

Meeting Minutes

MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO BOARD OF
LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS held at

9:00 a.m., Friday, January 17, 2025,
Toney Anaya Building, Hearing Room 1
2550 Cerrillos Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87505
& Virtual

Members Present – Emilie Dohleman, PE, Chair
John Wayne, PS, Vice Chair
Benjamin Aragon, PS
Elizabeth McNally, PE
Karen Nichols, Public Member
Robert Gromatzky, PS

Members Absent – Maxine McReynolds, Esq., Public Member, Secretary
Dr. Ahmed Elaksher, PEPS

Others Present – Perry Valdez, BLPEPS, Executive Director
Crystal Bustamante, BLPEPS, Budget/Finance Manager, CPO
Miranda Gonzales, BLPEPS, Administrative Manager
Karl Tonander, PE
Earl Burkholder, PE/PS
James Denney

1. Convene, Roll Call and Introduction of Audience

Mr. Valdez read the meeting script regarding the virtual meeting protocols. Ms. Dohleman convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was noted. Audience introductions made at this time.

2. Meeting Notification

Mr. Valdez informed the Board the meeting was noticed on the Board's website and at the Board Office.

3. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Dohleman noted that the Minutes of November 7, 2024, should be corrected to November 8, 2024.

MOTION by Ms. McNally to approve the agenda as amended, **SECONDED** by Mr. Aragon,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Ms. Dohleman, Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Ms. McNally, Ms. Nichols, Mr. Gromatzky

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **Minutes of August 9, 2024**
- b. **Minutes of November 8, 2024**

MOTION by Ms. Nichols to approve the Minutes of August 9, 2024, and November 8, 2024, as presented, **SECONDED** by Mr. Aragon.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Ms. Dohleman, Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Ms. McNally, Ms. Nichols, Mr. Gromatzky

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

5. **Requested Public Comment/Correspondence**

Mr. Burkholder informed the Board that he had attended the Geospatial Advisory Committee meeting and there was a presentation from Keith Cole. He also noted that that he provided a link within the chat for the Full Board consideration that leads to an article that incorporates the history of digital revolution for surveying.

6. **Director's Report**

- a. **License Status Report**

Mr. Valdez gave the following licensing status report:

January 2025

Number of Active Licenses: **11,281** as of January 16, 2025

- **Professional Engineers**
 - Number of active PEs: **9,627**
 - In State: 1,853
 - Out of State: 7,774
- **Professional Surveyors**
 - Number of active PSs: **532**
 - In State: 197
 - Out of State: 335
- **Professional Engineers/Professional Surveyors**
 - Number of active PEPS: **5**
 - In State: 4
 - Out of State: 1

2024 License Renewals

Number of Licenses in Renewal: **5,425** as of September 11, 2024

Number of Licenses to be Renewed: **1,223** as of January 16, 2025

- Professional Engineers
 - Needs to be renewed PEs: **1,183**
 - In State: 120
 - Out of State: 1,063
- Professional Surveyors
 - Needs to be renewed PSs: **39**
 - In State: 10
 - Out of State: 29
- Professional Engineers/Professional Surveyors
 - Needs to be renewed PEPS: **1**
 - In State: 1
 - Out of State: 0

** These numbers do not include those who requested retired and inactive status.*

b. Financial Report

1) FY24 Audit Report

Ms. Bustamante reported that the Board has used 26% of the budget as of January 2025. She broke down each category's percentage of the budget to 41% expensed in the 200's (Personal Services), 15% expensed in the 300's (Contractual), and 30% expensed in the 400's (Other Costs). She informed the Board that the Fund balance has 1.3 million dollars, and the Board has received \$868,818.76 in revenue.

Ms. Bustamante provided the FY24 Audit Report to the Board. She noted that the Board did receive one audit finding. The finding stemmed from the Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD) Human Resources Bureau (HRB), and was due to incomplete BLPEPS personnel files. The auditor requested documentation from RLD's HRB, and it was noted that there was no current documentation in the employees' records. Ms. Bustamante noted that the Board has implemented a corrective action moving forward. Management will conduct random audits of personnel files to ensure personnel actions are properly documented.

7. Old Business

Mr. Valdez reported that there was no old business at this time.

8. New Business

a. NCEES Western Zone Meeting (Albuquerque, NM – May 15-17, 2025)

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that the NCEES Western Zone meeting will be

held from May 15th through the 17th. He stated that he has been working with NCEES to plan and prepare for the meeting. He asked who would attend as a funded member at this meeting.

Mr. Wayne and Mr. Gromatzky requested to attend as funded members. Ms. Dohleman, Ms. Nichols, and Mr. Aragon informed the Board that they will attend the Western Zone meeting.

b. Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service as a Board Member

Mr. Valdez thanked Mr. Tonander for outstanding service as a Board Member. He added that a certificate of appreciation will be circulated for the Board members to sign and will be presented to Mr. Tonander.

The Board thanked Mr. Tonander for his outstanding service as a Board Member.

Mr. Valdez received a question asking if the Board would consider providing some type of appreciation for individuals who have been licensed for 50 years or more. He stated that the Board could put their names in the newsletter or provide a certificate like the one provided to Mr. Tonander.

Ms. McNally stated that we need to first see how many have been licensed for 50-plus years. If there are only a couple, then we could do a certificate and mention them in the newsletter. If there are more than a couple of licensees, then it should only be in the newsletter.

c. Emeritus Status Request(s)

- 1) Brasher, P.
- 2) Cala, C.
- 3) Thurow, G.

MOTION by Mr. Gromatzky to approve emeritus status request for Mr. Brasher, Mr. Cala, and Mr. Thurow, **SECONDED** by Mr. Aragon,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Ms. Dohleman, Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Ms. McNally, Ms. Nichols, Mr. Gromatzky

The motion **PASSED unanimously.**

9. Committee Reports

a. PS Committee

Mr. Aragon reported that there were three members in attendance at the meeting. He noted that the Committee approved the right-of-entry flyer which

will be posted on the Board website. They also discussed working with FFA and 4H to discuss surveying with high school students. He informed the Board that the Committee created an application sub-committee to review files between Board meetings. The two members are Mr. Aragon and Mr. Gromatzky, and the backup member is Mr. Wayne. They also discussed the State surveyor position, which the Committee is looking more into.

Mr. Aragon stated that under the Recommended Approval list the Committee approved 2 PS exams, 1 PS endorsement, 2 PS reinstatement, and 3 PS retired requests. There were 3 PS endorsement applications that were approved under the expedited path for surveying.

Mr. Aragon concluded that the Committee went into closed session and there were 2 cases, one of those cases was closed due to fulfillment of the Settlement agreement and one was voted to petition the court to enforce the final order. Three applications were reviewed and were not approved.

b. PE Committee

Ms. McNally reported that the Committee met on December 13, 2024, and reviewed 10 disciplinary cases, 3 self-reporting cases, and 4 applications. The Committee tabled all 10 disciplinary cases for further investigation, approved 3 applications, and did not approve the retired application due to not meeting the requirements for retired status.

She reported on the meeting of January 16, 2025, and the Committee created an application sub-committee to review files between Board meetings. The two members are Ms. Dohleman and Ms. McNally, and the backup member is Dr. Elaksher. Ms. McNally stated that the Committee approved 23 PE retired requests and 18 PE inactive requests.

Ms. McNally concluded that the Committee went into a closed session, and there were 6 self-reporting cases. Of the six cases, the Committee acknowledged receipt and took no further action for one case, and the other five were sent for Pre-NCA Settlement Agreements. There were 2 PE exam applications, 2 PE endorsement applications, and 1 PE retired application. Three of the applications were approved, 1 was tabled, and 1 was not approved.

c. Executive Committee

Mr. Valdez reported that the Executive Committee had not met.

d. Joint Practice Committee

Mr. Aragon stated that the Architect's Board was in charge of the JPC this fiscal year. They were scheduled to meet on January 6, 2025; however, it had to be

rescheduled but no date has been finalized for the next meeting.

e. Public Information, Exam and Licensure Promotion Committee

1) Newsletter

2) Presentation(s)

Ms. McNally noted that the Committee has not met. She informed the Board that the newsletter was sent out. She added that Mr. Valdez conducted a presentation at the November 22, 2024, NMSPE issue conference. She also attended the conference, as well as the NMSPE Board meeting the day before. She presented data from the last five years from UNM, NM Tech, and NMSU concerning pass/fail rates of the FE exam. NMSPE requested that she gather data from 3 different schools outside of New Mexico and compare that data to the 3 schools in New Mexico. She noted that the NMSPE San Juan Chapter will have a presentation, where she and Dan Flack will present about the disciplinary process.

Mr. Gromatzky noted that the Board met with Eastern New Mexico University.

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that he emailed Highlands, Western New Mexico, and Eastern New Mexico University to discuss ABET accreditation and possible related science degrees for surveying. He noted that Highlands has not responded, Western New Mexico asked to schedule after the holidays, and Eastern did meet with the Board.

f. Legal Enforcement Committee

Mr. Valdez reported that the Legal Enforcement Committee had not met.

g. Penalties and Fees Committee

Mr. Wayne informed the Board that the disciplinary fines table does not include the violation of not complying with the PDH renewal requirement.

Mr. Valdez noted that we should include “failure to report disciplinary action” on the disciplinary tables because it only includes convictions.

Ms. Dohleman asked if we would send out a revised disciplinary fines table for review.

Mr. Wayne answered yes, and the Board could vote at the next meeting for its approval.

h. NCEES Committee Members

Mr. Valdez reported that he attended the MBA meeting in South Carolina. The MBA had six charges, the first charge they discussed was the review of digital

signatures and determining if there should be added language to the model laws and rules. The Committee stated that they wanted to leave the language vague because they did not want to get into the regulation of license signature systems. He noted that the MBA is looking for engineers or surveyors to look at the guidelines for building information management.

He added that the Committee discussed not requiring PDH hours or only requiring ethics, though many states believe that they should continue with the hours. However, he noted that they do want to investigate online PDHs because they are insufficient for professional development.

Mr. Valdez stated that the Committee wants to change the title “Member Board Administrator” to “Member Board Executive”. He noted that the Committee was charged to review the expungement or seal of disciplinary action motion from the Annual meeting. The Committee referred this to the Legal Enforcement Committee. This discussion is to not allow the expungement of disciplinary action but to have the state Board remove the information from their websites and leave it in NCEES for other states to review.

He provided an update on the NCEES exam. They have had higher pass rates because of the interactive practice exams. NCEES no longer requires passing both vertical and horizontal structural exams within a certain time frame. He stated that the PLSS exam will be available in October 2027 and will be offered in April and October.

i. Project Steering Committee

Mr. Gromatzky noted that the Project Steering Committee has not met since October.

Ms. Bustamante noted that the implementation, project management, and IV&V contracts have met their terms. The staff needs to meet with DoIT to get guidance on the next steps for the project.

10. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: April 11, 2025 – Taos/Virtual

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Submitted by:

s/Miranda Gonzales
Miranda Gonzales, Administrative Manager

Approved by:

s/Emilie Dohleman
Emilie Dohleman, Board Chair

April 11, 2025 **Approved Date**