

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1433
March 22, 2021

At 9:00 a.m. on March 22, 2021, Charles G. Coyle, III, P.L.S. called the meeting to order at the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Room 102C, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the following members present:

Jeffrey A. Pike, P.E.	Chairman
Christopher K. Richard, P.E.	Vice Chairman
Chad C. Vosburg, P.E.	Treasurer
Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.	Secretary

Charles G. Coyle, P.E.
Thomas R. Carroll, III, P.E., P.L.S.
Wilfred J. Fontenot, P.L.S.
Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.
Linda H. Bergeron, P.E.
Byron D. Racca, P.E.
Connie P. Betts, P.E.
(via Zoom video teleconferencing)

Also present:

Donna D. Sentell, Executive Director
Cheron Seaman, Deputy Executive Director
Bill Tripoli, Board Staff
D. Scott Landry, Board Attorney
Joe Harman, P.E., Board Staff
(via Zoom video teleconferencing)
Chris Aaron, Board Investigator
(via Zoom video teleconferencing)
LaTasha Andrews, Board Investigator
(via Zoom video teleconferencing)
William Hyatt, Board Investigator
(via Zoom video teleconferencing)

The invocation was led by Mr. Jeter and the pledge was led by Mr. Carroll.

Public comment time was recognized by Chairman Pike.

Mr. Coyle passed the Board chairman's gavel to Chairman Pike. Chairman Pike presented the service plaque to Mr. Coyle.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. Fontenot, to accept the March 22, 2021 proposed Call and Agenda for the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Ms. Bergeron, to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2021 Board meeting.

Compliance and Enforcement

Case # 2020-85 – Ms. Andrews reported on an unlicensed firm (that subsequently became licensed as a professional engineering firm) which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering without proper licensure. 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 \$3,000
2. Costs of \$705.95
3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
4. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Mr. Richard, Mr. Benoit and Ms. Betts, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Ridge & Associates, Inc.**

Case # 2020-33– Mr. Aaron reported on a professional engineer who failed to disclose disciplinary actions in another jurisdiction on renewal of a license. The respondent has signed and returned a consent order, where he does not contest the Board's contention that he violated La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1) but does not admit guilt, approved by the Complaint Review Committee.

The proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

1. Fine of \$1,000
2. Costs of \$276.51
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 on the Board's website and in the Board's official Journal identifying Respondent by name.
6. Report to NCEES identifying Respondent by name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Mr. Richard, Mr. Benoit, and Ms. Betts, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Gregory Mazur, P.E.**

Committee Reports

Laws and Rules Committee

Mr. Richard presented the report for the Laws and Rules Committee.

At 9:45 a.m., Christopher P. Knotts, P.E. entered the meeting.

At 10:00 a.m., James Chustz, Jr., P.L.S. entered the meeting.

The Board recessed at 11:00 a.m. for photographs and lunch, and resumed at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Landry and Mr. Knotts were not present.

Engineer/Architect Task Force

Mr. Richard presented the report for the Engineer/Architect Task Force.

Land Surveying Committee

Mr. Coyle presented the report for the Land Surveying Committee. Chairman Pike charged the Land Surveying Committee with developing a plan for administering the Louisiana laws of land surveying examination exams for comity applicants via Zoom video teleconferencing and making a recommendation at the next Board meeting.

Applications

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Fontenot, to update Board Policy #7 (Credential Evaluations and Applicants Licensed Prior to July 2009 Without a Credential Evaluation) due to school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, by adding the following:

Exceptions

(approved March 2021)

1. *Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, many foreign/non-ABET schools are closed and applicants are unable to obtain transcripts for a credential evaluation.*
2. *If a request is made from a potential applicant, Board staff will verify with NCEES whether the school is closed and whether NCEES has conducted credential evaluations from the school in the past.*
3. *If the applicant has transcripts in his/her possession, he/she can submit the transcripts to NCEES for review.*
4. *NCEES will require authorization from the Board to conduct a credential evaluation using non-official transcripts. This information is reflected on the Credential Evaluation summary.*

Ms. Betts exited the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Committee Reports (continued)

Finance Committee

Mr. Vosburg presented the report for the Finance Committee.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Ms. Bergeron, to accept the year-to-date financial report.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by Mr. Racca, to approve cashing in the certificate of deposit at Citizen's Bank at maturity on March 30, 2021.

1 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr. Carroll, to
2 renew at the best available rate the four certificates of deposit at Investar Bank, which is
3 maturing on April 4, 2021.
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5 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to
6 renew at the best available rate the certificate of deposit at Neighbor's Bank, which is maturing
7 on April 21, 2021.
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9 At 1:00 p.m., the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Carroll, seconded by
10 Mr. Fontenot, to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters.
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12 Mr. Chustz, Ms. Sentell, Ms. Seaman and Mr. Tripoli exited the meeting.
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14 At 1:05 p.m., the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Carroll, seconded by
15 Mr. Coyle, to exit the executive session. Ms. Sentell, Ms. Seaman, Mr. Tripoli and Mr. Knotts
16 entered the meeting.
17

18 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to
19 authorize a 4% salary increase for the Executive Director, effective March 22, 2021.
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21 Mr. Tripoli presented the IT Director's report.
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23 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Carroll, to
24 waive the late renewal fees, through July 29, 2021, for licensees and certificate holders in the
25 Spring 2021 biennial licensure renewal cycle.
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27 **Old/New Business**
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29 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Mr. Vosburg,
30 to schedule the next Board meeting for May 24, 2021.
31

32 **Closing Business**
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34 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to
35 request NCEES emeritus status for Mr. Coyle and Mr. Carroll.
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37 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to
38 approve all committee recommendations and actions.
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40 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr.
41 Vosburg, to acknowledge and confirm all licenses and certificates issued and renewed since
42 the last Board meeting.
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44 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr. Fontenot, to
45 approve all Board expenses.
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47 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by Mr. Racca, to
48 adjourn.
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50 The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. on March 22, 2021.
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Jeffrey A. Pike, P.E.
Chairman



Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.
Secretary