

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

May 9, 2025
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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
 - Jason Jernigan, RPLS – SAC Member
 - Ronny Lackey, RPLS – SAC Member
 - David McDow, RPLS, LSLs - SAC Member
 - Dorothy Taylor, RPLS - SAC Member

 - Coleen Johnson, RPLS – TBPELS Board Liaison
 - Mark Neugebauer, RPLS, LSLs – TBPELS Board Liaison
 - Jon Hodde, RPLS – TBPELS Advisory Member

 - Lance Kinney, PhD, PE – TBPELS Executive Director
 - Michael Sims, PE – TBPELS Director of Compliance & Enforcement
 - Rick Strong, PE – TBPELS Director of Licensing and Registration
- Exam Report
 - March 2025 TSSE Exam and Statistics
Mr. Strong provided a summary of the FS, PS, TSSE, and LSLs exam statistics, including a breakdown of pass rates by degree type and other factors. The summary statistics will be shared with the SAC members on Basecamp as well. It was also noted that this information would be good to share with the surveying education programs.

 - October 2024 TSSE Exam and Revisions
Mr. Strong reviewed plans regarding examination scenarios. The SAC discussed options for future review and possible reuse of certain scenarios and questions, including review by QAQC, item writers, and cut score committees. Scenarios will be reviewed for possible modifications. In addition, the SAC discussed moving some scenarios out of the test bank and releasing them as practice questions.

The SAC also discussed working on a process for adding members to the exam work teams and reconstitution of the exam item writer work team.

- Move to 2 TSSE/Year

Mr. Strong reviewed the exam volumes for the current 3x/year exam delivery. Originally, the idea was to provide more exam opportunities (3x/year vs previous 2x/year) for examinees to increase RPLS takers and registrations. Exam data shows this has not necessarily been the case. Each exam offering has a cost in location, exam preparation, scoring, etc. and we want to make sure that it is also worthwhile for examinees. After discussion, the SAC felt that additional research was needed, such as comparison of re-takes, new examinees, etc to see if the 3x/year option is actually helpful for examinees or not. In the meantime, it was proposed to keep the 3x/year option through 2026 and decide in the near future about keeping the 3x/year or return to the 2x/year model. This will allow examinees to get information in a timely manner and make an informed decision regarding exams.

- Legislative Update

- Dr. Kinney reviewed the current legislation and timing as the session progresses. Specific bills discussed included:

- SB 681 – 2 Year Renewals – SB681 is currently moving through the system and is predicted to pass. It would direct the board to move to a 2-year renewal cycle for PE and RPLS licensees as well as engineering and surveying firm renewals. TBPELS staff will be working on renewal models, proposed rule changes, and a schedule for roll-out of the changes if this bill passes. Any proposed rule changes related to surveying renewals will be brought to the next SAC meeting.
- SB 1259 – TSPS Bill – This bill covers a number of topics, including transparency for SAC meeting notes, explicitly allowing the SAC to propose policies for surveying to the Board, allowing for surveying policy advisory opinions, formally decoupling the FS and PS exams from the experience timing requirements, and formally recognizing the TSSE exam in statute. This bill is predicted to pass. TBPELS staff will work on rule changes as appropriate and bring all language to the next SAC meeting.

- 32 Hour Rule Package Update – Dr. Kinney and Mr. Strong discussed recent actions regarding communication of the recent rule changes for the 32 hour coursework changes. Dr. Kinney wrote an article for the December 2024 TSPE newsletter, and recently Mr. Strong and Ed Brannan presented a webinar for SIT and RPLS applicants that covered the changes in detail. In addition, the 32 hour information has been included in presentations to surveyors. The SAC recommended updating the TBPELS website FAQs to cover the information, possibly include the information in a TBPELS newsletter article, and to send the information to the surveying educational programs directly so they can be aware and up-to-date on the changes.

- Surveyor Technical Rule Workgroup Report – Mr. Sims reported that the workgroup is still reviewing the rules for potential changes and will bring more information to the next SAC meeting.

- Investigator Status Updates on Complaints – Mr. Sims discussed the current case review process and that 90-day letters are automatically sent to complainants and respondents on cases. These updates can only indicate that a case is still open and being worked on and does NOT include details about the case. This is a limitation by law and rule. The SAC recommended that the update status reporting be added to the C&E FAQ to help set expectations for complainants and respondents.
- SAC Presentation – TSPS Annual Conference – Chair Kalogirou and Mr. Lackey shared discussions about including information about the SAC in the TBPELS presentation at the TSPS Annual Convention. The idea is to share the SAC process, the work that the SAC has done, how one can apply to be on the SAC, etc. The idea would be to have a short TBPELS staff presentation about the formal SAC process, etc. and then a panel discussion with SAC members about their experiences. The SAC members agreed this was a good idea and will participate in the presentation.
- SAC New Member Process – Dr. Kinney noted that it is time to begin the process to post applications for the next year SAC members. He will share the previously used questions to Basecamp so the committee can review. If approved, then we will post the application and notify the surveying community. Staff will bring back responses to the next SAC meeting for review, discussion, and recommendations.
- Items for Future Meetings
 - Mr. Neugebauer noted that the GLO continues to get questionable and sub-standard surveying work and wanted to see what can be done to educate the surveying community about professional standards and violations of the Act and Rules. He emphasized reviews of technical standards and how we might raise awareness and enforcement of them.
 - The committee also noted problems with seals, electronic sealing, and fraudulent / stolen seals.
 - Dr. Kinney mentioned having the next SAC meeting (August) in Austin.
- Adjourn