

Meeting Minutes

MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS held at

9:00 a.m., Friday, June 20, 2025,
The Town of Taos Visitor Center, Marge Terry Conference Room,
1201 Paseo Del Pueblo Sur, Taos, NM 87571
& Virtual

Members Present – Emilie Dohleman, PE, Chair
John Wayne, PS, Vice Chair
Benjamin Aragon, PS
Karen Nichols, Public Member
Dr. Ahmed Elaksher, PEPS
Mark Dubbin, PE
Gabe Flores, PE

Members Absent – Maxine McReynolds, Esq., Public Member, Secretary
Elizabeth McNally, PE
Robert Gromatzky, PS

Others Present – Perry Valdez, BLPEPS, Executive Director
Crystal Bustamante, BLPEPS, Budget/Finance Manager, CPO
Miranda Gonzales, BLPEPS, Administrative Manager

1. Convene, Roll Call and Introduction of Audience

Mr. Valdez read the meeting script regarding the virtual meeting protocols. Ms. Dohleman convened the meeting at 9:04 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was noted. There was no audience in attendance.

2. Meeting Notification

Mr. Valdez informed the Board the meeting was noticed on the Board's website and at the Board Office.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Mr. Aragon to approve the agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by Mr. Wayne,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Ms. Dohleman, Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Ms. Nichols, Dr. Elaksher, Mr. Dubbin, Mr. Flores

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

a. **Minutes of April 11, 2025**

MOTION by Ms. Nichols to approve the Minutes of April 11, 2025, as presented,
SECONDED by Mr. Flores,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Ms. Dohleman, Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Ms. Nichols, Dr. Elaksher, Mr. Dubbin, Mr. Flores

Abstained: Mr. Aragon

The motion **PASSED**.

5. **Requested Public Comment/Correspondence**

Mr. Valdez reported that there was no correspondence at this time.

6. **Director's Report**

a. **License Status Report**

Mr. Valdez gave the following licensing status report:

June 2025

Number of Active Licenses: **11,224** as of June 13, 2025

- **Professional Engineers**
 - Number of active PEs: **10,645**
 - In State: 1,956
 - Out of State: 8,689
- **Professional Surveyors**
 - Number of active PSs: **573**
 - In State: 208
 - Out of State: 365
- **Professional Engineers/Professional Surveyors**
 - Number of active PEPS: **6**
 - In State: 5
 - Out of State: 1

**Of the number of engineers and surveyors listed above, these are individuals licensed as both engineers and surveyors with two separate license numbers (dual licensees).*

- **Licensees with two numbers: 40***
 - In State: 22
 - Out of State: 18

b. Financial Report

Ms. Bustamante reported that as of June 12, 2025, the Board has used 68% of the Budget. She broke down each category's percentage of the budget to 84% expensed in the 200's (Personal Services), 34% expensed in the 300's (Contractual), and 93% expensed in the 400's. The Board has received \$1,247,500 in revenue, and the Board expensed \$1,021,000 from the Board fund and \$248,300 from the Boards scholarship/university support fund. Ms. Bustamante noted that for FY25, the Board has waived \$24,355 in fee. She noted a substantial increase compared to the \$13,975 waived in FY24 which is nearly double in FY25.

Ms. Dohleman asked if the budget is even with expenses or if there may be a shortfall.

Ms. Bustamante noted that higher expenses are anticipated in the 300 categories related to the purchasing of the new licensing system. She informed the Board that a Budget Adjustment Request (BAR) will need to be submitted to draw from the Fund Balance to cover these increased costs.

7. Old Business

Mr. Valdez reported that there was no old business at this time.

8. New Business

a. FY 26 Open Meetings Resolution

MOTION by Mr. Aragon to approve the FY26 open meeting resolution,
SECONDED by Mr. Dubbin,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Ms. Dohleman, Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Ms. Nichols, Dr. Elaksher, Mr. Dubbin, Mr. Flores

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

b. Election of Officers

1) Board Chair

MOTION by Ms. Dohleman to nominate Mr. Wayne as Board Chair,
SECONDED by Mr. Aragon,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Ms. Dohleman, Mr. Aragon, Ms. Nichols, Dr. Elaksher, Mr. Dubbin, Mr. Flores

Abstained: Mr. Wayne

The motion **PASSED**.

2) Vice-Chair

MOTION by Mr. Aragon to nominate Ms. McNally as Board Vice-Chair,
SECONDED by Ms. Nichols,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Ms. Dohleman, Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Ms. Nichols, Dr. Elaksher, Mr. Dubbin, Mr. Flores

The motion **PASSED unanimously.**

3) Secretary

MOTION by Mr. Aragon to volunteer as Mr. Aragon as Board Secretary,
SECONDED by Mr. Wayne,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Ms. Dohleman, Mr. Wayne, Ms. Nichols, Dr. Elaksher, Mr. Dubbin, Mr. Flores

Abstained: Mr. Aragon

The motion **PASSED.**

c. Proposed Fee Schedule

Mr. Valdez informed the Board of the proposed fee schedule developed by the Board staff. He shared that approximately 50 endorsement applications each year failed to submit the initial license fee within the two-year approval period. As a result, these license numbers remain in abeyance and essentially the Board loses out on those license numbers. To address this issues staff have proposed incorporating the license fee into the initial application fee. This change would prevent the loss of license number and streamline the overall licensure process by eliminating the need for a second payment after approval.

Mr. Dubbin asked what streamlined licensure (expedited path) meant on the fee schedule.

Mr. Valdez stated that is the path for those who meet the streamlined path for licensure as outlined in 61-23-14.1 D. (3) and 61-23-27.4 E. (2).

Mr. Dubbin requested that the streamlined licensure (expedited path) be renamed. He noted that the terminology implies an as it looks like right now you pay an additional fee to expedite the application process, which may cause confusion among applicants.

Mr. Valdez discussed the EI/SI Certification fee was increased to \$100 at the last proposed fee change. Staff lowered the cost of the application from \$100 to \$25.

Mr. Flores suggested increasing the EI/SI Certification from \$25 to \$50.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols to adopt the draft fee schedule as presented with the amendment of the EI/SI certification and EI/SI transfer certification fee from \$25 to \$50 effective as of July 1, 2025, **SECONDED** by Mr. Aragon,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Ms. Dohleman, Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Ms. Nichols, Dr. Elaksher, Mr. Dubbin, Mr. Flores

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

9. Committee Reports

a. PS Committee

Mr. Aragon reported that the Committee met on Thursday, June 5, 2025. He noted that the Committee approved the meeting minutes from April 10, 2025. The Committee addressed old business items SPCS 2020 update, FFA/4H outreach and guidance for DOT concerning setting monumentation after construction. In new business, the Committee discussed updating the NM State Specific Examination and NCEES Western Zone surveying related charges. He reported that Mr. Gromatzky was voted as Committee Chair and Ms. McReynolds was voted as Committee Vice Chair for FY26.

Mr. Aragon stated that the Committee acknowledge the subcommittee reviewed applications. He concluded that the Committee went into closed session and there were 3 disciplinary cases, 2 PDH audit cases, had a status review of complaints and NCAs, and 1 application for SI certification.

b. PE Committee

Ms. Dohleman reported that the Committee met on Thursday, June 5, 2025. She noted that the Committee approved the meeting minutes of April 10th and April 22nd. There were three individuals in the audience who spoke during public comments. She reported that Ms. McNally was re-elected as Committee Chair and Mr. Flores was voted as Committee Vice Chair for FY26. The Committee reviewed and acknowledged the subcommittee and staff reviewed applications.

Ms. Dohleman concluded that the Committee went into closed session and there were 12 disciplinary cases, 9 self-reporting cases, 3 PDH audits. There were 3 PE endorsement applications and 1 PE reinstatement application for consideration.

c. Executive Committee

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that the Executive Committee has not met.

d. Joint Practice Committee

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that the Joint Practice Committee has not met.

Ms. Dohleman asked if the Handbook for Building Officials had been finalized.

Mr. Valdez stated that the Architects Board has finalized the book, and it will be printed.

Ms. Dohleman requested Mr. Valdez to reach out to the Architect's Board to see if there is a need for a JPC meeting.

e. Public Information, Exam and Licensure Promotion Committee

1) Newsletter

2) Presentation(s)

Mr. Valdez reported that he provided a presentation to NMSPE on June 6, 2025, highlighting data on licensee ages demographics, the FE and FS exam takers nationwide and in New Mexico, and breakdowns of complaints reviewed by the Board. He also gave a similar presentation at the NMPS/AZPS meeting held in Tucson, Arizona.

Mr. Aragon noted that he presented to the Middle Rio Grande Chapter using similar information provided by Mr. Valdez.

Ms. Gonzales shared that in May, herself and Ms. Dominique Trujillo gave a presentation at UNM to civil and construction engineering students, emphasizing the importance of taking the FE exam.

Ms. Bustamante stated that the newsletter is expected to be completed in July.

f. Legal Enforcement Committee

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that the Legal Enforcement Committee has not met.

g. Penalties and Fees Committee

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that the Penalties and Fees Committee has not met.

h. NCEES Committee Members

Mr. Valdez reported that he attended the Board of Directors meeting in May, where he shared updated on various NCEES initiatives. He noted that NCEES

has launched the FE Ambassador program, which designates a student ambassador to promote taking and passing the FE exam.

NCEES has approximately issued 10,000 honor cords to students at over 217 participating schools. They also have a licensure scholarship for \$5,000 which will be awarded soon.

The NCEES advocacy program has prioritized Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Nevada and Texas. Should a state Board requests assistance, NCEES will provide advocacy during legislative efforts.

The Surveying and Mapping Sciences License taskforce is researching the possibility of a standalone exam for non-boundary professional surveyor exam. Discussion is ongoing on the title of the individual since they will not be considered as a Professional Surveyor.

A second version of the FE interactive practice exam is in development to support student exam preparation. Additionally, the FS interactive practice exam is scheduled to be released in September 2025.

Ms. Dohlman addressed a potential change in educational requirements, where ABET is eliminating general education hours. She noted that this would affect the applications that the PEC has seen, especially those who have international degrees. The question that is being brought up is whether the NCEES should do the same in the credential evaluation criteria.

Ms. Dohlman noted that the Structural exam is CBT, but the exam is difficult and that they are running out of time. The exam has been loaded with sample questions, and the examinees may not know if they are using their time on just sample questions. Some discussion will be to add an additional hour to the Structural exam from 8 to 9 or just revamp of the test altogether.

i. Project Steering Committee

Mr. Valdez reported that the Project Steering Committee has met and addressed the status of the project. He noted that the Board has submitted a request for vendor quotes. As part of the procurement process, the staff is currently working with the selected vendor. Mr. Valdez also outlined the proposed timeline, noting that paper renewals will be implemented in August 2025, with the goal of launching the new system in a single phase.

10. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: August 8, 2025 –Albuquerque/Virtual

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

s/Miranda Gonzales
Miranda Gonzales, Administrative Manager

s/Emilie Dohleman
Emilie Dohleman, Board Chair

August 8, 2025 **Approved Date**