**MINUTES**

**BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**Date:**  February 9, 2023

**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:** Howard (Skip) Harclerode, P.E., Chairman

David Mongan, P.E., Vice Chairman

Sallye Perrin, P.E., Secretary

Karl Rickert, P.E

Pastor Farinas, P.E.

Edward Hubner, P.E.

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

Raquel Meyers, Assistant Executive Director

Andrew Brouwer, AAG, Counsel to the Board

Ruby Courtney, Board Administrator

Dorian Price, Administrative Specialist

Dara Moore, Administrative Specialist

Robert Frances, Dir. Of Inspections, Licenses & Permits-Howard County

Michael Kowalski

Bernard Bahaya

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Harclerode called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

Motion (I) was made by Mr. Farinas, seconded by Mr. Hubner, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2023 Board meeting as submitted.

**APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD**

Motion (II) was made by Mr. Farinas, seconded by Ms. Perrin and unanimously carried to approve 19 applications for reciprocity, 2 applicants for PE Licensure by Transfer of Grades and 17 applications for the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination.

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

Abney, Russell (60572) Jeong, Seonwoo Ted (60582)

Aly, Ahmed (60573) Kafle, Ankit (60583)

Ash, Evan R. (60574) Madriaga, Joromar R. (60584)

Bahaya, Bernard (60575) Mancini, Joseph M. (60585)

Calderon, Victor A. (60576) Nix, Jon J. (60586)

Contri, Michelle R. (60577) Othon, Emily F. (60587)

Finn, Chad M. (60578) Sabogal, Johnatan A. (60588)

Ghobadi, Kelvan (60579) Watkins, Benjamin K. (60589)

Jaworski, Stanley J. (60580) Zghair, Ahmed (60590)

Jean, Ron B. (60581)

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

Chibsa, Kuma M. (49494) Figueroa Servia, Eric X. (55827)

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

Acharya, Rakesh Matanin, Luke A.

Aina, Abiodun E. Nyangwechi, Kevin A.

Ayala, Ivelisse Preston, Ryan M.

Coe, Justin L. Sabatino, Timothy J.

Haines, Megan E. Shojaei, Seyed M.

Honegger, Nicole K. Tchernycheva, Natalia

Jespesen, William R. Thibeau, David P.

Katz, Aron Walsh, Kenneth P.

Matcham, Jeffrey M.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Appearance Before the Board – Kowalski**

Mr. Kowalski, a mechanical exam applicant, appeared before the Board to discuss his PE exam application. His application was discussed during the January 19, 2023 Board meeting and was not approved due insufficient evidence to ascertain if this applicant is qualified to take the exam. The Mechanical Board member, Mr. Hubner explained that the samples of work submitted in lieu of a PE endorsement did not show the parameters he used to calculate the tubing spacing, etc. Mr. Hubner suggested the applicant provide samples of work (calculations) which reflected the parameters used to better evaluate the type of work undertaken. .

The applicant stated he would work on submitting additional samples of work to the Board. Ms. Courtney stated the additional samples of work must be submitted by Friday, March 3, 2023 in order for the Board to review his application again at the March 9, 2023 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Board Policies and Guidelines for Processing Applications**

Ms. Perrin provided the Board members with an updated version of the Board Policies and Guidelines for Processing Applications. She incorporated decisions made by the Board at the January 19, 2023 Board meeting regarding education.

Ms. Perrin asked Ms. Courtney to provide the Board with the listing of the original Washington Accord signatories for the next meeting. Ms. Perrin also mentioned the Board never evaluated the criteria for the newer Washington Accord signatories.

Ms. Perrin noted that the experience section of the guidelines seemed to be okay but that the Board never dealt with the amount of credit awarded for education when applicants attended night school or the amount of credit awarded for applicants who were working full-time while attending school.

Mr. Brouwer, Board Counsel, stated a curriculum year is not the same as a regular year and Mr. Hubner informed the Board that a curriculum year is typically equivalent to 30 credits.

There was also a discussion regarding co-ops and internships. Mr. Hubner stated there should generally be some latitude when it comes to co-ops and internships. The policy has not allowed for any credit for internships prior to the qualifying degree being conferred. Credit for internships or co-op experience while obtaining a higher degree will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. An applicant cannot get both credit for the degree and education. That is considered double dipping.

There was also a discussion about research work done while an applicant is working towards a PhD. Ms. Perrin would like to encourage PhD’s to get a Professional Engineers’ license. It was also noted that some discretion should allow for teaching as engineering work experience.

When an applicant gets an NCEES course by course evaluation of their degree and the degree is found to meet the NCEES Education requirements, it also meets the Board’s education requirements and the Board is comfortable with still accepting the NCEES Education Standard. The Board agreed that the Checklist should be required if the NCEES evaluation shows deficiencies.

Mr. Hubner asked if the grades on the transcript made a difference. He has experienced some applicants with very low grade point averages on their transcripts. Chairman Harclerode stated ABET requires a 2.0 average. World Education Services (WES) converts courses taken comparable to regional US schools. The Board discussed this matter and determined that the grades do not make a difference since the grading system in other countries may not be the same as in the US. An applicant must submit an Engineering Curriculum checklist when that have a four-year engineering degree from school in the US that is not considered EAC/ABET approved, a US four-year engineering technology degree; a foreign degree that is not EAC/ABET approved, or any other type of unapproved degree.

Then the Board has to decide if the application can be moved to §14-305(b) which only requires four years of acceptable work experience. As for now, all applicants using companies other than NCEES to evaluate their degrees must be evaluated under §14-305(c).

The Board Policies and Guidelines for Processing Application will be discussed again at the March 2023 meeting.

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

Motion (III) was made by Ms. Perrin, seconded by Mr. Mongan and unanimously carried to approve the CPC Provider application of Paver Guide, Inc.

**REPORT FROM ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hubner will have the voice over for the free online Ethics course completed by next month.

**REPORT FROM BOARD COUNSEL**

Mr. Brouwer announced this would be his last meeting as PE Board counsel. He has accepted a position as an Administrative Law Judge. He stated that it was his pleasure to serve as Board Counsel for the Professional Engineer’s. The Board members wished him well and asked if he knows who his successor will be but he did not know at this time. The Board members thanked him for his service to the Board.

**REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Thomas reported that he submitted requests to NCEES for all Board members who wished to attend the NCEES Zone Interim meeting. It has been determined that Chairman Harclerode and Mr. Hubner would be funded by the State of MD and that they should hear about travel arrangements from the Office of Administration or Mr. Thomas in the coming weeks.

Mr. Thomas also mentioned that he along with Ms. Myers, Ms. Courtney, Ms. Moore and others on the staff within the Professional Boards unit attended the first Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR) Joint Orientation Webinar on February 6, 2023. This organization is made up of representatives of the Council of Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ), Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). He mentioned the goals of licensing agencies across the county is to increase efficiencies and streamline the application process. Ms. Courtney stated she learned quite a bit from the meeting. There was a detailed discussion of the roles of the industry Board members, the Consumer Board members and the licensing staff. Ms. Courtney also mentioned the later part of the meeting was broken out to smaller meetings for specific organizations and she attended the NCEES meeting where the issues that some states that have decoupled the exam requirements from the license requirements were being discussed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board received a letter dated January 27, 2023 from the Maryland Academy of Sciences at the Maryland Science Center regarding nominations for Maryland’s Outstanding Young Scientist and Outstanding Young Engineer awards for 2023. Chairman Harclerode mentioned if anyone wanted to nominate an individual they should submit the nomination by February 22, 2023.

**APPLICATIONS APPROVED ADMINISTRATIVELY FOR RECIPROCITY**

There were 64 applications, supported by NCEES Model Law Engineer records that were administratively approved for licensure.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion (IV) was made by Ms. Perrin, seconded by Mr. Mongan and unanimously carried to enter Executive Session at 11:33 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 12:05 p.m.

**COMPLAINT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Rickert reported on the status of complaints discussed by the Complaint Committee February 9, 2023.

16-PE-22 Pre-charge. Remain on report for tracking purposes only

18-PE-22 Still under investigation. Contractor not responsive

02-PE-23 Pre-charge. Remain on report for tracking purposes only

05-PE-23 Signed complaint form received. Asking for copies of drawings

07-PE-23 Awaiting signed complaint form. Close after 60 days

10-PE-23 Pre-charge. Remain on report for tracking purposes only

12-PE-23 Pre-charge. Remain on report for tracking purposes only

13-PE-23 Pre-charge. Remain on report for tracking purposes only

14-PE-23 Pre-charge. Remain on report for tracking purposes only

The Board discussed three applications for reinstatement. The applicants all reported some hours of continuing education after applying for reinstatement of the license. A letter will be sent to one applicant and staff will reach out to the other two applicants.

The Board discussed four timely renewals in which the licensee earned some of their continuing education after renewing the license.

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

**REINSTATEMENT APPLICATIONS**

The two applications for reinstatement were discussed during the Executive Session.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2023. Chairman Harclerode stated that he and Mr. Farinas would not be able to attend the meeting on that date. Three of the Board members state they are available on the date and one Board member is unsure. A determination will be made prior to that date if the meeting will still be held or if it should be rescheduled.

Ms. Perrin shared with the Board a legislative alert she received regarding Senate Bill 0007 and HB 0030. If enacted, this bill will require that any Professional Engineer engaged in onsite wastewater (septic systems) services pay a bi-annual license fee and meet the Department of the Environment Board certification requirements.

Mr. Brouwer asked if the Board wanted to take a position on this issue and if so, Mr. Thomas would need to supply the justification for that issue. Mr. Brouwer also mentioned Board members need to familiarize themselves with the Ethics law when speaking on any issue.

Mr. Hubner mentioned the modification to 14-305 (d) to require passing of the FE exam that was proposed by the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) for the second time is being put off this year due to lack of support.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion (V) was made by Mr. Rickert seconded by Mr. Hubner and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

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Signed by: Howard C. Harclerode, II Date: February 9, 2023

                  Board Chairman