

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

November 13, 2025
9:00 a.m. – Noon

Via Zoom

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

- Call to Order

- Roll Call
 - Jason Jernigan, RPLS – SAC Chair
 - Connor Brown, RPLS – SAC Member
 - John Eby, RPLS – SAC Member
 - Anthony Gray, RPLS – SAC Member
 - Michael Hoover, RPLS, LSLs – SAC Member
 - Ronny Lackey, RPLS – SAC Member
 - David Rolbiecki, RPLS, LSLs – SAC Member
 - Kenneth Yazel, RPLS – SAC Member

 - Coleen Johnson, RPLS – TBPELS Board Liaison
 - Mark Neugebauer, RPLS, LSLs – TBPELS Board Liaison

 - Davey Edwards, RPLS, LSLs – TBPELS Advisory Member
 - 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
 - Ed Brannan, PE – TBPELS Technical Engineering Specialist
 - Elissa Mazza – TBPELS Staff Attorney
 - Brian Waltmann, PE - TBPELS Technical Engineering Specialist

SAC Member Ivan Garcia was not present and excused.

The team welcomed the new SAC members and congratulated Mr. Jernigan being elected as SAC chair for the 2025-2026 term.

- Exam Report

- October 2025 TSSE Exam and Statistics -Mr. Strong reviewed the recent exam. The exam was delivered successfully with 73 attendees. The scoring process is still ongoing and on schedule, but no results are available at this time.
He also shared the historical results for the benefit of the new members. A question was raised about the pass rate difference between the 2-year degree holders and 4-year degree holders and if a rigorous statistical analysis has been done to determine if there is a genuine difference in performance. Staff reported that a statistical analysis has not been done and we will look into that for the next meeting.
 - Move to 2 TSSE/Year – This item was discussed at previous SAC meetings and will be revisited mid-2026 once more data on registration and attendance is collected.
- Legislative Update and Rule Adoptions – Dr. Kinney gave an update on the status of the implementation of the following bills. All associated rules have been developed, presented to the Board at the August 2025 meeting, approved for posting in the Texas Register, and posted in the Texas Register for public comment. The comment window closes on Sunday, November 16, 2025.
 - SB 681 – 2 Year Renewals – No comments received on these rules to-date. TBPELS staff has developed a full plan including mapping of all renewal cycles for PE and RPLS and has begun communication during outreach presentations. More information will be posted on the TBPELS website after January 2026 so as not to confuse the current December renewal cycle.
 - SB 1259 – TSPS Bill – Two comments received on these rules:
 - One concerning a section numbering issue (two sub-section (b) in proposed rule 134.66). Non-substantive change will be made on final submission to the Texas Register.
 - One concerning continuing education carry-over and changing the ethics requirement to 4 hours over 2 years (instead of the potential 6 hours). The SAC discussed at length at previous meetings and recommended the 4-hour ethics requirement. The current SAC revisited this and confirmed the recommendation to leave the rule proposal as-is. It meets the policy needs for sufficient ethics and law review over a two-year span while not burdening RPLS with additional hours. Concerning carry-over, the issue is with a 2-year renewal, a person could gain a large number of hours and potentially not have to do any additional continuing education for up to 4 years. The SAC felt that this was too long of a gap so recommended leaving the proposed rule as-is.
 - HB5629/SB 1818 – Military / Veteran / Spouses Bills – no comments received on this rule package and no discussion.
 - SB 1080 – Criminal History Bill – no comments received on this rule package and no discussion.
- 32 Hour Rule Package Update – Dr. Kinney reported that this provision will go into effect starting with applications submitted after January 1, 2026. Communication channels include articles in TSPS and TBPELS newsletters, info on TBPELS website, inclusion in TBPELS outreach presentations, and direct communication with surveying education programs. TBPELS will post the requirements and an FAQ ASAP on the website.

- SAC Presentation Debrief – TSPS Annual Conference – At the recent TSPS Annual Conference, past and current members of the SAC did a panel discussion (Kalagirou, Lackey, Hoover and Board Member Johnson). It was well received. TSPS has asked us to do another panel discussion at the TSPS Symposium and SAC members are in favor of doing it again. We will poll SAC members as the event gets closer to see who will be in attendance. Dr. Kinney will respond back to TSPS to confirm the event.
- Surveying Rule Review – Technical Standards – Mr. Sims reported that this project will resume to review the current Board rules concerning technical standards. There has been concern expressed by SAC members, Board members including Mr. Neugebauer, and members of the surveying profession that technical standards are not being followed by some RPLS. The Board is looking to review, clarify, and possibly reinforce the current standards to insure that they are enforceable and clear to all involved parties. He asked for volunteers to be on a workgroup to review the rules in detail.
- Exam Workgroup Membership (Jernigan) – Mr. Jernigan discussed the issue of revitalizing the exam workgroups including the item writers workgroup. The SAC agreed that it is important to continue to build a pipeline of members for these groups and to start a recruitment effort. TBPELS staff will work to set up some guidelines for membership and will work with SAC members to re-start the process.
- Analytical Scenario Review (Jernigan) – Mr. Jernigan discussed the possibility of retiring an exam scenario and related questions and using it as an example question set and an exam prep item. Mr. Strong reported that, while the scenario can be challenging it has been reviewed and is considered a good question set. In review of associated exam itself, it was not wholly the scenario that caused issues with the pass rate.

After additional discussion, the group agreed to the following action items:

- Review of the exam scenario and questions and work toward a revision before including on another exam
 - Charge the exam workgroups with developing one or more practice exam question sets for public release and use based on retired questions from the previous RPLS exam. Mr. Strong will work with the exam workgroups for this item.
- Items for Future Meetings
 - Dr. Kinney noted that, depending on the agenda, he will look to see if an in-person meeting will be appropriate for the next meeting. He will send out a poll for availability after the New Year.
 - Mr. Sims asked the group about counting drone training toward continuing education for land surveyors. The SAC discussed and decided that general drone training should not count as it isn't surveying specifically.
 - Sealing Issues – how to help prevent sealing fraud. Dr. Kinney will provide information from national efforts on this issue.
 - Subsurface Utility Engineering – Mr. Sims will provide information on this discussion item.

- Poor Quality Surveying Work – Mr. Neugebauer expressed his concerns about quality of work his office is seeing. After discussion, the group will continue this discussion at the next meeting. Some interim action items;
 - Technical Rule Workgroup (see above)
 - If an individual, company, or agency finds work that is sub-par and violates the Board statutes and rules, then complaints need to be filed. This will allow the Board to review, take action, and build a record.
 - Potential statutory change to raise maximum fine for surveying violation to \$5,000 to match engineering maximum fine.

- Adjourn