

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

April 10, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

TBPELS Offices
1917 S. IH 35
Austin, TX 78741

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

- Jason Jernigan, RPLS – SAC Chair
- Connor Brown, RPLS – SAC Member
- John Eby, RPLS – SAC Member
- Ivan Garcia, 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 (video)
- Jon Hodde, RPLS – TBPELS Advisory Member (video)

- 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
- LeAnn Catron, TBPELS Compliance & Enforcement Investigator
- Virginia Essary, TBPELS Compliance & Enforcement Investigator
- Leticia Hernandez, TBPELS Compliance & Enforcement Investigator

3. Exam Report

- a. TSSE Exam and Statistics – Mr. Strong reviewed and discussed the previous examination statistics. He also noted that the March TSSE exam data was being processed and will be shared at the next SAC meeting.

4. Degrees from Southern New Hampshire University – Mr. Strong and Mr. Brannan discussed this institution and whether degrees met the requirements for accreditation. The SAC members did not have familiarity with the institution. The SAC discussed the accreditation requirements and did not support going outside of the rules to allow degrees from SNHU to count. It was noted that the SAC and TBPELS are not in the business of accrediting programs outside of the standard process.
5. Contract Crews – This item is a continuation of previous discussions about contract crews without an RPLS on staff. It is recognized that these companies exist and that the practice creates the risk of ‘plan stamping.’ There are also concerns on who hires who – whether the Contract Crew company offers full surveying services and then gets an external RPLS to sign the work then it would be illegal and plan stamping, among other violations. Ultimately, the RPLS involved is the individual involved and would be held accountable to the Board.
6. Topographic Surveys and Construction Staking Work – The SAC discussed the issue of topographic surveys and individuals and firms that offer this service. According to the statute, this activity does not require an RPLS. The issue can be when it interfaces with boundary work. However, it would take a statutory change to include it in the formal practice of surveying in Texas. Construction staking is an area where there is overlap with engineers and may not require an RPLS or PE to do the work depending on the situation. No action was taken at this time on these issues.
7. Unlicensed Individuals Offering Professional Surveying Services – This item is a continuation of previous discussions about individuals offering professional surveying services. This can include situations with contract crews (see above), plan stamping, stolen or fraudulent seals, misinformation to the public as to who can do what, advertising via professional service brokers, etc. The main takeaway at this point is to encourage the public and other surveyors to file complaints with the board when these situations arise.
8. Surveying Rule Review Workshop – Technical Standards
 - a. Technical Standards Discussion – Board or External
 - b. Individual Rule Language Review

This item occupied the majority of the meeting. In summary, the goal of the workshop is to review Board Rules Chapter 138, Subchapter E – Professional and Technical Standards, to see if they are still relevant or if any changes are warranted. The SAC reviewed collected information from national and Texas specific standards (such as the TSPS Manual of Practice). In addition, the group reviewed information contained in other state laws, rules, and policies. The group reviewed analyses and summaries of each rule 138.81 – 138.97 for clarity, enforceability, technical specifications, alignment with other statutes, rules, regulations, and policies, and understanding by the surveying community and the public.

Overall, the workgroup collected good information and have a good understanding of the rulemaking process and potential changes. At this point, additional work is warranted before any concrete

recommendations will be made. Therefore, no preliminary results will be included in this report at this time.

9. Items for Future Meetings – SAC members requested TBPELS staff to develop a type of ‘heat map’ of the geographic distribution of RPLS’s in Texas.

10. Adjourn