

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
ILLINOIS LAND SURVEYORS LICENSING BOARD

Open Minutes

Illinois Land Surveyors Licensing Board

Date: February 7, 2024
Convened: 10:06 am
Adjourned: 12:55 pm
Location: Springfield/Chicago/WEBEX

Members Present: Kim Lyons, Chair
Gale E. Hake, Vice-Chair
James W. Abbitt Jr., Member
Michael Filipski, Member
Rebecca Popeck, Member
Derek Twente, Member

Member(s) Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kyle Lazell, Design Licensing Manager
Ron Almiron, IDFPR General Counsel

Guests Present: Ryan Roth, IPLSA

Open Session: The Meeting was called to order at 10:06 am.
Roll Call: The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

I. Board Member Announcements, comments

Chairperson Lyons welcomed everyone and asked if there were any Board announcements or comments. Hearing none, she asked the new members to introduce themselves.

Member Popeck shared that she works in the Chicago area, graduated from Perdue University, licensed as a PLS in 2005 and has been part of PLS program evaluations with ABET since 2007.

Member Twente shared that he received his engineering degree in 2004 and started working as a surveyor and has enjoyed it ever since.

II. Guest Announcements, comments

Mr. Roth reminded the Board the 2024 IPLSA annual meeting February 7-9, 2024, in Springfield. He also shared IPLSA is monitoring legislative trackers and will apprise the Board if a bill is introduced that they feel warrants discussion or action.

III. Licensing Manager Report

- A. 2023 year-in-review Mr. Lazell shared the 2023 statistics for the profession.
- B. Rules Update Mr. Lazell shared that the draft Rules packet was shared with IPLSA for their comment on the proposed changes. Once he receives their comments, DPR will review them and discuss changes with IPLSA, if needed, prior to finalizing the draft and submitting it for insertion into the next available Illinois Register publication through the Illinois Secretary of State for public reviewing and comment.
- C. Jurisdictional Exam update Mr. Lazell shared that a meeting was convened with the new Acting Director for the Division of Professional Regulation (DPR), both Deputy Directors for the Division of Professional Regulation, Mr. Almiron and himself to discuss the issues pertaining to the jurisdictional exam.
- He said the current contract with Continental Testing Services (CTS) expires on June 30, 2024, and DPR will start contract negotiations soon and wanted to start a conversation with DPR leadership to see what can be done to make positive changes to the exam so it more closely resembles the format and covers the topics recommended by the Board to ensure new licensees are being tested on applicable and relevant items.
- During the meeting, Mr. Lazell mentioned the Boards' displeasure with the recent exam review that occurred with the assistance of Dr. Ron Rodgers. The Director asked Mr. Lazell to inquire with the Board at their next meeting how they felt the current exam differs from the requested format/content by the Board.
- He also shared that he provided Mr. Almiron several reports provided by the Board over the past few years as well as copies of previous meeting minutes where the Board has shared concerns and complaints about the examination and the exam review process.
- Member Filipski provided an overview of the issues surrounding the jurisdictional exam and specifically mentioned that the exam appears to have moved away from dealing on practice of surveying questions and is now more of a statutory and rule exam. He also reminded that the current resource used for boundary law cites cases outside Illinois and only contains four cases.

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The Board recommended the use of *Illinois Boundary Law* as the resource to use for questions pertaining to boundary law as it cites 46 different Illinois cases and is used as an academic resource for the main associate degree program in Illinois for land surveying, as well as used by the majority of land surveying companies in Illinois.

Member Popeck inquired what process is used to monitor the question bank for the exam to ensure the questions are testing on relevant topics. She further said she would feel fine with Dr. Ron Rodgers taking questions created by the Board/exam review committee and incorporating them into the question bank.

The Board discussed resurrecting the Jurisdictional Exam subcommittee to review the current exam again, looking at the exam content, resources, number of questions, etc. to ensure that Illinois is testing candidates in an appropriate manner and the exam is similar with exams from surrounding jurisdictions.

Members Hake, Filipski, and Popeck volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

Motion was made, seconded (Popeck/Abbitt) to resume the Jurisdictional Exam subcommittee. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

IV. Review of Open Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the November 16, 2023, meeting. Motion was made, seconded (Abbitt/Filipski) to accept the minutes of the meeting as presented. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

V. Ongoing Business

None presented.

VI. Report from Subcommittees

A. Complaint Review Subcommittee

Member Hake shared the Complaint Statistics based on recommendations from the January 2024 meetings for each profession:

Architect: Opened 7, Closed 7, Referred to prosecutions 1
SE: Opened 1, Closed 2, Referred to prosecutions 1
PE: Opened 6, Closed 2, Referred to prosecutions 3
LS: Opened 1, Closed 5, Referred to prosecutions 0

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Complaints currently under investigation:

Architect – 20

SE – 9

PE – 28

LS – 4

Cases currently being prosecuted:

Architect - 27

Land Surveyor - 4

Professional Engineer -18

Structural Engineer - 6

VII. New Business

A. NCEES Central Zone Meeting

Mr. Lazell reminded the Board the NCEES Central Zone meeting will be held April 25-27 in Des Moines, IA. He inquired with the new members if either were interested in attending as there is an vacancy for the PLS Board as only two members have indicated ability to attend.

Member Popeck indicated she would be interested in attending.

Motion to move into Closed Session:

Motion was made, seconded (Abbitt/Filipski) to move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2c (4) & (15) of the Open Meetings Act at 11:53 am. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

VIII. Closed Session:

A. Review of Closed Minutes

The Board reviewed the closed minutes of the November 16, 2023, meeting.

B. Application Review/Discussion

The Board discussed three application pursuant to Sections 1270.5, 1270.10, 1270.30 and 1270.65 of the Rules for the Administration of the Illinois Land Surveyors Act of 1989.

Moved back into Open Session:

Board Chair adjourned the Closed Session and moved the meeting back into Open Session at 12:52 pm.

IX. Motions:

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A. Accept Recommendations Made in Closed Session
Motion was made, seconded (Abbitt/Filipski) to accept the recommendations made in closed session. Motion passed with a quorum of members.
Action Sheets 24-0059, 0060, and 0061 will be signed by the Chair on behalf of the Board.

B. Review of closed minutes and keep the closed minutes closed.
Motion was made, seconded (Filipski/Hake) to approve the closed meeting minutes as presented and to keep the closed minutes closed. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

X. Reminders
Mr. Lazell reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled to be on March 29, 2024.
He also reminded the members to send in their travel vouchers for reimbursement.

XI. Adjournment
Ms. Lyons adjourned the meeting at 12:55 pm.