



Oregon

**State Board of Examiners for
Engineering & Land Surveying**

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PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

February 14, 2014

Members present:

Sue Newstetter, Chair

Shelly Duquette

Anne Hillyer

Staff present:

Mari Lopez, Administrator

Jenn Gilbert, Executive Assistant

Joy Pariante

Others present:

Katharine Lozano, Assistant Attorney General

The meeting of the Professional Practices Committee (PPC) was called to order at 2:46 p.m. in the OSBEELS Conference Room at 670 Hawthorne Avenue SE, Suite 220 Salem, OR 97301.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Unfinished Business

Software Engineering

The Committee reviewed an email conversation between Ms. Lopez and individuals with input regarding software engineering licensure in Oregon. Ms. Newstetter noted that there is a lot of discussion ahead for the Board before any determinations are made. The Committee noted that the consideration of adding software engineering as a branch is an opportunity to communicate OSBEELS' mission and commitment to safeguarding life, welfare and property to the public. AAG Lozano also noted that if the Board ultimately chooses to not add software engineering as a branch, there are still other ways to address some of the concerns being brought to the Board from proponents of the software engineering discipline.

The Committee also discussed the availability of a software engineering examination. Ms. Lopez said an examination is available from NCEES, but few have taken it and fewer have passed. Ms. Duquette asked if the questions on the examination were pulled from an industry survey about the most important skill sets for software engineers. Ms. Lopez said that is a question for NCEES. Ms. Duquette added that she would be interested in talking to people who have taken the software engineering examination about its content and format. AAG Lozano said this is a good time for the Board to be inquiring about the potential future of software

engineering in Oregon, as the infrastructure for examination and registration is already built, but the scope of practice is still being determined. There was no further discussion.

Filing of Boundary Line Adjustment Map

AAG Lozano is drafting advice on this topic, which will be addressed during the April 2014 Committee meeting. There was no additional discussion.

New Business

OSBGE Engineering Geology Report Guideline, Preliminary, 01/2013

OSBGE Engineering Geology Report Guideline Fact Sheet, Preliminary, 01/2013

OSBGE Professional Practices Guidance Document, Preliminary, 01/2013

The Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners (OSBGE) requested that OSBEELS review guidelines drafted for OSBGE registrants. Ms. Newstetter said she was eager to review the guidelines because OSBEELS had tried something similar in the past for land surveying, but the effort had been unsuccessful. Ms. Duquette said she had some concerns with the descriptions of engineering, geology and hydrology in the OSBGE guidelines. Ms. Newstetter suggested that OSBGE use examples and reference the OSBEELS definition of geotechnical engineering when describing the difference between geotechnical engineering and engineering geology. Ms. Lopez suggested sending the guidelines to John Seward, who is a geotechnical engineer and serves on the Joint Compliance Committee (JCC), for review. The Committee concurred. Mr. Kent said the portion discussing hydrology and hydrogeology may not be accurate in its statement regarding the practices. He added that he would further review the documents and provide input at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Newstetter noted that she liked the cross references between statutes and said the guidelines explain key areas of confusion and answer common questions about the practice of geology. She suggested the Board discuss reactivating the Standards and Practices of Land Surveying Task Force to create similar documents. Although there have been issues with this task in the past, Ms. Newstetter said there are some Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO) chapters that are very supportive of having some sort of guidelines for the practice of land surveying.

After discussion, **the Committee directed Staff to distribute the guidelines to all Board members for review by March 1, 2014 to allow for discussion at the March 2014 Board meeting.** Following the Board meeting, Staff will draft a letter to OSBGE outlining any concerns with the guidelines as presented. There was no further discussion.

Mission, Functions and Goals

The Committee discussed the Mission, Functions and Goals for the Committee, which was last adopted January 2011. The Committee members noted that a number of the goals listed have already been accomplished by the Committee. Of the remaining goals, Ms. Lopez reported that Staff are working on documenting and organizing all AAG opinions for easy reference by the Committee when considering questions from the public. The Committee requested that Staff also document Final Orders from law enforcement cases. AAG Lozano noted that Final Orders provide guidance to the Committee based on previously set precedents. There was no further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.