



Oregon Geologist Examiner

January 2009

Official Publication of the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

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Rodney J. Weick, RG, CEG

Mark Yinger, RG

Susanna R. Knight
Administrator

Marilou Arrobang
Licensing Specialist

Jane F. Feinberg, RG, CEG
Design Editor

Next Board Meeting:

March 5, 2009

1:00 PM

Preceded by 8:30 AM

Work Session

Salem, Oregon

Board Retreat Fruitful

The Board convened on Saturday, January 10, 2009, at the Gentle House in Monmouth. From 10 AM to 4 PM, a Facilitator directed discussion of agenda items about facets of the complaint process. The agenda items were chronically tabled by the Board during past quarterly meetings, as the Board dealt with more pressing issues. A Board retreat was deemed the solution for acting on these long-delayed compliance topics.

The following questions were used to frame the retreat discussion:

- How is a complaint processed when it arrives at the Board office?
- Should the Board develop a standard complaint form?
- How and when should the Board engage Technical Reviewers?
- What information should be provided to Technical Reviewers?
- Should Technical Reviewers be compensated for their efforts?

Over the past years, staff has solicited registrants on a case-by-case basis to serve as Technical Reviewers. These volunteer reviewers are acknowledged as part of a Compliance Committee serving the Board. The information provided by the reviewers augments the Board complaint investigation.

During the retreat, the Board clarified the process by which it becomes involved in a complaint and concurred that a standard complaint form should be developed. Technical Reviewers are vital to the review process, and the Board directed staff to incorporate a stipend for this service in the 2009-11 draft budget. A Technical Reviewer guidance document was also drafted.

The true demonstration of success at the retreat will be accomplished when:

- The current Administrative Rule is revised, discussed by the Administrative Rules Committee, and approved at a Board meeting.
- An active list of Technical Reviewers and their technical expertise is compiled in the office.
- A standard complaint form is available on the web.
- A packet of guideline information is available for the Technical Reviewer.
- The budget includes stipend dollars to acknowledge the important work that Technical Reviewers contribute to the board compliance process.

Board Closes Compliance Case

At the September 12, 2008, Board meeting, a case was closed that had been under review by the Board since early 2007. The case involved geology-related testimony by an unregistered professional at a county planning meeting. The Board previously encountered a similar case in 2004 (see April 2004 newsletter), which the Board ultimately resolved by withdrawing the notice, and subsequently the legislature adopted

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Knight's Notes

At the beginning of a New Year, it is good to reflect on the past year! So here goes:

Thumbs up to the following registrants who took time to read the STATE OF OREGON'S draft science standards for the next seven years and then offer concrete ideas back to the state committee working on the revisions to the standards: Bernie Kleutsch, RG, CEG; Geoffrey Garcia, RG; David Rankin, RG; Sheila Alfsen, GIT; John Porcello, RG; and to Dr. Stephen Taylor, RG, Board Chair, for his creative suggestions for distributing this information to Oregon Registered Geologists! The State Science Committee is *definitely* aware of your passion for geology! (If you submitted to the state but were not acknowledged here, please accept staff's apology!)

Thumbs up to current Board volunteers:

- For manning the booth at the Biennial Conference of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Richard Heinzkill; Mark Yinger, RG; Dennis Nelson, RG; and Todd Miller, RG.
- For those CEGs willing to assist on January 8, 2009, in the joint effort with the Washington Geology Board. In the wake of the I-5 closure, the event was moved to Monday, January 12. Thanks to *Scott Burns, Chris Humphrey, Curran Mohney, Jaimie Schick, and Nancy East-Smith* for participating on that day.
- To Design Editor, *Jane Feinberg, RG, CEG*, who continues to take the articles created by staff and Board and turn them into the quarterly newsletter. And this has been going on for 10 years!

Thumbs up to all of you that take a few minutes each quarter to read this newsletter. In particular, thanks to those "editors" who have assisted over the years by correcting grammar, etc. You know who you are! Please always feel free to offer any suggestions for the newsletter.

Thumbs up to the current members of the Board and all former members! Your dedication to the profession by serving in a regulatory position is exemplary. And to any of those registrants that have not yet served as a Board Member, always watch the newsletter, as Board openings are announced and application information provided.

Happy New Year,
Susanna Knight
Administrator

Compliance Case Closed

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ORS 672.525 (9), which states that "a person does not publicly practice or offer to publicly practice geology solely because the person testifies or prepares to testify in a public proceeding".

In connection with the present case, after review of the evidence gathered, the prior board decision, the new law and case precedent and consultation with Board counsel, the Board decided to close the current case with a Letter of Concern. Additionally, the Board in consultation with counsel interpreted ORS 672.525 (9) to apply only when individuals use existing public records to prepare for testimony. The statute does not apply if individuals prepare for public testimony by collecting, analyzing, and interpreting geologic data that is not part of the public record. In the latter situation, such actions could be considered the public practice of geology as described in ORS 672.505 and ORS 672.525, and require registration with the Board.

Board Reappointments Announced

Governor Ted Kulongoski reappointed both Christopher Humphrey, RG, CEG, and Dr. Stephen Taylor, RG, to a second three-year term effective November 18, 2008. Humphrey is a Senior Engineering Geologist with Schlicker & Associates, Oregon City. Taylor is an Earth Science Professor and Division Chair at Western Oregon University, Monmouth.

At the December 5, 2008, Board meeting, both Taylor and Humphrey agreed to remain as officers of the Board for the upcoming year, Taylor as Chair and Humphrey as Vice-Chair.



Board Outreach Continues

At the December Board meeting, Outreach Chair Dr. Stephen Taylor reported that input from Registered Geologists to the Oregon Science Standards Committee was received. He asked that a *thank you* be directed to all those individuals that took time to provide ideas and input to the state committee. He concludes that this was a successful effort thanks to the participation by many geologists.

Taylor continues to work with this committee as part of a two-year commitment. The standards developed by the committee will be the science curriculum offered to the local school districts in Oregon for implementation during the next seven years. Taylor is hopeful that the revised curriculum guidelines will allow for implementation of Earth Science curriculum for students in Oregon K-12.

OSBGE also manned a display in the exhibit area at the biennial Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Conference in Eugene, Oregon, on November 4, 5, and 6, 2008. This was the first time the Board participated in this conference. Booths of many participating watershed councils featured their projects. The Board's purpose in participating was to communicate to the watershed community that if the work of a watershed involves geology, they must seek the services of a Registered Geologist.

The article *Watershed Assessment, River Restoration, and the Geoscience Profession in Oregon*, written by Board President Steven Taylor and published in the Board's October 2007 newsletter and Oregon Geology, Vol. 68, No. 1, Fall 2007, was distributed to passers-by.

The centerpiece of the Board's display was a striking new poster with pictures representing primary area of practice for registrants: Water Resources; Environmental Remediation; Mineral Resources; and GeoHazards. It was professionally designed and will be used in doing outreach at future meetings and conferences. A second display piece presents registration information and posters of this will be issued to State University Geology Departments.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Board is in need of CEG volunteers over the next 5 months to continue with the Engineering Geology Examination Development

Another Successful Examination Outcome

On October 3, 2008, Board exams were administered in Salem, Oregon. The Oregon results were again outstanding. Of the 12 candidates sitting for the fundamental section of the exam, 10 passed for an 83% pass rate. Of the 16 candidates sitting for the practice section of the examination, 15 passed for a 94% pass rate.

The Board also administered the Engineering Geology examination in the morning of October 3, 2008. Three candidates sat for the test; one new registrant was added to the roster.

Congratulations to all candidates that successfully passed the examination during this administration.

Lapsed Registrations

The following registrants no longer have an active registration for practicing geology in Oregon. The registration expired on the date noted below. If your name appears below, but your renewal payment was processed and/or you have a current registration card, please contact the Board office so the database can be properly corrected.

Allison, Samuel, E0223 (10/31/08); **Amr**, Amr, G1314 (12/31/08); **Artim**, Ernest, E0064 (10/31/08); **Braddock**, James, G1386 (12/31/08); **Bunk**, Daniel, T1975 (12/31/08); **Cook**, Robyn, T2132 (11/30/08); **Cullochdasson**, William, G1487 (12/31/08); **Dussor**, Jennifer, G2070 (11/30/08); **Dymesich**, Gary, G1499 (10/31/08); **Garcia**, Geoffrey, G0772 (10/31/08); **Gomez**, Linda, T2137 (11/30/08); **Graff**, Rick, G1689 (12/31/08); **Hammond**, Charles, E1056 (12/31/08); **Hicks**, BG, E0729 (10/31/08); **Holland**, Jasper, E0228 (10/31/08); **Howard**, Stephen, G1812 (10/31/08); **Jackson**, Ronald, E0038 (10/31/08); **Judd**, William, E0156 (10/31/08); **Kendall**, Charles, E0811 (10/31/08); **King**, John, G1854 (11/30/08); **Koloski**, Jon, E0633 (10/31/08); **Kuhn**, Alan, E0119 (10/31/08); **Lawson**, Paul, G0682 (10/31/08); **Lienkaemper**, George, G0738 (10/31/08); **Lissner**, Frederick, E0280 (10/31/08); **Lynn**, Jeremy, T2188 (11/30/08); **Mc Culloch**, Dexter, E0274 (10/31/08); **Metta**, John, T2046 (11/30/08)

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Lapsed Registrations

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Mitchell, Miles, G0511 (10/31/08); **Murray**, Kent, E0210 (10/31/08); **Newell**, Charles, E0521 (10/31/08); **O'Brien**, Keith, G1378 (11/30/08); **Portwood**, Barbara, E0877 (12/31/08); **Rarity**, Matthew, T2047 (11/30/08); b, David, E1227 (12/31/08); **Rhoades**, Matthew, G2131 (11/30/08); **Robertson**, Richard, G0337 (10/31/08); **Robinson**, Brian, E0045 (10/31/08); **Robinson**, Christopher, T2048 (11/30/08); **Robinson**, James, G1982, (10/31/08); **Rogers**, Dennis, E0205 (10/31/08); **Rotting**, Marjan, G2036 (11/30/08); **Schlieder**, Dr Gunnar, E1139, (12/31/08); **Serena**, Dave, G1677 (12/31/08); b, Carol, G1263 (12/31/08); **Sheahan**, N. Thomas, E0288 (10/31/08); **Shoemaker**, Scott, G2000 (11/30/08); **Simontacchi**, Dennis, E0158 (10/31/08); b, Jonathan, G1021 (12/31/08); **Varnum**, Nick, G1166 (12/31/08); **Villa**, Mark, G2098 (11/30/08).

2009 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Feb. 12: OR/WA Engineering Geology Exam Development
- Mar. 5: Quarterly Board Meeting, Salem
- Mar. 6: ASBOG Examination, Salem
- Mar. 9-10: OR/WA Engineering Geology Exam Development
- April 2-3: ASBOG COE
Seattle, Washington
- April 4: ASBOG Task Analysis Committee
Seattle, Washington
- May 14-15: OR/WA Engineering Geology Exam Development
- June 2: OR/WA Engineering Geology Exam Development
- June 4: Application Deadline for October ASBOG Exam
- June 12: Quarterly Board Meeting, Salem