

MEETING AGENDA
SURVEYING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEETING
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS (TBPELS)

July 27, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

TBPELS Offices – Board Room
1917 S IH-35
Austin, TX 78741

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

- Call to Order
- Introductions / Agenda -Attendees
 - Jon Hodde, RPLS – SAC Chair
 - Manny Carrizales, RPLS - SAC Member
 - Davey Edwards, PhD, RPLS, LSLS – SAC Member
 - Paul Kwan, RPLS - SAC Member
 - David McDow, RPLS, LSLS - SAC Member
 - Stan Piper, RPLS, LSLS - SAC Member
 - Dorothy Taylor, RPLS - SAC Member
 - Heather Welch-Westfall, RPLS - SAC Member

 - Coleen Johnson, RPLS – TPBELS Board Member Liaison
 - Mark Neugebauer, RPLS, LSLS – TBPELS Board Member Liaison- attended via Zoom

 - Lance Kinney, PhD, PE – TBPELS Executive Director – attended via Zoom
 - Ed Brannan, PE – TBPELS Licensing Technical Specialist
 - Michael Sims, PE – TBPELS Director of Compliance & Enforcement
 - Rick Strong, PE – TBPELS Director of Licensing and Registration

Excused Absence: Vasileios Kalogirou, RPLS - SAC Member

- Exam Update
 - Final RPLS Exam Report / Update – Mr. Strong gave a summary of the last 8 hour RPLS exam in the previous format. He provided statistics for the exam. Overall it went well and the team has really perfected the exam process.
 - State Specific Exams / Timeline Review – Mr. Strong provided an update on the conversion to the Principals and Practice of Surveying (PS) Exam + Texas Specific Surveying Exam (TSSE) exam model. The rules are in process and scheduled to be adopted at the August

board meeting. The exam workgroups have completed development of the TSSE and it is ready for delivery. Applicants have already started registering for the exam.

He reported that applicants have also already started taking the NCEES PS exam and provided the current pass rate. It is in-line with national pass rates.

The TSSE and LSLS exams will be held at the Norris conference center (same place as the previous RPLS exams). Starting in 2024, the LSLS exams will be held at the TBPELS board offices on different days from the TSSE due to the length of the exams, number of examinees, and staffing issues.

The TSSE will be offered three times per year and the dates are posted on the agency website. The LSLS exam will be offered twice per year.

There was discussion about the exams, exam process, and future exam possibilities. The SAC is very interested in the exam statistics and performance of the TSSE going forward and this will be monitored closely and reported to the SAC and Board. The SAC asked that the exam statistics also be reported in terms of degree plans (2 year / 4 year) as well as those that used the 32 hour process for application.

- Legislative Update – Dr. Kinney provided a brief overview of bills passed during the legislative session. None of the bills passed change the Professional Land Surveying Practices Act. Some bills may have impact on the practice of surveying in other ways but do not directly impact the Board or Chapter 1071. A major change for the agency was the extension of its Sunset review date to 2033. TBPELS staff will make a presentation at the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors (TSPS) Annual Convention including legislative updates. TBPELS is also working with TSPS on possible bill / cleanup language for the 2025 session.
- New SAC Member Discussion / Nominations - Dr. Kinney reported that the SAC application had been posted on the agency website and received 34 full applications (47 submitted but some were incomplete or duplicate). The full list of 34 applicants was provided to the SAC. Agency staff reviewed the list as well as a first level review.

Three members will be rolling off the SAC (Hodde, Edwards, Kwan) so three replacement members need to be recommended to the Board. The Board asked the SAC to recommend a list with additional options, so the SAC worked to provide a list of five names with a top three selected.

The SAC reviewed all applications. They evaluated experience, geographic coverage, surveying area of practice and firm size, and reviewed the responses to the application questions. After much discussion, the SAC selected a slate of nominees for SAC Membership that will be presented at the August Board meeting.

- 32 Hour Course Guideline Discussion and Review Plan – Dr. Kinney reported that this is an important issue and there is much interest in this topic in the education sector. TBPELS has

convened meetings with surveying educators and industry, and gotten feedback from the SAC via Basecamp as well concerning the future format and requirements for the 32 hour statutory requirement for surveying education evaluation.

A working draft example was presented to the SAC for discussion purposes. The SAC discussed, edited, and debated the draft. Topics such as alignment with the current statute, consideration of current and future 2- and 4-year program curricula, minimum requirements to practice, alignment with professional practice, educational goals, and examination content were discussed. The SAC also discussed possible minimum hour requirements and maximum hour requirements.

In general, the SAC focused on a minimum number of hours for land surveying content (12 hours was proposed) and a 6-hour minimum for mathematics. This would be for courses including college algebra and trigonometric concepts. Members discussed the possibility of including statistics as an option for mathematics credit. Members also discussed a possible minimum number of hours specifically related to Land Law as well.

Due to the complexity of this issue the SAC asked staff to compile the discussion notes and provide another edited draft to the committee via Basecamp for further discussion. No action or recommendation was made at this time. A target is to discuss a final proposal with the SAC prior to the November Board meeting.

In addition, TBPELS staff recommends that rule amendments be proposed to formalize and support any changes in the 32 hour worksheet and registration processes.

- Other Items from Committee Members

Several SAC members asked staff questions related to individual issues. Discussion was shared and no action taken.

- Adjourn