

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

Date: June 13, 2024

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: 1100 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Access Using Video Conferencing
Meet.google.com/ipm-pxny-hej
Phone: 1-484-416-2276
PIN: 201 307 165#

Present: Sallye Perrin, P.E., Chairman
Edward Hubner, Secretary, P.E.
Pastor Farinas, P.E.
Karl Rickert, P.E.
Judi Miller, R.A.

Others Present: Zevi Thomas, Executive Director
Matthew Venuti, AAG, Board Counsel
Matthew McKinney, Director of Government Affairs
Gregory Morgan, Lobbyist
Ruby Courtney, Board Administrator
Dorian Price, Administrative Specialist
Robert Severence, Reciprocal Applicant
Deng, Zhixin, Reciprocal Applicant
Jayasuiya, Anurdddha, Reciprocal Applicant
Konda Swathi, Reciprocal Applicant
Gretel Lott

Absent: Howard (Skip) Harclerode, P.E., Vice Chairman
Dhrubajyoti Biswas, P.E

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chair, Ms. Perrin, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

ACTION ON MINUTES

Motion (1) was made by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Ms. Miller, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2024 Board meeting with corrections.

APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Motion (II) was made by Mr. Farinas, seconded by Mr. Rickert and unanimously carried to approve 28 applications for reciprocity and 21 applications for the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination and to deny one application for the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam due to insufficient engineering work experience. Additional information is being requested from two Civil exam applicants and one Mechanical exam applicant.

Applications for PE Licensure by Reciprocity are as follows:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Assi, Toni S. (63104) | Lashley, Christopher H. (63117) |
| Bittner, Robert B. (63105) | Mahapatra, Sanjay (63118) |
| Dann, Kenneth W. (63106) | Marcos Vieira Jr., Luiz Carlos (63119) |
| Deng, Zhixin (63107) | McFarland, Ross T. (63120) |
| Dollor, Dennis A. (63108) | Newton, Joshua C. (63121) |
| Fantahun, Tigest T. (58418) | Ravishankar, Kanagarajah (63122) |
| Fortier, Quinton A. (63109) | Severance, Robert E. (63123) |
| Gudina, Simon K. (63110) | Sood, Abhinav (63124) |
| Jayasuriya, Anuruddha (63111) | Stelly II, Jeffrey J. (63125) |
| Ketsela, Kidus (63112) | Tarasuik, Luke A. (63126) |
| Khaitan, Pares P. (63113) | Tenney, Ronay J. (63127) |
| Khan, MD. Kaiser R. (63114) | Upadhyay, Sanjay K. (63128) |
| Konda, Swathi (63115) | Vowell, Delphine (63129) |
| Labore, Timothy J. (63116) | Wiggins, David N. (63130) |

Applications for the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Baillet, Robert | Johnson, Jevon |
| Chang Ramirez, Daniel G. | Longworth, Shannon |
| Detwiler, Ian | O'Keefe, Thomas M. |
| Dogaru, Emil | Perry, Christopher B. |
| Elias, Ayad Y. | Ray, Jacob L. |
| Friday, Rashad K. | Shehata, Claudia P. |
| Gogolski, Maury S. | Stein, Gregory |
| Huang, Yifan | Tracey, Sean A. |
| Hull, Matthew R. | Weaver, Cornelius |
| Husselbee, Claire | Weishaar, Benjamin O. |
| Hutchens, Ryan A. | |

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hubner stated the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) has a new lobbyist who is working to propose a modification to Section 14-305(d) of the Engineers law to require passing of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. Mr. Hubner stated he has a draft copy of the proposed legislation from four years ago. Mr. Gregory Morgan, former Commissioner of Occupational and Professional Licensing, introduced himself as the new lobbyist.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board Chair asked about the correspondence received from Mr. David Thaler regarding the Board's interpretation of "Responsible Charge" which was discussed at the May 2024 Board meeting. Mr. Thomas stated a response was sent to Mr. Thaler by him with input from Board Counsel and Mr. Hubner. Mr. Morgan provided the Board with a copy of that response.

Mr. Farinas informed the Board of Mr. Harlercode's accident and stated he is communicating with Mr. Harclerode's daily. Mr. Farinas suggested that the Board send a card to his home address.

Ms. Miller asked for an explanation of COMAR (09.23.03.09.09 – Signing and Sealing Requirements. Ms. Miller specifically questioned the liability of the first engineer when a second engineer makes modifications.

The Board explained the first engineer is considered as the "engineer of record". Mr. Rickert stated that MD does not allow the second engineer to fully take over the project. It was also mentioned that the second engineer could potentially overlook something in the first engineer's work. The Board Chair stated both engineers can potentially be liable.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY (CPC) COMMITTEE REPORT

Motion (III) was made by Mr. Hubner, seconded by Mr. Farinas, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the CPC Provider application of NiSource.

Ms. Moore, the Audit Specialist for the MD Board for Professional Engineers has asked Ms. Courtney to present to the Board a few certificates of completion submitted to this board on the topic of artificial intelligence (AI). Ms. Moore would like to ascertain if such courses comply with the State's continuing education requirements. Some of the courses taken were given by engineering societies which are considered as pre-approved providers in our CPC regulations.

Ms. Moore is asking for guidance in which AI courses are considered acceptable. The Board Chair considers these course offerings to be forward thinking and should be acceptable when applicable to engineering.

After review of the certificates provided by Ms. Moore, the Board determined AI courses should be considered as other courses submitted, regardless of the course provider. The course must be related to the practice of engineering.

REPORT FROM ETHICS COMMITTEE

Mr. Hubner mentioned he has already provided Mr. Thomas with the voice over and the case studies. Mr. Thomas stated that he had given that information to the unit's IT department but they currently have a backlog of other IT related projects.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Thomas inquired if Board members had the opportunity to register for the NCEES Annual meeting; June 30, 2024 is the deadline. All but one Board member in attendance had completed their registration.

Mr. Thomas also informed the Board that Mr. Farinas will be presented with a Meritorious Service Award at the Banquet on Friday evening at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Farinas mentioned he has served on five committees within NCEES 14 times over the years. On the topic of AI, Mr. Thomas mentioned this topic was discussed extensively during the recent NCCES Zone meeting, and that AI presentation will be unveiled during the Annual NCEES meeting.

REPORT FROM BOARD COUNSEL

Mr. Venuti reported that the fee increases were signed by the Secretary of Labor last month and will take effect July 8, 2024.

The Board Chair asked if the Board has any legislative changes and when the deadline would be to submit those legislative changes. Board Counsel informed the Board the deadline would be August 1, 2024. The Board Chair also mentioned there was a discussion at the May 2024 Board meeting regarding changes in the Statute for penalties. Mr. Thomas stated there's a maximum monetary penalty this or any board can execute..

Mr. Hubner mentioned the discussion with Commissioner Dove was regarding legal fees and stated since the fines go to the General Board, why should the Board at least be reimbursed for their legal fees. Mr. Rickert inquired if records were kept to document the fees charged to the Design Boards. The answer was no. Mr. Hubner stated based upon the budget projections presented at the May 2024 meeting, the Professional Engineers Board will be in the negative by the year 2028.

The Board Chair objects to this Board trying to restructure how our services are paid for by this agency.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

APPLICATIONS APPROVED ADMINISTRATIVELY FOR RECIPROCITY

There were 93 applications, supported by NCEES Model Law Engineer records that have been administratively approved for licensure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (IV) was made by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Ms. Miller and unanimously carried to enter Executive Session at 10:52 a.m. at Meet google.com/ipm-pxny-hej or by phone 1-484-416-2276 (PIN 201 307 165#). This session was permitted to be closed pursuant to General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, §3-305(b) (7) – To discuss complaints and seek advice from Board Counsel. Upon completion of the session, the Board reconvened its public meeting at 11:47 a.m.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

Mr. Rickert reported on the status of complaints discussed by the Complaint Committee June 13, 2024.

03-PE-24 Closed
04-PE-24 Administrative Hearing
14-PE-24 New Complaint
15-PE-24 New Complaint
16-PE-24 New Complaint
19-PE-24 New Complaint
45-PE-23 Closed

Pre-Charge Report

13-PE-24 Pre-Charge
21-PE-23 Pre-Charge
26-PE-23 Pre-Charge
34-PE-23 Pre-Charge
39-PE-23 Pre-Charge

Motion (V) was made by Mr. Farinas, seconded by Ms. Miller, and unanimously carried to accept the recommendations of the Complaint Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board Chair summarized the actions for the next Board meeting and stated the procedures for the Complaint Committee need to be reviewed and any possible changes be adopted.

Mr. Rickert recommended that the procedure manual in NCEES regarding complaints by the NCEES Enforcement Committee be read before the next Complaint Committee.

The Board discussed the date of the next meeting and it was determined the meeting scheduled for July 11, 2024 would need to be changed to Monday, July 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.. and the Complaint Committee meeting would be held at 11 a.m. on July 22, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (VI) was made by Mr. Farinas, seconded by Mr. Hubner, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

_____ With Corrections _____ x _____ Without Corrections

Signed by: Signature on File
Board Chairperson

Date: August 8, 2024