

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers

Meeting Type: General Business/Committee Meeting
Meeting Date: January 9-12, 2006
Meeting Loc: Tallahassee, DBPR Boardroom

Board Members: Pamela Nobles, Louis Lebron, Jeffrey Cooner (Vice-Chair), Beverly Sutphin, Sidney Greer, Lou Bush, Dennis Blankenship (Chair), Fran Poppell

Members Absent: None

Department Staff: Eric Hurst, (Prosecuting Attorney)
John Knap, (Executive Director)
Christa Patterson, (Gov. Analyst)

Other Attendees: Brian Stabley, (Board Counsel)

Major Issues/Actions

- The Application Review Committee considered 1 application for examination, 2 for endorsement, 2 certificates of authorization and 1 application for surveyor in training and 1 application for 455.271(6)(b) hardship reinstatement of license.
- The Continuing Education Committee considered 7 CE courses submitted by 2 providers. 7 course applications were approved.
- The Probable Cause Panel considered 26 administrative complaints (12 cases PC found), 32 closing orders and 2 reconsiderations.
- The Board heard 20 discipline cases and 2 informal hearings of application denials.
- The Probation Review Committee conducted progress checks of 2 licensees through the review of submitted survey products. 2 licensees were released from probation, 2 were instructed to submit 6 additional surveys and remain on probation.
- A visit by Dennis Yecke, the Deputy Secretary of Professional Regulation for DBPR. The Deputy Secretary attended the general business session and shared with the members his plan to improve efficiency and customer service for licensees and the public.
- A report by Mr. Ron Safford, ADR Coordinator, regarding the Division of Professions and Regulation Mediation Program and OPPAGA ADR recommendations. The consensus of the members was that the program is not applicable to most of the violations encountered by the profession.
- Discussion of the possible elimination of the essay question from the Florida Jurisdictional Exam. An all multiple choice exam would enable the exam to be taken through computer based testing which would be more convenient for exam candidates.
- Review of the September 30, 2005 first quarter financial reports for the Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers operating and unlicensed activity accounts.
- Review of the December 2005 population report for the Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers: 2,866 active, 149 inactive, 1,036 businesses.

- The Board Reviewed the final Draft of the questionnaire for Florida Surveyors and Mappers Management Corporation Board Appointment, which was approved.
- Unlicensed Activity – A detailed unlicensed activity enforcement report from 1/1/05 through 12/31/05 was presented to the board from Laura Gaffney, Chief Attorney, Office of the General Counsel.
- Enforcement Report – A detailed enforcement report through 12/31/05 was presented to the board from the Division of Professions and Regulation.
- Prosecuting Attorney Report – 158 total discipline cases currently open in various statuses, 65 open cases are public.

Legislation

- The Board Counsel developed proposed rule language to implement SB 1012, changes to F.S. 455.271, which authorizes professional boards to reinstate null and void licenses under certain circumstances. The proposed language was approved.
- Update by the Privatization Committee.
The latest version of the Business Case was submitted to the Governors Office, as of the meeting date, no response had been received. Some members voiced concerns regarding a perceived lack of support from the Department for the privatization effort.

Rule Promulgation

- A rule hearing was held regarding a challenge to the proposed revised minimum technical standards rule. Approximately 12 licensees were permitted to address the board on the issue. A compromise was reached and the rule will be submitted to JAPC for approval based on the changes to the positional accuracy section suggested at the meeting.

Rule Report

- New Rule language for 5 Rule sections was approved by the Board.
- 61G17-5.0031(4) Continuing Education Credit for Biennial Renewal - approved
- 61G17-5.001 Continuing Education Requirements for Reactivation of Inactive License – pending
- 61G17-8.0011 Fees - approved
- 61G17-10.001 Reinstatement of Null and Void License Pursuant to Section 455.271(6)(b) F.A.C. - approved
- 61G17-5.0051 Approval of courses – approved
- 61G17-9.007 Survey Review – approved

Next Meeting: March 2, 2006 TCC
April 11 -13, 2006 St. Augustine

John T. Knap
Executive Director January 30, 2006