

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
1917 S. IH 35
Austin, Texas 78741
November 15, 2018—9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER. Albert Cheng, Acting Chair, called the Legislative Issues Committee meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers to order at 9:00 a.m. on November 15, 2018, at the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, 1917 S. IH 35, Austin, TX. A quorum was present. (NOTE: all votes are unanimous unless noted.)

1. Roll call and welcome visitors.

Ms. Bodden called the roll. It was noted for the record that a quorum was present.

The following Committee members were present:

Albert Cheng	Acting Chair
Sina Nejad, Ph.D., P.E.	Member
Edward Summers, Ph.D.	Member
Kyle Womack, P.E.	Member (Alternate)

The following Committee members were absent and excused:

Elvira Reyna	Chair
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Ms. Veena Mohan, Assistant Attorney General, was present to provide legal counsel to the Board. Mr. Lamberto Ballí, P.E., Board Member; Dr. Edward Summers, Board Member; Dr. Daniel Wong, P.E., Board Member were present.

The following staff members were present:

Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E.	Executive Director
David Howell, P.E.	Deputy Executive Director
Rick Strong, P.E.	Director of Licensing
Michael Sims, P.E.	Director of Compliance and Enforcement
Morgen Cuming, JD	Staff Attorney
Cristabel Bodden	Executive Assistant

Visitors: Terry Bilderback, P.E., Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE); Kent O'Brien, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation; Stephanie Stanford, P.E., TSPE; Scott Stewart, American Council of Engineering Companies of Texas.

2. Public comment. None.

DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON THE FOLLOWING (AGENDA ITEMS 3-8):

3. Discuss and Possibly approve the August 23, 2018 Legislative Issues Committee Meeting Minutes.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Nejad/Summers) to approve the August 23, 2018, Legislative Committee minutes as submitted. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

4. Legislative Plan for 86th Texas Legislative Session.

Mr. Howell relayed that the communications plan was presented at the previous Legislative Committee meeting.

Mr. Howell will pull information together for Board Members and staff will be available to aid Board Members in contacting and communicating with Legislators if so desired.

Mr. Cheng added this it was important for the Board to have a presence in the legislative process and provide information as needed regarding any potential legislative issues that affect the Board.

Dr. Summers asked when the communications plan would be available. Dr Kinney relayed that a folder with this information would be available in early December.

Mr. Howell added that the agency may be asked for information considering recent Sunset recommendations.

5. Legislative Communication Conference for 86th Texas Legislative Session.

Mr. Howell relayed that this conference was very informative and provided an overview of the Legislative process. In addition to Executive Staff, several Board Members attended the conference.

Mr. Howell relayed that it was noted that school financing and property taxes would be big issues this Legislative session.

Dr. Summers relayed that one of the themes across the conference was that Legislators were asking what we needed from them. Dr. Summers found this very encouraging.

6. Bill Tracking and Other Legislative Issues.

Mr. Howell presented a list of bills that had been pre-filed and tagged by staff and answered questions from committee members.

Dr. Kinney briefly discussed Sunset recommendations for the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists. The Sunset Commission amended their original recommendation that would allow this Board to continue an additional 6 years instead of completely abolishing the Board.

Dr. Kinney briefly discussed Sunset recommendations for the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying. Sunset staff have recommended that this Board be rolled into TBPE. The Sunset Commission will present this at the meeting scheduled in mid-December. Staff will continue to monitor this and convey information to the Board Members as we receive it.

7. Issues for consideration at future board meeting.

Mr. Howell relayed that we would continue to have Legislative Committee meetings while the Legislative Session continues.

Mr. Cheng inquired if attendees had any news or developments on Legislative actions or endeavors that would affect this agency. Ms. Stephanie Stanford from the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) relayed that TSPE wants to be involved in any actions, endeavors, or regulatory changes that affect the Engineering profession and asked that the Board keep them informed.

8. ADJOURN.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Summers/Nejad) to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Date minutes were approved by Committee as submitted:
Date Board accepted minutes:

February 14, 2019
February 14, 2019