

**LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1443
(225) 925-6291**

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
PRAIRIE ENGINEERS, P.C., CORPORATION)
)
RESPONDENT)
)
_____)

CASE NO. 2024-36
Received
NOV 13 2024
By LAPELS Enforcement

CONSENT ORDER

The Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board [hereinafter the “Board”], by and through its Executive Director, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and Prairie Engineers, P.C., Corporation [hereinafter “Respondent”], by and through its duly authorized undersigned representative, hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, number EF-6672. Since March 16, 2023, Respondent has been licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional land surveying firm, number VF-897.

An investigation was opened based upon Respondent’s voluntary self-reporting to the Board (immediately upon Respondent discovering) information which suggested that Respondent may have inadvertently and unintentionally committed violations of the Board’s laws and/or rules. Respondent disclosed and the investigation confirmed that in October 2021 the Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors [hereinafter “Ohio Board”] took disciplinary action against Respondent for Respondent’s subcontractor practicing land surveying with an expired certificate of authorization. In a Settlement Agreement dated October 19, 2021 in connection with Case No. 20-021, the Ohio Board assessed Respondent a fine of \$500.

Respondent also disclosed that on or about March 4, 2022 it may have submitted to the Board its 2022 Louisiana professional engineering firm license renewal application, confirming thereon that (a) it had not been the subject of a disciplinary or enforcement action by the engineering or land surveying licensing authority in another jurisdiction within the previous 36 months, (b) to the best of its knowledge, information and belief the statements and information in its renewal application were true and correct in substance and effect and were made in good faith,

(c) it did not omit any information requested in its renewal application and (d) an omission or untrue response may constitute fraud, deceit, material misstatement, perjury or the giving of false or forged evidence under La. R.S. 37:698 and 37:700. The Board's investigation confirmed that Respondent had failed to disclose the Ohio Board's October 2021 disciplinary action on Respondent's 2022 Louisiana professional engineering firm license renewal application.

La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1) prohibits licensees from committing any fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or the giving of any false or forged evidence, in applying for a renewal license with the Board. La. R.S. 37:698(H) permits the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1), upon a finding of guilt following the preferral of charges, notice and hearing and a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding. La. R.S. 37:681 and La. R.S. 37:698(H) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that (a) at all times material hereto Respondent was licensed in Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, (b) since March 16, 2023 Respondent has been licensed in Louisiana as a professional land surveying firm, (c) in October 2021 Respondent was the subject of a disciplinary action by the engineering or land surveying licensing authority in another jurisdiction and (d) in March 2022 Respondent falsely stated on its 2022 Louisiana professional engineering firm license renewal application that he had not been the subject of a disciplinary or enforcement action by the engineering or land surveying licensing authority in another jurisdiction within the previous 36 months.

By letter dated September 30, 2024, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that Respondent may have violated La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1), relative to fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or the giving of false or forged evidence, in applying for a renewal license with the Board.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further disciplinary action and to conclude the instant proceeding without further delay and expense, for the purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent and the Board do hereby enter into this Consent Order, in which Respondent of its own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent agrees to (a) pay a fine of One Thousand and No/100 (\$1,000.00) Dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of One Thousand One and 47/100 (\$1,001.47) Dollars, (c) have each of its supervising

professionals successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz, **(d)** have each of its supervising professionals successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz, **(e)** the immediate suspension of its Louisiana professional engineering firm license and its Louisiana professional land surveying firm license if it fails to comply with any portion of this Consent Order, with said suspension continuing until it so complies, and **(f)** the publication of this Consent Order on the Board's website and a summary of this matter in the Board's official journal, the *Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal*, and the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent admits that its conduct as set forth above constitutes violations of the above referenced laws and/or rules as stated herein. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that it will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth.

Respondent has been advised of its right to an informal conference, to be represented by counsel before the Board and/or to appear at any hearing personally or by counsel and present witnesses and evidence in its own behalf, it hereby waives this right and its right to appeal, and it states affirmatively that it has been afforded all administrative remedies due it under the law.

Respondent further acknowledges awareness of the fact that the signed original of this Consent Order will remain in the custody of the Board as a public record and will be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by signing this Consent Order, Respondent does hereby waive its right to an informal conference, to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses on its behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent Order.

Respondent hereby represents that **(a)** it fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, **(b)** it has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with it by any person whatsoever to cause the execution of this instrument and **(c)** the sanctions set forth in this Consent Order do not prevent the Board from taking further disciplinary or enforcement action against Respondent on matters not specifically addressed in this Consent Order.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board and Respondent agree that:

1. Respondent shall pay a fine of One Thousand and No/100 (\$1,000.00) Dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and
2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of One Thousand One and 47/100 (\$1,001.47) Dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and
3. Respondent shall have each of its supervising professionals successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz with a score of 90% or higher and return it to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and
4. Respondent shall have each of its supervising professionals successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz with a score of 90% or higher and return it to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and
5. Respondent's Louisiana professional engineering firm license, number EF-6672, and its Louisiana professional land surveying firm license, number VF-897, shall be immediately suspended if it fails to comply with any portion of this Consent Order, with said suspension continuing until it so complies; and
6. This Consent Order shall be published on the Board's website and a summary of this matter shall be printed in the official journal of the Board, the *Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal*, and reported to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name; and
7. This Consent Order shall not become effective unless and until it is accepted and signed by and on behalf of the Board. Should the Board not accept and sign this Consent Order, it is agreed that presentation of this matter to the Board shall not prejudice the Board or any of its members, staff, attorneys or representatives from further participation, consideration, or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD

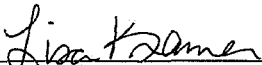
DATE: 4 Feb 2025

BY: Donna D. Senter

DONNA D. SENTELL, Executive Director

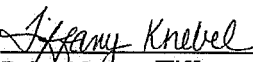
PRAIRIE ENGINEERS, P.C., CORPORATION,
Respondent

DATE: 11/6/2024


BY: 
LISA KRAMER, President

Witnesses to the signature of
Prairie Engineers, P.C., Corporation


Print Name: Darren E. Forgy


Print Name: Tiffany Knebel

Approved by:



Tristan K Harper
404 North Main Street
Columbia, IL 62236
Telephone: (618) 358-0605

General Counsel for Prairie Engineers, P.C., Corporation