

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
1917 S. IH 35
Austin, Texas 78741
May 23, 2019—10:00 AM

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

1. Preliminary Matters:

A. Call to Order.

Elvira Reyna, Chair, called the Legislative Issues Committee meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers to order at 10:00 a.m. on May 23, 2019, at the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, 1917 S. IH 35, Austin, TX. A quorum was present. (NOTE: all votes are unanimous unless noted.)

B. Roll Call.

Ms. Bodden called the roll. It was noted for the record that a quorum was present.

The following Committee members were present:

Elvira Reyna	Chair
Ademola Adejokun, P.E.	Member
Albert Cheng	Member
Sina Nejad, D.Eng., P.E.	Member

Veena Mohan, Assistant Attorney General and Kimberly Fuchs, Assistant Attorney General, were present to provide legal counsel to the Board.

Edmundo Gonzalez, P.E.; Jose I. Guerra, P.E.; and Govind Nadkarni, P.E., Advisory Members were present.

Board Members Lamberto Ballí, P.E.; Catherine Norwood, P.E.; Rolando Rubiano, P.E.; Kiran Shah; and Dr. Daniel Wong, P.E., were present.

The following staff members were present:

Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E.	Executive Director
David Howell, P.E.	Deputy Executive Director
Rick Strong, P.E.	Director of Licensing
Michael Sims, P.E.	Director of Compliance and Enforcement
Elissa Mazza	Staff Attorney
Cristabel Bodden	Executive Assistant

C. Possibly excuse absent committee members. All committee members were present.

D. Welcome Visitors. Terry Bilderback, P.E., Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE); Manuel Montemayor, P.E.; Marte Guillen; and Trish Smith, P.E., (TSPE) were present.

E. Public comment. None.

2. February 14, 2019 Legislative Issues Committee Meeting Minutes.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Cheng/Adejokun) to approve the February 14, 2019, Legislative Committee minutes as submitted. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

3. 86th Texas Legislative Session Activities.

Mr. Howell relayed that it is the last week of session and there are hundreds of bills. The session is extremely busy because they are trying to wrap everything up with hundreds of bills still in the process of being signed or vetoed.

4. Bill Tracking and Other Legislative Issues.

Mr. Howell relayed that a tracking report is available for review by the Committee. The report shows who filed the bill, the caption of the bill, the progress of the bill and what Committee it has been assigned to.

Mr. Howell stated that the agency is tracking several bills that would affect the agency. We are tracking 160 bills but the most important to note is House Bill 1523, which is the Bill that affects the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying. House Bill 1523 is sitting at the House to get concurrence but the Bill is imminent and will pass.

Dr. Kinney relayed that staff would have a full update and report on all Bills affecting the agency at the next Committee meeting in August.

5. Update on Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying – Texas Sunset Advisory Commission Actions.

Dr. Kinney relayed that he provided a summary report or exhibit for the review of the Committee and provided an update to the recommendation by the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission. Dr. Kinney stated that the Texas Board of Professional Engineers had already started work on this merger in the form of communication with staff of the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying.

The summary report shows that we will have one year to transfer finances, there will be a new agency name, The Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, Surveying activities will come under our Board, and there will be a new Board composition which will include a Land Surveyor. The total Board will include 5 Professional Engineers, 1 Land Surveyor, 3 Public Members, and one non-voting General Land Office (GLO) member.

Mr. Cheng asked if the Surveying Member could also be a Professional Engineer. The current bill states that they cannot be an engineer. Dr. Kinney replied that staff would have to look at this once it is finalized.

Dr. Kinney relayed that he has attended several Board and Committee meetings at the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying and has met several of their Board members.

Ms. Reyna asked if we had room to accommodate staff from the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying and Dr. Kinney relayed that the agency has begun making modifications needed to accommodate staff.

6. Issues for consideration at future board meeting. None.

7. Adjourn.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Cheng/Adejokun) to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 a.m. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

Date minutes were approved by Committee as submitted:

August 22, 2019

Date Board accepted minutes:

August 22, 2019