**MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**Date:**  February 15, 2024

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Place:** 1100 N. Eutaw Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

Access Using Video Conferencing

Meet.google.com/ipm-pxny-hej

Phone: 1-484-416-2276

PIN: 201 307 165#

**Present:** Sallye Perrin, P.E., Chairman

Howard (Skip) Harclerode, P.E., Vice Chairman

Edward Hubner, Secretary, P.E.

Pastor Farinas, P.E.

Karl Rickert, P.E

              Judi Miller, R.A.

**Others Present:** Zevi Thomas, Executive Director

Matthew Venuti, AAG, Board Counsel

Ruby Courtney, Board Administrator

Dara Moore, Audit Specialist

Dorian Price, Administrative Specialist

Hannah Belcher, Administrative Specialist

Theodora Martin, Applicant

**Absent:** Dhrubajyoti Biswas, P.E

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board Chair, Ms. Perrin, called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

**APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD**

Motion (I) was made by Mr. Harclerode, seconded by Mr. Farinas and unanimously carried to approve 29 applications for reciprocity, 41 applications for the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination and one application for PE licensure by Transfer of Grades and to deny one applicant for the exam for an insufficient amount of engineering work experience.

**Applications for PE Licensure by Reciprocity are as follows:**

Alemy, Hassibullah (62437) Lielo, Kombate Goundo (62452)

Ashamala-Morcos, Mena G. (62438) Marouf, Aboghenima (62453)

Becker, Robert R. (62439) Neupane, Dilli R (31790)

Bogese, Pierce R. (62440) Osman, Mohamed E. (62454)

Coleman, Randal J. (62441) Paranzino, Bryan T. (62455

Cox, Zachary A. (62442) Piriak, Robert (62456)

Derakhshandi, Mehdi (62443) Post, Jonathan M. (62457)

Driskel, Russell J. (62444) Rav, Jianasa (62458)

Esposito, Anthony A. (62445) Robinson Jr., Thomas R. (62459)

Gonzalez-Corro, Enrique (62446) Skoplyak, Ystodlsb (61460)

Gray, Thomas A. (62447) Tupper, Patrick G. (62461)

Hasan, Abdel Moneim A. (62448) Wubu, Samuel H. (62462)

Hong, Luong T. (62449) Xu, Bowen (62463)

Kim, Jamie (62450) Yenamandra, Srinvas (62464)

Kuhlman, Mark H. (62451)

**Application for PE Licensure by Transfer of Grades are as follows:**

Choi, Youngmin (60880)

**Applications for the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination are as follows:**

Altonour, Feras .

Bandeke, Arcade M. Haque, MD Hamidul

Cammarata, Daniel J. Hassan Firas B.

Caponera, Kelly M. Hause, Braden S.

Chi Miranda, Margarita A. Hill, Daniel P.

Clancy, Ryan J. Hingerton, Bryan M.

D’Angelo, Nicholas M. Johnson, Nicholas H.

Davie, Ryan Legesse, Kenessa D.

Davis, Brandon J. Linn, Jessica N.

Davoudpour, Ashkan Martin, Theodora, A.

Ensor Jr., Martin J. Nix, William J.

Esemuze, Jeremiah A. Obenski, Justin T.

Fraser, Andrew H. Ochoa, Marco A.

Gildner, Alana S. Ontiveros, Victor L.

Hall, Courtney M. Petrone, William D/

**Applications for the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination (Cont’d)**

Pizzarro, Alexander L. Stafford Jr., Bryan K.

Rider, Alexis M. Srur, Neja H.

Rodriguez, David R. Uddin, Ahmed

Schell, David Wakjira, Basazinew D.

Schlogel, Matthew M. Weldeab, Tedros S.

Snow, Ricker L.

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

Motion (II) was made by Mr. Harclerode, seconded by Mr. Farinas, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024 Board meeting with corrections.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Action on Proposed Fee Increases**

Mr. Venuti stated the fee increases were posted in the Maryland Register on December 29, 2023 and the comment period was 30 days and ended on January 29, 2024. Mr. Venuti mentioned there is a two-week period to review comments and either amend the proposed regulations in response to comments received or a vote to adopt the proposed fee increases as is.

The Board had asked for a representative from the budget department to attend this meeting but Mr. Thomas informed the Board that the Fiscal Supervisor was not able to attend but did inform him that any revenue from the balance rolls over from year to year.

The Board reviewed the letter from Torrence M. Pierce, P.E, Legislative Committee Chair of the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE). MSPE also asked if it was possible to share the proposed fees being put forth by the Department of Labor. MSPE’s position is not to oppose a reasonable increase for individual licenses but they are strongly opposed to the creation of fees for Firm Permits. The letter also asked that in the future, would it be possible to designate a MSPE board member to be their liaison to maintain communication with the PE Board. Mr. Thomas was asked by the Board to respond to Mr. Pierce.

The Board Chair stated that the Board meetings are announced and open to the public. In the past representatives of MSPE have attended Board meetings. The Board Chair also stated we have not raised fees for several years and with the impending relocation of the Department of Labor, we can expect increased expenses.

Mr. Hubner agreed that the meetings are announced and open to the public, but the fact that fees have not been raised for several years does not justify an increase. Mr. Hubner stated the Board is not here to generate income and that was a concern of many when the Board became self-funded. Mr. Hubner stated money was lost in the past to solve the issues of another Department and that should not be the problem of the MD Board for Professional Engineers. Mr. Hubner also mentioned that money could be appropriated from wherever possible if there is a shortfall within the Department of Labor.

The Board asked Mr. Thomas to request a representative from the Fiscal Department attend the March 2024 meeting.

Motion (III) was made by Mr. Hubner, seconded by Mr. Farinas and unanimously carried to table the adoption of the proposed fee increases until the March 2024 Board meeting.

**Update on Trip to UK from Ms. Judith Miller**

Ms. Miller updated the Board on her trip to London, England as part of a US delegation exploring a Mutual Recognition Agreement between the United Kingdom and the US for PE licensure by reciprocity. Ms. Miller stated there is a rigorous process to become a Professional Engineer in the UK, which is at least equal to what the MD Board requires. Ms. Miller stated Board members from several states attended and they were looking for State Boards to opt either in or out of this process.

The Board Chair asked if this process was intended to be separate from our application process. The Board as a whole does not feel that an independent body should be approving our applications for licensure. Ms. Miller compared the process based upon her understanding to how Architect applicants apply for licensure through NCARB.

The Board Chair stated that some states such as Arizona will accept a *Chartered Engineer*. Mr. Rickert reported that several people who attended the NCEES Law Enforcement Committee attended this meeting in London, England and from his understanding the requirements to become a *Chartered Engineer* in the UK does not seem to meet Maryland’s requirements since exams are not required. Ms. Miller is expecting to receive more information regarding this issue and will update the Board.

**Update on Meeting with the Law Enforcement Committee of NCEES**

Mr. Rickert reported several State Boards are having issues with companies getting jobs done by outsourcing engineering design work to other countries.

Mr. Rickert also reported that there was a discussion of expunging items from the NCEES Enforcement Exchange. Mr. Rickert mentioned that the Model Law Engineer (MLE) status does not allow for any disciplinary actions and it is a lot easier to join specific engineering organizations if the Engineer holds the MLE status.

Mr. Venuti mentioned there is currently a proposed regulation to eliminate the denial of a license solely based upon criminal history and will only require applicants and licensees to report issues directly related to the practice of engineering. Mr. Venuti stated we currently have a predetermination process, which usually does not allow licensure for applicants who are currently on probation. The Board Chair did not feel this will change our processes.

A**pproved CPC Providers**

The Board Chair asked if the Board wanted to discontinue the process of approving providers and just allow courses from pre-approved providers that are already in the regulations.

Mr. Thomas stated audits for Professional Engineers take much more time than audits for any of the other Design Professionals. Mr. Thomas is concerned that the list of approved providers is expanding but does not seem to address the issue of licensees not knowing which courses are acceptable. Mr. Hubner stated if we limit the choices of providers, it does not help the individual engineer.

Mr. Rickert suggested that our next newsletter include information on what types of courses are not acceptable. This could also be accomplished by sending an email blast.

The Board Chair stated she has a listing of the types of courses that are not acceptable and will forward that information to Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Thomas stated the Landscape Architect’s Board originally wanted to copy the provider approval process as the Professional Engineers are using but eventually added a caveat allowing licensees to take half of the courses required from an approved provider and allowing some flexibility on the remaining courses. The Board Chair stated we could look into this option.

Mr. Rickert asked was the percentage of audits lowered for renewals since the Complaint Committee does not get the usual amount of audit failures. Ms. Moore responded that the random audits were temporarily cut off in her absence, but the random audits have now been reestablished. Ms. Moore added that she has no new audit failures and the last ones she submitted are now with the Attorney General’s office.

Mr. Hubner stated an Ethics course is required every two years for renewal but that strangely most audit failures do not have an Ethics course. Mr. Farinas stated that the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) offers an Ethics course.

**CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY (CPC) COMMITTEE REPORT**

Motion (IV) was made by Mr. Hubner, seconded by Mr. Farinas, and unanimously carried to approve the CPC Provider applications of Brudis and Associates, Inc. and Jacobs Solutions.

The Board Chair stated she is on the NCEES Education Committee and on the Committee for Licensure and that a new task force had been developed to redefine the definition of a Model Law Engineer (MLE). The Board Chair also mentioned there was discussion in the Education Committee and having Engineering Technology degrees deemed equivalent to Engineering degrees that are considered EAC accredited by ABET and suggested the Board be prepared since this may cause issues with license approval.

**REPORT FROM ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Huber stated that he is awaiting the packet of case studies that Mr. Harclerode prepared. Mr. Thomas informed Mr. Hubner that he would get these case studies to him following this meeting.

**REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Thomas asked if every Board member had received the Bylaws for the upcoming NCEES Regional meeting. Board members replied that they have received them.

Mr. Thomas mentioned that MSPE is hosting its annual gala and newly licensed engineer’s ceremony on May 1, 2024. The Board Chair stated she is unable to attend this ceremony this year nor is she able to attend the NCEES Regional meeting. Mr. Harclerode stated he would be able to attend this ceremony and present the newly licensed engineer with the Board’s wall certificates.

Mr. Thomas stated Ms. Raquel Meyers has officially accepted the position as Executive Director of the Maryland Real Estate Commission.. The Board members wished Ms. Meyers well in her new position.

Mr. Thomas also informed the Board that the Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR) is having its annual orientation for new Board members and strongly suggested that any new Board members and staff attend these sessions. Mr. Thomas explained that this orientation helps Board members and staff gain the tools and resources to be more effective in their roles and learn more about how the four professional councils support the state Boards. Mr. Thomas stated he would share the link with all Board members for this orientation.

Mr. Thomas introduced the new Office Secretary, Ms. Hannah Belcher.

**REPORT FROM BOARD COUNSEL**

Mr. Venuti reported that the Board proposed legislation to reduce the number of years of professional experience to serve on the Board from the current twelve years to five years, but the State Senate amended the proposed legislation to eight years.

Mr. Venuti stated there is also proposed legislation that could require apprenticeship pathways for all licenses in Maryland, however, successful completion of the exam (PE) would still be required. An engineering degree will not be required.

Mr. Harclerode stated he thought that MSPE already proposed legislation to require the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam under §14-305(d) of the Engineers law but Mr. Venuti stated he has seen such legislative proposals this season.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Letter from David Thaler regarding Responsible Charge**

The Board received a letter from Mr. David Thaler regarding the definition of *Responsible Charge* and under what circumstances a professional engineer may review and sign/seal plans prepared by other engineers. Mr. Thaler is preparing a lecture to the County Engineers Association of Maryland and would like some clarity on this issue.

The Board Chair asked that Mr. Thomas work with Board Counsel to draft a response for her signature to Mr. Thaler.

**Email form Cassie Janowksi regarding the STEM Awards Ceremony at the MD Science Center**

The Board received an email invitation to attend their annual STEM Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 18, 2024. No Board members are able to attend.

**APPLICATIONS APPROVED ADMINISTRATIVELY FOR RECIPROCITY**

There were 91 applications, supported by NCEES Model Law Engineer records that were administratively approved for licensure.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion (V) was made by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Mr. Harclerode and unanimously carried to enter Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. at Meet google.com/ipm-pxny-hej or by phone 1-484-416-2276 (PIN 201 307 165#). This session was permitted to be closed pursuant to General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, §3-305(b) (7).  Upon completion of the session, the Board reconvened its public meeting at 11:15 a.m.

**COMPLAINT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Rickert reported on the status of complaints discussed by the Complaint Committee February 15, 2024

21-PE-23 Still under investigation

26-PE-23 Still under investigation

34-PE-23 Response received. Investigating

39-PE-23 Still under investigation

45-PE-23 Closed

03-PE-24 Request to re-open

04-PE-24 Investigating

05-PE-24 New. Reopened

There was no Pre-Charge Report this month.

Motion (VI) was made by Mr. Harclerode, seconded by Mr. Hubner, and unanimously carried to accept the recommendations of the Complaint Committee.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2024. Mr. Hubner mentioned that he is on the NCEES Finance Committee and will be attending a meeting in Kansas City.

Ms. Miller stated she would not be available to attend the March 14, 2024 Board meeting.

Due to the possible lack of a quorum, the Board rescheduled the March 2024 Board meeting to Monday, March 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. and this meeting will be virtual. The Complaint Committee discussed meeting that same day at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion (VII) was made by Mr. Harclerode, seconded by Mr. Hubner, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ With Corrections                 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Without Corrections

Signed by: Sallye Perrin Date: March 19, 2024

                  Board Chairperson