

**MINUTES**  
**TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYING**  
**12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. A, Suite 173**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**August 2, 2013**

Call to Order, Introductions, and Comments from the Public

The Board meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Chairman Jon Hodde. Present were Board members Bill O'Hara, Paul Kwan, Mary Chruszczak, Robert Price, James Childress, Jerry Garcia, Nedra Foster, and Bill Merten. Also in attendance were Executive Director Marcelino A. Estrada, Assistant Attorney General Nancy Fuller, and Board Investigator Garey Gilley.

1. Approval of the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes

The Chairman presented to the Board the minutes of the June 14, 2013 Board meeting for approval whereupon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved with corrections, the minutes were adopted.

2. Directors Report

Mr. Estrada states that he has nothing to report.

a. Complaints

i. Closed Complaints

12-19 and 12-32: An offer was made to the subject surveyor.

This concluded the report on complaints as given by Mr. Estrada.

3. Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee Report

The Chairman, Mr. Hodde, reminds the Board that he has, as of the previous meeting, assigned Mr. Merten to Chair the Legislative Needs Committee, Mrs. Chruszczak is newly assigned to the RPLS Exams Committee, and Mr. Childress remains on the Executive Committee.

This concluded Mr. Hodde's report.

b. Rules Committee

The Chair person, Mrs. Chruszczak, reported that the comments from the public were addressed at the previous Board meeting and that the rules are ready to be adopted. Mrs. Chruszczak moves to adopt the rules as produced at the previous Board meeting, with the exception of any clerical corrections needed. The motion is seconded and the rules are adopted. Chairman Hodde adds that the rules will become effective 20 days after they are published in the Texas Register. Mr. Estrada then brings a question raised by TSPS dealing with the new requirement about displaying a firm's registration number on certain items. The Board then agreed that adding to existing stationery, letterhead, advertisement, or anything

else of that nature would be sufficient and that the Board would not require a firm to purchase new materials because of the enforcement of the new rule.

This concluded Mrs. Chruszczak's report.

c. RPLS/SIT Exam Committee

The Chairman, Mr. Hodde, reported that the committee had been reviewing applications for October's examinations and that the Board would go into an Executive Session at the end of the meeting in order to review the RPLS and Reciprocal Exams.

This concluded Mr. Hodde's report.

d. LSLS Exam Committee

The Chairman, Mr. O'Hara, reported that the Board had received four applications to sit for the LSLS Exam and that two of them were accepted. He added that the exam was approved the day before the meeting.

This concluded Mr. O'Hara's report.

e. Continuing Education

The Chairman, Mr. Kwan, gave his recommendation to approve all submitted CE courses. Mrs. Foster moved to approve Mr. Kwan's recommendations. The motion was seconded and carried.

This concluded Mr. Kwan's report.

f. Oil Well Issues Committee

The Chairman, Mr. O'Hara, reported statistics he received from the Railroad Commission regarding new and past permit numbers, production numbers, and other data pertaining to the state's oil industry. He summarized that Texas is responsible for a substantial portion of the nation's oil production.

This concluded Mr. O'Hara's report.

g. Legislative Needs Committee

The Chairman, Mr. Merten, reported that the general appropriations bill was signed into effect, funding the operations of the Board. House Bill 661 and 2435 were tabled in the House. House Bill 3459 (dealing with the aftermath of storms on the Texas coast) was passed.

This concluded Mr. Merten's report.

4. Correspondence

There is no correspondence to report.

5. Other Business

a. 2014 Fundamentals of Surveying Exam Application Process

Mr. Estrada reported to the Board the new protocol for the 2014 Fundamentals of Surveying Exam. He suggested that the Board would need to adjust its procedures for accepting SIT applications. Mrs. Chruszczak added that the exam

would now be offered by computer for two months, four times a year. She adds that the exam will be available to take at testing centers around the nation (Pearson-View Centers). Mrs. Chruszczak presents research she conducted into other states requirements for certifying SITs. She showed that some states require an applicant to take the Fundamentals of Surveying Exam before applying for certification and other states (like Texas) require approval from the Board before the applicant can take the exam. Mrs. Chruszczak advises that the Board fined a method of certifying SIT candidates that fits with statutory requirements as well as the preferences of NCEES. She mentioned that the state of Mississippi's Board has a window of 90 days to advise the applicant of the status of their application. She suggested that this methodology might work best for Texas. Mrs. Chruszczak then motioned to change the requirements for an applicant sending in an application to the Board for approval to a 90 day waiting period before the application status is released to the applicant. She adds to the motion the requirement that an applicant must submit their application at least 10 days working before a Board meeting in order to be considered at that meeting. The motion is seconded and opened for discussion. Mrs. Chruszczak adds that an applicant for the SIT, if deemed as not meeting the requirements set forth by Texas, can go to another state, with less/different requirements, become certified in that state, and has to be recognized by Texas. Discussion then continues about the best procedure to adopt. She then makes a motion to accept SIT applications on a quarterly continuous basis, allowing 90 days to receive the status of their application from the Board, and that all applications received 10 days before a Board meeting shall be reviewed at that Board meeting. After that motion, more discussion ensued about the application process to become certified as an SIT in Texas. The Board agrees that the statute requiring an applicant to come to the Board for approval to take the FS exam needs to be changed to allow candidates that have already taken the exam to apply for certification. Mr. Estrada then reads a summary of the motion made. The motion is seconded and carries.

b. TSPS Round Table Meeting Suggestion

Mr. Estrada presents to the Board the suggestion of a joint meeting between TSPS, TBPLS, and representatives from surveying, or surveying related, educational programs around the state. Mr. Gilley then suggests that the Board invite Dr. Jeffress to the next Board meeting to give a presentation about the agreement that the A&M Corpus Christi has entered into with foreign universities to allow their students to enter into masters programs for surveying. Mr. Garcia also favored the suggestion and added that there are new developments within the E5 Program opening up jobs for surveyors. Mr. Estrada then adds that the one goal of the meeting would be recruitment. The direction Mr. Estrada received from the Board was that they were in favor of the meeting. Mrs. Foster added that the International Surveyors Educators Group would be an appropriate group to involve in the meeting.

6. Future Meeting Date

It is discussed that the next Board meeting will be held at the Arlington Sheriton on October 31, 2013 at 1:30 pm. It is also mentioned that the Board's December meeting has already been set for December 13, 2013. Mr. Garcia then suggests that the December meeting be moved from 9 am to 10 am. Mr. Hodde mentions that the NCEES Annual Meeting will be held in San Antonio on August 20 through the 23. Mr. Hodde mentions

that there are action items that will be discussed at that meeting that the NCEES Board does not support. Because NCEES wants a "united front" between the surveying Board and the engineering Board, they wanted the opinion of TBPLS. Mr. Hodde and Mr. O'Hara voice their opinion as standing against it.

7. Comments from the Public

Mr. Nowell informed the Board that TSPS is constructing a fact sheet that supports the existence of the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying.

Chairman Hodde moves the meeting into closed Executive Session to review the exams that will be offered in October.

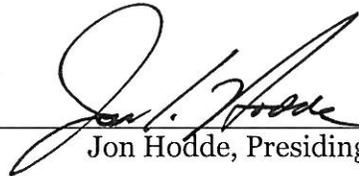
The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 10:37 p.m. to review the upcoming RPLS exam.

Chairman Hodde reconvened the public meeting at 12:13 p.m. No votes were taken during the Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Attest



Jon Hodde, Presiding Officer



Marcelino A. Estrada, Executive Director