test, etc.

After a discussion of all of these items, a motion was made to accept the draft exam format and present it to the board for acceptance and approval. (Edwards / Piper). The motion passed unanimously.

- Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.