

MINUTES

UTAH PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS LICENSING BOARD MEETING

June 5, 2012 1:00 P.M.
Heber Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah

CONVENED: 1:02 P.M.

ADJOURNED: 2:28 P.M.

Bureau Manager
Bureau Secretary

Richard J. Oborn
Lee Avery

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Lund, Acting Chairperson
William Loughlin
Daniel Horns
Dan Matthews

Board members absent:

Richard Allis

Compliance report:

Ms. Higgs is unable to meet with the Board. Mr. Oborn reviewed the compliance report.

#1. Mr. Copfer is in compliance with his stipulation. He submitted all therapy reports. The Board may want to discuss what the therapist noted in his recent report about new charges against Mr. Copfer at the Yarrow Hotel when he was employed there. He is currently working as a geologist. We received the resume for his proposed supervisor Joseph Santos. Mr. Oborn advised the Board that Mr. Copfer disputes the charges and is waiting for a hearing in July. The Board will review this further once the charges have been adjudicated.

Guests:

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

MINUTES

APPOINTMENTS:

Torrey Copfer, probation interview

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board reviewed the minutes dated February 14, 2012. Mr. Lund motioned to approve the minutes with changes, seconded by Mr. Horns. The motion carried with Mr. Matthews abstaining.

Mr. Copfer met with the Board. Mr. Lund conducted the interview. Mr. Copfer stated his therapy is going

well. He continues to attend the groups and classes required by his criminal probation. His new employment is with EPIC. He started working at EPIC on April 17, 2012. Mr. Copfer stated he provided copies of his stipulation to his employer. The Board noted that his employer report is positive. Mr. Copfer stated that currently he is working as a lab technician. Hopefully this will change soon. The Board reviewed Mr. Joe Santos' CV. Mr. Santos is licensed as a structural engineer in Utah and a professional engineer in Arizona. Mr. Matthews motioned to accept Mr. Joe Santos as Mr. Copfer's supervisor, seconded by Mr. Lund. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Copfer proposed that his Order be amended to allow him to work up to 60 hours per week. The Board expressed concern regarding the additional stress that working additional hours would bring. The Board encouraged him to review this with his therapist. If the therapist expresses no concern, then the Board recommended that the Division approve an amendment to Mr. Copfer's Order to allow him to work up to 70 hours per week.

Mr. Copfer also requested that his Order be amended to allow him to work with individuals under the age of 18 yrs. The Board discussed amending the Order to allow him to work with individuals under the age of 18 as long as it was approved by Adult Probation and Parole (AP&P) and his therapist. Mr. Lund made a motion supporting this proposal and Mr. Horns seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Copfer's probation started April 2011. He was not working as a geologist at the time he began probation. He began working off his 5 year probation on April 17, 2012 when he began working in the geologist field again.

The Board asked to see Mr. Copfer on October 11, 2012.

Mr. Copfer is in compliance with his stipulation.

DISCUSSION:

1. ASBOG examination policies

The Board reviewed the current geologist

examination and license application process. Some state boards require taking the FG exam but do not require passing the FG exam. The Board would like to see students be allowed to take the exam in the final semester of school. Mr. Oborn stated determining when a student takes the exam is a Division policy. The Board noted the disadvantages regarding letting students take the exam in their final semester:

1. License application is pending for over 5 years.
2. Long pending time makes it difficult to identify ways to improve application process.
3. Application/examination process confusing for some.

The Board looked at 2 options:

Option 1:

Have DOPL create a short form that the applicant completes. The form makes them testify that they are in their last semester or that they have their geology degree or meet education requirement. DOPL will communicate to PSI that they can take the exam. The form would invite applicants to contact DOPL with questions about the education requirement.

Option 2:

Have PSI create the same form and the applicant would need to complete this form before taking the FG or PG exam. The form would invite applicants to contact DOPL with questions about the education requirement.

Mr. Oborn noted that there are other states that do not have a pre-approval process. Some states are stand alone licensing Boards and administer the exams. Passing the exam does not automatically approve a license. The applicant still needs to submit education and experience documents. Mr. Oborn stated he will change the process so that the students can submit an application with a letter from the program director stating the student is in the last semester and will graduate. The Division will then approve the student to take the exam.

3. ASBOG Annual Meeting

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that the ASBOG Annual Meeting will be October 31 to Nov 3rd. The convention will be in Omaha Nebraska.

Mr. Horns expressed interested in attending this meeting. Mr. Oborn will request approval to send a Board member.

Mr. Oborn noted that DOPL paid ASBOG \$1,500 membership fee and there is approx \$30,000 left in the Education and Enforcement Fund.

4. Rule amendments approved at past Board meetings

Mr. Oborn reviewed the final draft of the proposed rule changes that the Board approved at past Board meetings. Mr. Oborn stated he will develop language to clarify electronic signatures. At the Board meeting October 11, 2012, there will likely be a rule hearing regarding the approved changes.

5. Other proposed rule amendments

Discussed above.

Not on the agenda:

The Board noted that Mr. Lund's term on the Board ends June 30, 2012. The Board expressed its appreciation for Mr. Lund's dedication and assistance to this profession.

October agenda discussion item:

1. The Board requested that they review the American Geologist Institute's Guidelines for Ethical Professional Conduct at the next Board meeting.

6. Open and Public Meetings Act training

Mr. Oborn shared Open and Public Meetings Act training with the Board

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

October 11, 2012 at 9:00 A.M.

2012 Board meetings have been tentatively scheduled:

October 11.

ADJOURN:

The Board meeting adjourned at 2:23 P.M:

Note: This report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript, but is intended to record the significant features of what was discussed in the meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily arranged in chronological order

October 11, 2012

Date:

(ss) Daniel Horns

Acting Chairperson, Utah Professional Geologist
Licensing Board

October 11, 2012

Date:

(ss) Richard J. Oborn

Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational and
Professional Licensing