

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

July 31, 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
- Tony Gray, RPLS – SAC Member
- Michael Hoover, RPLS, LSLs – SAC Member
- Ronny Lackey, RPLS – SAC Member
- David Rolbiecki, RPLS, LSLs – SAC Member

- Coleen Johnson, RPLS – 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
- Elissa Mazza, - TBPELS Staff Attorney

3. Exam Report

- a. TSSE Exam and Statistics – Mr. Strong reviewed and discussed the March examination statistics. He also noted that the June TSSE exam data was being processed and will be shared at the next SAC meeting. The SAC also discussed the number of TSSE offerings going forward and deferred a more in-depth discussion on this topic to next meeting.

4. Rules Update

- a. Current Rules for Adoption - Dr. Kinney noted that there are currently rules up for adoption at the next Board meeting. These are minor clean-up rules that the SAC already reviewed. No comments were received from the public so no changes are anticipated.
- b. Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office (TREO) Rule Review – Dr. Kinney provided an overview of the TREO project and that TBPELS is currently undergoing a rule review with a focus on

rule consolidation and efficiency. The next step is for TREO to provide some options that will reduce word count. TBPELS will then have the option to incorporate TREO's suggestions or not.

5. New SAC Member Discussion and Recommendations – TBPELS sent out an open application to all RPLS for membership on the SAC. Three members – Eby, Gray, and Lackey are rolling off this year and the SAC needs to recommend replacements for the next three-year terms. Thirty-six applications were received. After review and discussion, the SAC selected 3 primary and 2 alternate nominees to present to the Board at its August 13, 2026, meeting.
6. 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. At the last SAC meeting, the committee undertook a review of the 'technical standards' rules - 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, as well as discussion items from the previous meeting. The group then 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.

The SAC came up with some potential wording and suggestions for changes to some rules, while recommending leaving others as-is. The group agreed to move the editing exercise to Basecamp in preparation for the next meeting. Therefore, no preliminary results will be included in this report at this time.

7. Policy Advisory Update – Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) – Mr. Sims presented the current draft of the SUE Policy Advisory Letter and discussed the current stakeholder process. The SAC had a few wording changes that will be included in the next draft revision.
8. Riparian Boundary Question – Mr. Sims discussed a general question brought about by an inquiry from a surveyor. The SAC provided input concerning methods for determination of riparian boundaries and how this process might be interpreted in the context of enforcement actions.
9. Items for Future Meetings – The SAC thanked Msrs. Eby, Gray, and Lackey for their service on the SAC.
10. Adjourn