

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

**April 13, 2022**  
**10a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:**

- Call to Order
- Introductions / Agenda -Attendees

Jon Hodde, RPLS, SAC Member

Paul Kwan, RPLS, SAC Member

Manny Carrizales, RPLS, SAC Member

Stan Piper, RPLS, LSLS, SAC Member

Heather Welch-Westfall, RPLS, SAC Member

Coleen Johnson, RPLS, TPBELS Board Liaison

Mark Neugebauer, RPLS, LSLS, TBPELS 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

- RPLS State Specific Exam Update

Mr. Strong gave an update on the RPLS exams. April 8, 2022, exams were given successfully.

The PAKS study and exam specification has been approved and the next step is to review current exam items compared to the new exam specifications. The meeting will be two days (May 19/20) and work will be done in person by a select subset of exam workgroup members with experience in exam items and exam development.

- SAC Membership Application Update

The SAC has reviewed the online application form for the future SAC members. This will be posted in early May, with the plan to accept applications through May/June; review in June/July, and propose three new members at August meeting.

- Rule Clean-Up Package Discussion

Mr. Sims reviewed the current clean-up rule package proposed at the February board meeting. The SAC discussed and had no proposed changes or comments and concurred with moving forward with adoption.

- LSLS Sealing Rule Discussion

Mr. Sims reviewed the LSLS rule proposal that will be presented at the May Board meeting. This rule change is based on the discussion with the LSLS group and the compromise position to include the LSLS seal along with clear name and LSLS number on all LSLS work. The SAC discussed and had no proposed changes or comments and concurred with moving forward with the rule proposal.

- RPLS Continuing Education / Ethics Discussion

This is a TBPELS staff proposal to possibly align the continuing education requirements between PE and RPLS. Currently a PE is required to have 15 hours of continuing education with 1 hour of ethics per year while RPLS are required to have 12 hours with 3 hours of ethics. The SAC provided some background on the 3 hours of ethics. After discussion of the requirements, the history, and the current impact of the requirements, the SAC felt there was no need to propose a change at this time. Dr. Kinney will look at the NCEES guidelines for continuing education for both engineering and surveying for future reference.

- SIT / FS Exam Decoupling Discussion

This is a staff initiated discussion to review whether it would be advantageous to surveyor applicants to 'decouple' the current SIT experience requirements from the requirement not take the FS exam. Currently, statute requires a certain amount of surveying experience *prior* to application to take the FS exam. The discussion is whether it might be advantageous to allow an applicant to take the FS exam at any time post-graduation from an acceptable educational program. They could then continue to gain experience at their own pace and take the exam when they want. Once they have completed BOTH the experience and exam requirements, they could apply for SIT status. The purpose of this change would be to remove administrative barriers as well as to accommodate new surveyor applicants while not lowering the requirements.

Many other states have a process similar to this. Currently, this requirement is in the statute and would require a statutory change.

Dr. Kinney will review process requirements in other states as well as contact TSPS to discussion this issue. Mr. Piper will also discuss with TSPS to get feedback.

- In-state / Out-of-State Experience and Reference Discussion

At the recent TSPS Symposium, questions were asked about acceptance of out-of-state surveyor references for RPLS applicants. The SAC discussed and staff clarified current application, experience, and reference requirements. No changes recommended.

At the end of the meeting, the SAC recommended setting up an in-person meeting before the end of the summer at the TBPELS offices in Austin.

- Adjourn