

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING  
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD  
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1433  
June 5, 2023

At 9:00 a.m. on June 5, 2023, Edgar P. Benoit, P.E. called the meeting to order at the Board’s office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the following members present:

Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.	Chairman
Wilfred J. Fontenot, P.L.S.	Vice Chairman
Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.	Secretary
Connie P. Betts, P.E.	Treasurer

Linda H. Bergeron, P.E.  
Byron D. Racca, P.E.  
James H. Chustz, Jr., P.L.S.  
Janice P. Williams, P.E.  
Christopher K. Richard, P.E.

Absent: Chad C. Vosburg, P.E.  
Vijaya Gopu, Ph.D., P.E.

Also present: Donna D. Sentell, Executive Director  
D. Scott Landry, Board Attorney  
Joe Harman, P.E., Technical Advisor  
David Patterson, P.L.S., Technical Advisor  
Cheron Seaman, Deputy Executive Director  
Bill Tripoli, IT Director  
Janet Lindsey, Application Manager  
Chris Aaron, Board Investigator  
Carlos Morgan, IT Support Staff

The invocation was led by Mr. Chustz and the pledge was led by Ms. Betts.

Public comment time was recognized by Chairman Benoit. Mr. Morgan was introduced to the Board as the new IT Support staff member.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Chustz, seconded by Ms. Bergeron, to accept the June 5, 2023 proposed Call and Agenda for the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2023 Board meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr. Chustz, to schedule the next Board meeting for July 24, 2023.

Mr. Morgan exited the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

**Compliance and Enforcement**

**Case # 2022-45**– Mr. Aaron reported on an engineering firm who failed to disclose disciplinary actions in another jurisdiction on application for firm licensure in Louisiana. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$750;
2. Costs of \$181.55;
3. Publication of the Consent Order on the Board’s website and a summary in the Journal identifying the firm by name; and
4. Report to NCEES identifying the firm by name.

1 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
2 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz, and Ms.  
3 Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
4 **Prater Engineering Associates, Inc.**

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6 **Case # 2022-46**– Mr. Aaron reported on a professional engineer who failed to  
7 disclose disciplinary actions in another jurisdiction on an application for a firm’s  
8 license when the engineer was an employee and representative of the firm. The  
9 respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the  
10 Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the  
11 following sanctions:

- 12 1. Fine of \$1,000.00;
- 13 2. Costs of \$181.55;
- 14 3. Completion of the Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or  
15 higher;
- 16 4. Completion of the Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz, with a score of  
17 90% or higher;
- 18 5. Publication of the Consent Order on the Board’s website and a summary in  
19 the Board’s official Journal identifying Respondent by name; and
- 20 6. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name.

21 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
22 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz, and Ms.  
23 Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
24 **Jack E. Evans, P.E.**

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26 **Case # 2022-48** – Mr. Aaron reported on a professional engineering and  
27 professional land surveying firm which practiced and/or offered to practice  
28 engineering with an expired license. The respondent has signed and returned the  
29 proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The  
30 proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

- 31 1. Fine of \$500
- 32 2. Costs of \$384.29
- 33 3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz by each engineering supervising professional
- 34 4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz by each engineering supervising  
35 professional
- 36 5. Immediate suspension of engineering license if fail to comply with any  
37 portion of consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
- 38 6. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal with name
- 39 7. Report to NCEES with name

40 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
41 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Ms.  
42 Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
43 **Spec, L.L.C.**

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45 **Case # 2022-63** – Mr. Aaron reported on a professional engineer who aided or  
46 assisted another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. The  
47 respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the  
48 Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the  
49 following sanctions:

- 50 1. Fine of \$500
- 51 2. Costs of \$384.29
- 52 3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
- 53 4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
- 54 5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of  
55 consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
- 56 6. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal with name
- 57 7. Report to NCEES with name

58 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
59 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Ms.  
60 Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
61 **Robert W. Potier, P.E.**



**Case # 2022-49** – Mr. Aaron reported on a professional engineering firm which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering with an expired license. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$500
2. Costs of \$564.76
3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz by each supervising professional
4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz by each supervising professional
5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
6. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
7. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Ms. Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **EDS Inc.**

**Case # 2022-61** – Mr. Aaron reported on a professional engineer who aided or assisted another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$500
2. Costs of \$564.76
3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of consent order, with suspension continuing until compliance
6. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
7. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz and Ms. Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Raul E. Valdes, P.E.**

**Case # 2022-54**– Mr. Aaron reported on a professional engineer who practiced engineering in Louisiana while his Louisiana license was expired. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$1,000;
2. Costs of \$310.91;
3. Completion of the Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher;
4. Completion of the Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz, with a score of 90% or higher;
5. Publication of the Consent Order on the Board's website and a summary in the Board's official Journal identifying Respondent by name; and
6. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name.

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz, and Ms. Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Adam D. Rinehart, P.E.**

**Case # 2022-55**– Mr. Aaron reported on an engineering firm whose supervising professional practiced engineering in Louisiana on behalf of the engineering firm while the Louisiana license of the Supervising Professional engineer was expired. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$1000;
2. Costs of \$310.91;
3. Publication of the Consent Order on the Board's website and a summary in the Journal identifying the firm by name; and
4. Report to NCEES identifying the firm by name.



After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Bergeron, Mr. Chustz, and Ms. Williams, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is EGen, LLC

**Committee Reports**

**Laws and Rules Committee**

Mr. Jeter presented the report for the Laws and Rules Committee, which included a review of the latest draft of the updated Reference Manual for Building Officials and Design Professionals.

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Ms. Betts, to send the updated Reference Manual document to the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners and to the Office of the State Fire Marshal for their review.

The Board recessed at 10:00 a.m. and resumed at 10:20 a.m.

Mr. Jeter reviewed the current definition of the “practice of land surveying” as referenced in the Board’s licensure law at La. R. S. 37:682(14):

(14)(a) "Practice of land surveying" shall include the measuring of areas, land surfaces, streams, bodies of water, and swamps for correct determination and description, for the establishment, reestablishment, ascertainment, or description of land boundaries, corners, divisions, distances, and directions, the plotting and monumenting of lands and subdivisions thereof, and mapping and topographical work.

(b) A person shall be construed to practice or offer to practice land surveying when that person engages in land surveying and by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or in any other way represents himself to be a land surveyor, or represents himself as able to perform or does perform any land surveying service or work, or any other service designated by the practitioner which is recognized as land surveying.

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Laws and Rules Committee to work with the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors and the Louisiana Engineering Society to update the Board’s statutory definition of the “practice of land surveying”, with the recommendation that the NCEES Model Law definition of the “practice of surveying” is a good starting point.

Chairman Benoit requested that Mr. Landry prepare the first draft of the language for the proposed new statutory definition of the “practice of land surveying” for review at the next Board meeting.

**Finance Committee**

Ms. Betts presented the report for the Finance Committee.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Tri-Core Technologies, L.L.C. to provide maintenance and support of the LOLA information technology system. The term of the contract will be for six months, beginning July 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022, in the amount not to exceed \$72,540.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Red Stick Solutions, L.L.C. to provide information technology support services for the Board. The term of the contract will be for one year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, in the annual amount not to exceed \$61,044.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to accept the year-to-date finance report for FY 22-23 as amended.

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The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to accept the amended budget for FY 23-24.

The Board recessed at 11:45 a.m. and resumed at 12:20 p.m.

**Closing Business**


The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr. Richard, to approve all committee recommendations and actions.

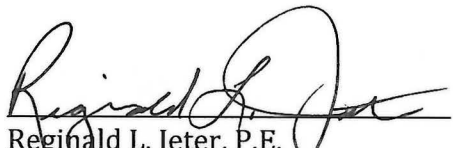
The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to acknowledge and confirm all licenses and certificates issued and renewed since the last Board meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by Mr. Fontenot, to approve all Board expenses.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m. on June 5, 2023.

  
Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.  
Chairman

  
Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.  
Secretary