

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

August 1, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

TBPELS Office
1917 South IH-35
Austin, TX 78741

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
 - Vas Kalogirou, RPLS – SAC Chair – Via Zoom
 - John Eby, RPLS – SAC Member
 - Ivan Garcia, RPLS – SAC Member – Via Zoom
 - Anthony Gray, RPLS – SAC Member
 - Michael Hoover, 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

 - Lance Kinney, PhD, PE – TBPELS Executive Director
 - Michael Sims, PE – TBPELS Director of Compliance & Enforcement
 - Rick Strong, PE – TBPELS Director of Licensing and Registration
 - Ed Brannan, PE – TBPELS Technical Engineering Specialist
 - Brian Waltmann, PE - TBPELS Technical Engineering Specialist
- Exam Report
 - June 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. The June exam performed well.

Staff noted that they will be working on setting up criteria for adding workgroup members for the QA/QC and Cut Score groups as well as looking at the need for additional questions and item writers.

Mr. Jernigan discussed the possible release of the October exam scenario as a potential study item for examinees and educators. This item is currently being looked at by exam workgroups to see if there are sections that can continue to be used or re-written.

- Move to 2 TSSE/Year

This item will continue to be reviewed each exam cycle to continue to gather data on attendance numbers. It was recommended to poll examinees concerning the summer exam.

- Legislative Update

Dr. Kinney reviewed the legislation that was recently passed during the regular session. Board staff will continue to monitor legislation during the called Special Session(s) as the session progresses. Rule language is being developed to implement each bill and will be proposed to the Board at the upcoming August meeting. All rule proposals concerning the practice of surveying must be reviewed by the SAC to get advice and recommendations.

- SB 681 – 2 Year Renewals – This bill requires all RPLS, PE, surveying firms, and engineering firms to convert to a 2-year renewal cycle. Agency staff have been working on a transition plan and has settled on a set of four 6-month renewal windows over each two-year period. This conversion will roll out over the next several years, with the first two-year RPLS renewal cycle beginning with the January 31, 2027, renewal.

RPLS that are currently registered will be assigned to the January odd year window. Each new RPLS will be assigned as appropriate to one of the 6-month windows. Two-year renewal fees for RPLS will be \$100. The SAC discussed the Continuing Education requirements and decided that double the current total hours was appropriate (24 hours over 2 years) and to change the ethics requirement to 4 hours over 2 years.

TBPELS staff presented draft rule language to cover each of the renewal provisions for the new system. The SAC reviewed the language and supports the rule revisions.

Staff will begin communication to all licensees and registrants this fall, via website, e-newsletter, and outreach presentations. Staff will also engage with TSPS and TSPE to share information via their communication channels.

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. TBPELS staff presented draft rule language to cover each of the statutory provisions. The SAC reviewed the language and supports the rule revisions.

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- HB5629 / SB1818 – Military / Veteran / Spouses Bill – These two bills amend provisions concerning expedited licensing procedures for active-duty military, military veterans, and military spouses who are licensed in another state and have moved to or been assigned to Texas.

In summary, the provisions provide for two general expedited paths: one for an applicant with a license in another jurisdiction with the result being a letter allowing them to practice in Texas based on their out-of-state license with no Texas license being issued. Rules have been prepared for this section. The SAC discussed that this provision will most likely not be utilized much as many local jurisdictions would not understand or accept documents sealed only by an out-of-state surveyor that would also not appear on the TBPELS roster.

The second pathway results in a license from the Board with slightly different application provisions.

Both of the pathways have new language requiring the board to accept out-of-state licensed that are ‘similar in scope of practice’ to that in Texas. If the board determines that there are jurisdictions that are similar in scope of practice, then a list should be posted on the agency website. The SAC had a thorough discussion to attempt to determine what ‘scope of practice’ would mean in the surveying context as each state has very specific laws, codes, ordinances, and case law concerning how boundaries are determined and evaluated in their state.

After consideration, the SAC made a preliminary determination that NO jurisdiction is similar in overall scope of practice to Texas. Mr. Jernigan will work on a white paper to set out the reasoning behind this preliminary determination and post it to the SAC Basecamp for discussion and edits. Board staff will prepare rule language to include this determination.

TBPELS staff presented draft rule language to cover each of the other statutory provisions. The SAC reviewed the language and supports the rule revisions.

SB1080 – Criminal History Bill – Mr. Sims explained this bill includes changes concerning the felony violations that require licenses to be revoked. Agency rules and policies will be adjusted to align with the changes. TBPELS staff presented draft language to cover each of the other statutory provisions. The SAC reviewed the language and supports the rule revisions.

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- SAC New Member Selection –
 - Dr. Kinney reported that the SAC application had been posted on the agency website and received 36 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 (Kalogirou, McDow, Taylor) 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 six 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.

In addition to selecting the slate of nominees, the SAC discussed future application policies. It was agreed to amend the application policy to stipulate that current members of the SAC may not apply for a subsequent term until at least one year has passed since their membership ended. This will allow for new members to join and share their knowledge and experience. This change will not prevent an SAC member from serving multiple terms. They simply cannot be back-to-back terms.

- 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. TBPELS recently held and SIT webinar that we well attended as well as a webinar with surveying educators from around the state. Both webinars covered the 32 hour changes and answered questions. Next steps include updating the FAQ on the website as well as including the slides from the presentations as a visual guide to the changes.
- SAC Presentation – TSPS Annual Conference – Dr. Kinney shared discussions about including information about the SAC in the TBPELS presentation at the TSPS Annual Convention. The presentation will include a short TBPELS staff presentation about the formal SAC process and then a panel discussion with SAC members about their experiences. The SAC members agreed they will participate in the presentation. Planning will proceed as the conference gets closer.
- Firms Offering ‘Surveying’ Type Work Based on Public GIS Data – Mr. Sims discussed recent concerns shared with the board about companies that are listing ‘surveying adjacent’ services online. After SAC review of several websites offering mapping, GIS data aggregator / display services, it was noted that they are not offering surveying services directly nor saying that the services would substitute for a professional surveyors. There do not appear to be any violations of the Board Act or Rules at this time. It was agreed to continue to monitor the services but no formal action needs to be taken at this time.
- Condominium Surveys – Ms. Johnson brought up an issue related to condominium surveys vs subdivision surveys. Builders / developers are using the condominium survey approach, which has different minimum requirements, as an apparent strategy to work around some surveying requirements. Staff will work with the SAC for the next meeting to review the condominium statutory requirements and compare to current laws and rules and determine if there is any action the board can take such as rule clarification or development of a policy advisory.

- 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. The SAC noted that an article from the GLO could be included in the newsletter and on the website. Also, direct communication from the GLO to surveyors that submit substandard work could be an effective approach.

- Adjourn

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