

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

**August 1, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Meeting via Zoom**

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

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
  - Stan Piper, RPLS, LSLS - SAC Chair
  - Manny Carrizales, RPLS - SAC Member
  - John Eby, RPLS – SAC Member
  - Anthony Gray, RPLS – SAC Member
  - Vas Kalogirou, RPLS – SAC Member
  - Ronny Lackey, RPLS – SAC Member
  - David McDow, RPLS, LSLS - SAC Member
  - Heather Welch-Westfall, RPLS - SAC Member
  - Dorothy Taylor, RPLS - SAC Member – SAC Member
  
  - Jon Hodde, RPLS – TBPELS Advisory Member
  
  - Lance Kinney, PhD, PE – TBPELS Executive Director
  - Ed Brannan, PE – TBPELS Licensing Technical Specialist
  - Michael Sims, PE – TBPELS Director of Compliance & Enforcement
  - Rick Strong, PE – TBPELS Director of Licensing and Registration
- TSSE Exam Report

Mr. Strong presented the exam statistics for the June 2024 TSSE and LSLS exams. There were 2 LSLS examinees that passed. The exam statistics were discussed by the SAC. Overall, the exams are performing as intended and the pass rates are comparable across exam administrations. The national and Texas PS exam pass rates were also discussed and are comparable. TBPELS still plans on 3 TSSE exam administrations in 2025 and will then review exam volumes, retakes, etc. to see if there is any need to adjust the exam schedule.
- Rule Update
  - 32 Hour Rule Package

Mr. Sims reported that the board approved the initial rule for publication and the rule has been published in the Texas Register. The public comment period runs through August 4, 2024. If no significant comments are received, the rule will be presented to the Board at the upcoming Board meeting on August 8, 2024, for adoption. The rule will go into effect by September. However, the requirements in the rule will not begin until January 1, 2026. This will give time for TBPELS to communicate the rule requirements to all new applicants, SITs, educational programs, and the public.

As part of the discussion, it was agreed that TBPELS will schedule an RPLS application webinar in the fall of 2024 for new applicants/SITs to help them understand the requirements for registration and answer questions.

- Rule Update Package

Mr. Strong reported that the board approved the initial rule package for publication and the rules have been published in the Texas Register. Due to the timing of publication, this comment period runs through August 11, 2024. Therefore, these rules will be brought back to the Board for potential adoption at the November 2024 meeting.

- Legislative Update

Dr. Kinney gave an update on the 2025 Legislative Session. Currently, bills are being developed for pre-filing in the fall. He understands that TSPS may be working on a bill on certain topics we will keep the SAC up to date on any issues that come up. In general, there are national attempts to reduce regulation and may impact regulatory agencies.

- Discussion / Recommendation of New SAC Members

- Dr. Kinney reported that the SAC application had been posted on the agency website and received 42 full applications. The full list of 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 (Carrizales, Piper, Welch-Westfall) 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. As Mr. Piper has re-applied for SAC Membership, he left the meeting as an attendee to avoid conflict of interest.

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.

- Items for Future Meetings:
  - Enforcement Rule Updates
  - Contract Field Crews / Drafters and Direct Supervision / Plan Stamping
  - Possible In-Person Meeting in Fall 2024
  - Other Items from Committee Members
    - Discussion of drone requirements related to surveying
    - TBPELS assistance for outreach including Lone Star College and TSPS Symposium
  
- Adjourn