

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING  
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD  
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1433  
October 10, 2022

At 1:18 p.m. on October 10, 2022, Christopher K. Richard, P.E. called the meeting to order at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, 201 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana with the following members present:

Christopher K. Richard, P.E.	Chairman
Chad C. Vosburg, P.E.	Vice Chairman
Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.	Secretary
Wilfred J. Fontenot, P.L.S.	Treasurer

Connie P. Betts, P.E.  
Reginald L. Jeter, P.E.  
Linda H. Bergeron, P.E.  
Byron D. Racca, P.E.  
James H. Chustz, Jr., P.L.S.  
Janice P. Williams, 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  
Bill Tripoli, IT Director  
William Hyatt, Board Investigator  
Jeffrey A. Pike, P.E., Emeritus Member

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

Public comment time was recognized by Chairman Richard.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to accept the October 10, 2022 proposed Call and Agenda for the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Mr. Vosburg, to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2022 Board meeting.

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

**Case # 2021-7** – Mr. Hyatt reported on an unlicensed firm (that subsequently became licensed as a professional engineering firm) which practiced and/or offered to practice engineering and used the words “engineer”, “engineering” or any modification or derivative thereof in a person’s name or form of business or activity 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 \$685
3. Cease and desist
4. Publication on the Board’s website and in the Journal with name
5. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Betts, Mr. Jeter and Ms. Bergeron, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **The Integration Group of Americas, Inc.**

**Case # 2022-16** – Mr. Hyatt reported on a professional engineer who was convicted of a felony or of a crime of moral turpitude or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony charge or to a crime of moral turpitude under the laws of the United States or any state, territory, or district of the United States. 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. Revocation of license
2. Prohibition on requesting the reissuance of revoked license for at least 10 years
3. Costs of \$1,433.67
4. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
5. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Betts, Mr. Jeter and Ms. Bergeron, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **Jan J. Hartman, P.E. Inactive.**

**Case # 2021-42** – Mr. Hyatt reported on an unlicensed firm (that subsequently became licensed as a professional engineering firm) which committed fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or the giving of any false or forged evidence, in applying for a license with 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 \$750
2. Costs of \$910.40
3. Cease and desist
4. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
5. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Betts, Mr. Jeter and Ms. Bergeron, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **J-M Matkin & Associates, Ltd.**

**Case # 2021-73** – Mr. Hyatt reported on a professional engineer who committed fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or the giving of any false or forged evidence, in applying for a license with 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 \$1,000
2. Costs of \$910.40
3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
5. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
6. Report to NCEES with name

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Betts, Mr. Jeter and Ms. Bergeron, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is **John-Mark Matkin, P.E.**

**Case # 2021-80** – Mr. Hyatt reported on a professional engineer who (a) practiced and/or offered to practice engineering with an expired license, (b) failed, as the supervising professional of a professional engineering firm, to ensure the renewal of the firm's license, (c) approved and sealed design documents which were not safe for public health, property and welfare, which were not complete and accurate, which were not in conformity with accepted engineering standards or practice and/or which did not conform to applicable laws and ordinances and (d) aided or assisted another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. The respondent has signed and returned the



1 proposed consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The  
2 proposed consent order contained the following sanctions:

- 3 1. Permanent surrender of license
- 4 2. Return of certificate of licensure and seals
- 5 3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
- 6 4. Report to NCEES with name

7 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
8 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Betts, Mr. Jeter and Ms.  
9 Bergeron, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
10 **Elmer Jones, P.E.**

11  
12 **Case # 2021-81** – Mr. Hyatt reported on a professional engineering firm which  
13 (a) practiced and/or offered practice engineering with an expired license and  
14 (b) had a firm representative who approved and sealed design documents  
15 which were not safe for public health, property and welfare, which were not  
16 complete and accurate, which were not in conformity with accepted  
17 engineering standards or practice, and/or which did not conform to applicable  
18 laws and ordinances. The respondent has signed and returned the proposed  
19 consent order offered by the Complaint Review Committee. The proposed  
20 consent order contained the following sanctions:

- 21 1. Permanent surrender of license
- 22 2. Return of certificate of licensure
- 23 3. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
- 24 4. Report to NCEES with name

25 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
26 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Betts, Mr. Jeter and Ms.  
27 Bergeron, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
28 **EJA Partners, LLC.**

29  
30 **Case # 2022-17** – Mr. Hyatt reported on a professional engineer who  
31 committed fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or the giving of any  
32 false or forged evidence, in applying for a renewal license with the Board. The  
33 respondent has signed and returned the proposed consent order offered by the  
34 Complaint Review Committee. The proposed consent order contained the  
35 following sanctions:

- 36 1. Fine of \$1,000
- 37 2. Costs of \$718.55
- 38 3. Louisiana Laws & Rules Quiz
- 39 4. Louisiana Professionalism & Ethics Quiz
- 40 5. Immediate suspension of license if fail to comply with any portion of consent  
41 order, with suspension continuing until compliance
- 42 6. Publication on the Board's website and in the Journal with name
- 43 7. Report to NCEES with name

44 After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the  
45 Complaint Review Committee, consisting of Ms. Betts, Mr. Jeter and Ms.  
46 Bergeron, to approve the signed consent order. The name of the respondent is  
47 **James B. Heaslip, II, P.E.**

48  
49 Mr. Hyatt exited the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

50  
51 Janet Lindsey, Board applications and licensing manager, entered the meeting at 1:57  
52 p.m.

## Committee Reports

### Laws and Rules Committee

Ms. Betts presented the report for the Laws and Rules Committee.

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Laws and Rules Committee to amend Rules 105, 1505 and 1527 as follows:

#### **§105. Definitions**

A. The words and phrases defined in R.S. 37:682 shall apply to these rules. In addition, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings, unless the content of the rules clearly states otherwise.

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#### *Practice of Engineering—*

a. practice of engineering is defined in R.S. 37:682. The board recognizes that an architect as defined in R.S. 37:141(B)(1) has a right to engage in certain activities that fall within the definition of the practice of engineering, but only to the extent such activities are necessarily incidental to the architect's practice of architecture as defined in R.S. 37:141(B)(3). Such incidental engineering work is limited to minor mechanical, electrical, or civil-structural engineering work necessarily incidental to the architect's practice of architecture. The incidental engineering work shall be of a secondary nature and shall be substantially less in scope and magnitude when compared to the architectural portion of the work. Incidental engineering work includes additions, renovations, or alterations that do not require significant adjustments to the engineering calculations for the changes to the engineering systems or components. The incidental engineering work shall be safely and competently performed by the architect without jeopardizing the life, health, property, or welfare of the public. The incidental engineering work shall also satisfy all of the following conditions for new construction or additions:

i. For new construction, the total proposed occupant load for the new construction shall not exceed 299 individuals for assembly occupancy and 49 individuals for all other occupancies. The occupant load shall be defined and determined by the method set forth in the currently enforced building code;

ii. For additions, the total proposed occupant load for the addition shall not exceed 299 individuals for assembly occupancy and 49 individuals for all other occupancies. The occupant load shall be defined and determined by the method set forth in the currently enforced building code.

b. ...

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#### **1505. Work Experience**

A. ...

#### **B. Engineering Work Experience**

1. For any required engineering work experience obtained in a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, it should be obtained under the supervision of a professional engineer holding a valid license to engage in the practice of engineering issued to him/her by proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, or, if not, an explanation shall be made showing why such experience should be considered acceptable.

2. At least two years of any required engineering work experience obtained outside of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, shall be obtained under the supervision of a professional



1 engineer holding a valid license to engage in the practice of engineering issued  
2 to him/her by proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United  
3 States, or the District of Columbia. The remainder of such experience should  
4 also be obtained under the supervision of a professional engineer holding a  
5 valid license to engage in the practice of engineering issued to him/her by  
6 proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the  
7 District of Columbia, or, if not, an explanation shall be made showing why the  
8 remainder of such experience should be considered acceptable.  
9

#### 10 C. Land Surveying Work Experience

11  
12 1. For any required land surveying work experience obtained in a state,  
13 territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, it  
14 should be obtained under the supervision of a professional land surveyor  
15 holding a valid license to engage in the practice of land surveying issued to  
16 him/her by proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United  
17 States, or the District of Columbia, or, if not, an explanation shall be made  
18 showing why such experience should be considered acceptable.  
19

20 2. At least two years of any required land surveying work experience  
21 obtained outside of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the  
22 District of Columbia, shall be obtained under the supervision of a professional  
23 land surveyor holding a valid license to engage in the practice of land surveying  
24 issued to him/her by proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the  
25 United States, or the District of Columbia. The remainder of such experience  
26 should also be obtained under the supervision of a professional land surveyor  
27 holding a valid license to engage in the practice of land surveying issued to  
28 him/her by proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United  
29 States, or the District of Columbia, or, if not, an explanation shall be made  
30 showing why the remainder of such experience should be considered  
31 acceptable.  
32

#### 33 §1527. Supervision by Licensed Professional

34  
35 Repealed  
36

### 37 Applications

#### 38 Application Appeals

39  
40 After discussion of the application of John E. **Thompson**, Jr. for licensure as a  
41 professional engineer, the Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms.  
42 Bergeron, seconded by Ms. Betts, to request that the applicant obtain an NCEES  
43 credential evaluation and submit it to the Board by January 31, 2023. The Board will  
44 then use the credential evaluation to help determine whether the applicant has  
45 satisfied the educational requirements of the Board.  
46  
47

48 Mr. Landry and Ms. Lindsey exited the meeting at 2:45 p.m.  
49

### 50 Committee Reports (continued)

#### 51 Finance Committee

52  
53 Mr. Fontenot presented the report for the Finance Committee.  
54

55  
56 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to  
57 authorize the Executive Director to purchase a new office telephone system at a cost  
58 of \$7,200.  
59

60 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to  
61 authorize the Executive Director to hire an IT assistant.  
62

63 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to  
64 amend GL account #5336 to \$10,000 for the current fiscal year 2022-23.  
65

1 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to  
2 authorize the Executive Director to obtain bids for a new office sign and present a  
3 recommendation at the next Board meeting.

4  
5 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by the Finance Committee to  
6 accept the year-to-date finance report for FY 22-23 as presented.  
7

8 **Nominations and Awards Committee**  
9

10 Chairman Richard, on behalf of the Nominations and Awards Committee, presented  
11 the following nominations for election as Board officers for 2023-24, to be voted on at  
12 the January 2023 Board meeting:  
13

14 Edgar P. Benoit, P.E – Co-Chairman  
15 Wilfred J. Fontenot, P.L.S. – Co-Chairman  
16 Reggie Jeter, P. E. – Secretary  
17 Connie Betts, P.E. – Treasurer  
18

19 **Old Business/New Business**  
20

21 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Jeter, seconded by Ms.  
22 Bergeron, to schedule the next Board meeting for January 23, 2023.  
23

24 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Benoit, seconded by Dr.  
25 Gopu, to approve Board members to attend the JESC Conference in Lafayette, LA on  
26 February 23-24, 2023.  
27

28 **Closing Business**  
29

30 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Betts, seconded by Mr.  
31 Vosburg, to approve all committee recommendations and actions.  
32


33 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Ms. Bergeron, seconded by Mr.  
34 Chustz, to acknowledge and confirm all licenses and certificates issued and renewed  
35 since the last Board meeting.  
36

37 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Dr. Gopu, seconded by Ms.  
38 Betts, to approve all Board expenses.  
39

40 The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Mr. Racca, seconded by Mr.  
41 Chustz, to adjourn.  
42

43 The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m. on October 10, 2022.  
44

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46   
47 Christopher K. Richard, P.E.  
48 Chairman  
49  
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46   
47 Edgar P. Benoit, P.E.  
48 Secretary  
49  
50