

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Via Videoconference
February 25, 2021—10:00 AM

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

1. Preliminary Matters.

A. Call to Order.

Mr. Albert Cheng, Chair, called the Legislative Issues Committee meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to order at 10:00 a.m. via Videoconference. (NOTE: all votes are unanimous unless noted.)

B. Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Cheng led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call.

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

The following Committee members were present:

Albert Cheng	Chair
Ademola Adejokun, P.E.	Alternate Member
Coleen Johnson, R.P.L.S.	Member
Rolando Rubiano, P.E.	Member

Veena Mohan, Assistant Attorney General and General Counsel for the Board, was present via Videoconference to provide legal counsel to the Board.

The following staff members were present:

Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E.	Executive Director
Rick Strong, P.E.	Director of Licensing and Registration
Michael Sims, P.E.	Director of Compliance and Enforcement
Jeff Mutscher	Chief Financial Officer
Mason Schoolfield	Lead Systems Developer
Cristabel Bodden	Executive Assistant

D. Excuse absent Committee members.

The following Committee member was absent:

Kiran Shah	Public Member
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It was MOVED/SECONDED (Rubiano/Johnson) to excuse Mr. Shah from the Legislative Issues Committee meeting. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

E. Welcome Visitors.

Lamberto Ballí, P.E., Board Member; Edmundo Gonzalez, P.E., R.P.L.S., Advisory Member; Govind Nadkarni, P.E., Advisory Member; Dr. Sina K. Nejad, P.E., P.Eng., Board Member; Mark Neugebauer, R.P.L.S., L.S.L.S., Board Member; Catherine Norwood, P.E., Board Member; and R. Kyle Womack, P.E., Retired, Advisory Member, were present via Videoconference.

F. Public Comment.

There were no public comments.

2. November 19, 2020 Legislative Issues Committee Meeting Minutes.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Johnson/Adejokun) to approve the November 19, 2020 Legislative Issues Committee meeting minutes as amended. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

3. Important Dates and Information Related to the 87th Legislative Session.

Staff provided a list of important dates for the legislative session.

Mr. Cheng stated that the February winter storms could be the costliest disaster the state has faced, upwards of \$125 billion, exceeding that of Hurricane Harvey. Furthermore, we do not know what the total final impact and ramifications will be on the state and the budget.

No action was required on this agenda item.

4. Update on bills relating to the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Mr. Cheng asked that staff provide an updated report to the Board of the bills tracked in the Telicon system with standard internet links as not all members had access to the Telicon system. This report would allow the Board access to the public side of the Texas Legislature and be able to see the bills.

Dr. Kinney stated he would provide a report to the Board members.

Mr. Cheng noted Senate Bill 219 by Senator Hughes relating to civil liability and responsibility for the consequences of defects in the plans, specifications, or related documents for the construction or repair of an improvement to real property. This bill could lead to tougher standards that could affect Architects and Engineers.

Staff indicated that they are tracking the bill.

No action was required on this agenda item.

5. Review of Legislative Communication and Lobbying.

Mr. Cheng reminded the Board what they can and cannot do in communicating with the Legislature. Board members can talk about issues that affect this agency but cannot say if they are for or against any bill.

Mr. Cheng relayed that Committee hearings started today and the process of how the hearings will work is still unclear.

No action was required on this agenda item.

6. Legislative Communication Plans.

Mr. Cheng asked if Dr. Kinney had dropped off packets at the Capitol and the Board. Dr. Kinney stated that he would be working with Mr. Cheng in the coming weeks to provide a one-pager.

Mr. Cheng inquired about creating ad-hoc committees that could help facilitate any requirements requested by the Legislature.

Dr. Kinney replied that they could work with Dr. Nejad as needed to create these ad-hoc committees.

No action was required on this agenda item.

7. Issues for consideration for future Committee meetings.

No issues were presented or addressed for future consideration at the next Committee meeting.

8. Adjourn.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Rubiano/Johnson) to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

Date Committee approved minutes:

May 26, 2021

Date Board approved minutes:

May 27, 2021