

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

February 5, 2025
10:00 a.m. – Noon

ONLINE via Zoom

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
 - Vas Kalogirou, RPLS – SAC Chair
 - John Eby, RPLS – SAC Member
 - Ivan Garcia, RPLS – SAC Member
 - Anthony Gray, RPLS – SAC Member
 - Michael Hoover, RPLS, LSLS – SAC Member
 - Jason Jernigan, RPLS – SAC Member
 - Ronny Lackey, RPLS – SAC Member
 - David McDow, RPLS, LSLS - SAC Member
 - Dorothy Taylor, RPLS - SAC Member
 - Jon Hodde, RPLS – TBPELS Advisory Member
 - Lance Kinney, PhD, PE – TBPELS Executive Director
 - Ed Brannan, PE – TBPELS Licensing Technical Specialist
 - Elissa Mazza, TBPELS Staff Attorney
 - Michael Sims, PE – TBPELS Director of Compliance & Enforcement
 - Rick Strong, PE – TBPELS Director of Licensing and Registration
 - Brian Waltmann, PE – TBPELS Licensing Technical Specialist
 - Coleen Johnson, RPLS – TBPELS Board Member
 - Mark Neugebauer, RPLS, LSLS – TBPELS Board Member
- Exam Report – Mr. Strong presented the exam data for the PS, TSSE, and LSLS examinations and reviewed the data with the members. The committee discussed the recent TSSE exam results. They also discussed the exam review process and how questions are added or retired. It was recommended that staff consider retiring certain exam questions and convert them into practice questions available for examinees on the agency website. Dr. Kinney stated that he would work with Mr. Strong to work up policies regarding the exam workgroup memberships and start work with the exam writer group to continue to develop scenarios and questions.

- 32 Hour Rule Package – Next Steps – Dr. Kinney reported that these rules are in place and the next step is communication with the public and future applicants and examinees. He reported that licensing staff have scheduled an SIT/RPLS Application Review webinar for April 9 and that invitations will be sent to all SITs. This webinar will discuss the new 32 hour requirement and the transition in January 2026. In addition, Dr. Kinney is working on an article for the next TSPS Newsletter. It was recommended by members that staff record the webinar or make a short video that can be watched by future applicants about the 32 hour changes. Staff will also hold another webinar in the fall and continue to share information prior to the conversion at the end of the year. Staff will also attend the TSPS Symposium and Annual Convention.
- Surveyor Technical Rule Workgroup Report – Mr. Sims reported that the workgroup has met and discussed the current technical rules. They have made comments and notes on about half of the rules and will continue their work to cover the last half. Then the recommendations will be discussed and reviewed prior to bringing to the SAC at the next meeting. He thanked the members for their work on this important matter.
- Legislative Update – Dr. Kinney reported that there have been several thousand bills filed already and the agency is currently tracking 160 bills. New bills are filed and reviewed daily. He shared a list of bills specific to surveying or engineering and licensing in general. He reviewed the legislative calendar and noted that bill filing ends March 14. Hearings on bills have not started yet. Of the bills filed, a bill put forward by TSPS is related to decoupling of the FS and PS exams from experience. Staff will continue to monitor and interface with the SAC, Board, the Legislature, and interested organizations as the session continues.
- Processing Time of Complaints and Investigating Procedures & Resources – Mr. Sims reviewed the process for investigating and reviewing enforcement complaints. He discussed current staffing with the SAC, noting that we have 2 open investigator positions. He discussed workload of cases, noting that there are more engineering complaints than surveying complaints, and that some of the surveying complaints are non-jurisdictional. He also noted that on technical matters the team engages surveying subject matter experts as needed. Members suggested the possibility of part-time investigators as an option.
- Surveyor Role in Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) Activities – Mr. Sims asked the SAC about the role of surveyors in SUE activities. There was much discussion about different scenarios and how engineers are in charge of some aspects and surveyors do other aspects. In addition, there are different requirements depending on the scope of work and who requires the work to be done. The SAC generally noted this is a gray area and some other organizations are addressing this in different ways. Several SAC members recommended contacts and an organization that is related to SUE as a resource for further investigation. At this time, we do not recommend a policy advisory be developed, but additional information should be gathered.

- Items for Future Meetings: Depending on the agenda, the next meeting may be in-person in Austin.
 - Other Items from Committee Members – None at this time.
- Adjourn