

MINUTES
LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
1917 IH35 SOUTH, BOARD ROOM, AUSTIN, TX 78741
May 20, 2014— 1:00 PM

Call to Order. Lamberto “Bobby” Ballí, P.E., Chair, called the Licensing Committee meeting to order at 1:00 pm on May 20, 2014, at the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, 1917 South Interstate 35, Austin, TX. (Note: all motions are unanimous unless noted).

1. Roll call and welcome visitors.

Lamberto “Bobby” Ballí, P.E.	Chair	
Carry Ann Baker, J.D.	Member	(arrived at 1:21 pm)
Jim Greer, P.E.	Member	
Sam Kannappan, P.E.	Member	

A quorum was present. Ms. Veena Mohan, Assistant Attorney General, was present to provide legal counsel to the Board. Mr. Edmundo Gonzalez, Jr., P.E., and Mr. Jose I. Guerra, P.E., Emeritus Board Members, were present.

The following staff members were present:

Lance Kinney, P.E.	Executive Director
David Howell, P.E.	Deputy Executive Director
Robert Opiela, P.E.	Director of Licensing
Dewey Helmcamp, III J.D.	Staff Attorney
Shannon Velasquez	Licensing Specialist
Salvador Sanchez	Licensing Specialist
Dorothy Gonzales	Executive Assistant

Visitors. Amy Hilton, OAG Office; Chris Malish, Representing Dr. James Howard.

Personal Interviews: James Howard, Craig Bailey, Jonathon Brim, Michael Romeo, Eric Wolf, Luben Walcheff

2. **Public comment.** None.

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following (Agenda Items 3-9):

3. **Discuss and possibly approve the February 12, 2014, Licensing Committee Minutes.**

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Kannappan/Greer) to approve the February 12, 2014, Licensing Committee Minutes as submitted. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

4. **Introduction of new Director of Licensing, Robert Opiela, P.E.**

Mr. Kinney introduced Robert Opiela, P.E., as the new Director of Licensing.

5. **Discuss and possibly act on applications for licensure: Personal Interviews.**

James Howard. This applicant applied to take the PE exam with a request to waive the FE. He came before the Committee as requested from a previous personal appearance in August 2013. At that time he was asked to successfully complete the Level II ethics course from the National Institute of Engineering Ethics. He completed the requirements. He and his attorney, Mr. Malish, shared the experience with the committee members.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Greer/Kannappan) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Meeting on May 21, 2014, to waive the FE exam and approve the applicant to take the PE exam. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

Craig Bailey. This applicant applied to take the PE exam. He came before the Committee due to a criminal incident on his record. The Committee and applicant discussed the incident, his experience, and lessons learned.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Kannappan/Greer) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Meeting on May 21, 2014, to approve the applicant to take the PE exam. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

Jonathan Brim. This applicant applied to take the PE exam. He came before the Committee due to a criminal incident on his record. The Committee and applicant discussed the incident, his experience, and lessons learned.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Greer/Kannappan) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Meeting on May 21, 2014, to approve the applicant to take the PE exam. A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED; the vote was 3 in favor of the motion and 1 abstained from voting (Mrs. Baker).

Michael Romeo. This applicant applied to take the PE exam. He came before the Committee due to a criminal incident on his record. The Committee and applicant discussed the incident, his experience, and lessons learned. The committee recognized that the terms of the probation have not been completed. The applicant stated that he has applied for early release from the court and may have completion documentation before the specified date.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Baker/Greer) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Meeting on May 21, 2014, to approve the applicant to take the PE exam pending completion of the probation terms and submission of official court documentation of completion to staff. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

Eric Wolf. This applicant applied for licensure. He came before the Committee due to a criminal incident on his record. The Committee and applicant discussed the incident, his experience, and lessons learned.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Baker/Kannappan) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Meeting on May 21, 2014, to approve the applicant for licensure. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

Luben Walcheff. This applicant applied for licensure. He came before the Committee due to an unreported criminal incident on his record. The out of state incident was discovered when the applicant had the required Criminal History Record Check done. The Committee and applicant discussed the incident, his experience, lessons learned and why he did not report the incident on the application.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Baker/Kannappan) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Meeting on May 21, 2014, to approve the applicant for licensure pending completion of the Level II (60 hour) Ethics Course from the National Institute of Engineering Ethics and submission of official documentation of completion to staff. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED; the vote was 3 in favor of the motion and 1 opposed (Mr. Greer).

6. Criminal History Record Check.

- Process report
Mr. Howell reviewed the CHRC report which was included as an exhibit with Committee Members. The report included actions by staff as well as estimates on the amount of staff resources dedicated to implementation of this requirement. Staff estimates indicate that approximately 20% of all staff time during the first renewal period (January – March 2014) was related to developing or implementing the CHRC requirement. It is estimated that the demands on staff during the second renewal period will be lower since the systems for communicating, evaluating, and processing

CHRC records is now in place. In addition, it was estimated that approximately 3% of PEs that did not renew may be related to the CHRC requirement.

7. **International Agreements.**

- **South Korea.**

Mr. Kinney reported that the Korean delegation approached the Board regarding a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between the two entities. Dr. Wong appointed two Board members and Emeritus Member, Govind Nadkarni, P.E., as liaisons to coordinate the development of an MRA. The Korean delegation visited Austin and discussed further the MRA with staff and Board representatives. A draft of the MRA is included, and staff requested the recommendation from the Committee to the Board to approve the MRA. Mr. Kinney added that there might be slight/minor changes to the MRA, and a possible signing in Washington D.C.

The Committee members would like to know of any revisions made from the original draft MRA and signing event.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Ballí/Baker) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Board meeting on May 21, 2014, to approve the MRA as submitted. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

- **Engineers Australia.**

Mr. Kinney reported that the MRA with Australia is being reviewed. He added that the agreements with Canada and Mexico are also in the process of being reviewed.

8. **Licensing Director's Report.**

- Reports

- **Results and statistics: Application and Examination Report.**

- Mr. Howell discussed the report which was submitted as an exhibit with the Committee Members.

- **Licensing report.** None.

9. **Issues for consideration and schedule next meeting**

If there are any minor changes to the Korean Agreement, please report changes to the Committee and report information regarding the signing event.

Adjourn.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Baker/Greer) to adjourn the meeting at 3:29pm. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

Date the Committee approved the minutes as submitted: August 28, 2014

Date the Board accepted the minutes: August 28, 2014