

Meeting Minutes

MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO BOARD OF  
LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS held at  
9:00 a.m., Friday, January 16, 2026,  
Toney Anaya Building, Rio Grande Conference Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
2550 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505  
& Virtual

**Members Present –** John Wayne, PS, Chair  
Benjamin Aragon, PS  
Robert Gromatzky, PS  
Gabe Flores, PE  
Dr. Ahmed Elaksher, PEPS  
Emilie Dohleman, PE, Chair

**Members Absent –** Elizabeth McNally, PE, Vice Chair  
Maxine McReynolds, Esq., Public Member, Secretary  
Mark Dubbin, PE  
Karen Nichols, Public Member

**Others Present –** Perry Valdez, BLPEPS, Executive Director  
Crystal Bustamante, BLPEPS, Budget/Finance Manager, CPO  
Miranda Gonzales, BLPEPS, Administrative Manager  
Dr. Ashis Nandy, Northern New Mexico College  
Melissa Cannata, Amber Book

1. **Convene, Roll Call and Introduction of Audience**

Mr. Valdez read the meeting script regarding the virtual meeting protocols. Mr. Wayne convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was noted. Audience introductions were made at this time.

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 Ms. Dohleman to approve the agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by Mr. Gromatzky,

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Voting 'Aye':** Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Gromatzky, Mr. Flores, Dr. Elaksher, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously.**

4. **Approval of Minutes**

a. **Minutes of November 7, 2025**

**MOTION** by Dr. Elaksher to approve the Minutes of November 7, 2025, as presented, **SECONDED** by Mr. Gromatzky,

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Voting 'Aye':** Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Gromatzky, Mr. Flores, Dr. Elaksher, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

5. **Requested Public Comment/Correspondence**

Mr. Valdez informed the Committee that there was no public or correspondence.

6. **Director's Report**

a. **License Status Report**

Mr. Valdez gave the following licensing status report:

**January 2026**

Number of Active Licenses: **11,010** as of January 9, 2026

- **Professional Engineers**
  - Number of active PEs: **10,432**
    - In State: 1,897
    - Out of State: 8,535
- **Professional Surveyors**
  - Number of active PSs: **572**
    - In State: 206
    - Out of State: 366
- **Professional Engineers/Professional Surveyors**
  - Number of active PEPS: **6**
    - In State: 5
    - Out of State: 1

**2025 License Renewals**

Number of Licenses for 2025 Renewal: **5,894** as of September 4, 2025

Number of Licenses that need to be Renewed: **846** as of January 9, 2026

- **Professional Engineers**
  - Needs to be renewed PEs: **817**
    - In State: 78
    - Out of State: 739

- Professional Surveyors
  - Needs to be renewed PSs: **29**
    - In State: 7
    - Out of State: 22
- Professional Engineers/Professional Surveyors
  - Needs to be renewed PEPS: **0**
    - In State: 0
    - Out of State: 0

*\* These numbers do not include those who requested retired and inactive status.*

**b. Financial/Audit Report**

Ms. Bustamante reported that the budget adjustment request (BAR) was approved to increase the budget by \$1,040,300 of that \$110,300 was to go to personal services and employee benefits and \$930,000 for the certified IT contracts. The Board’s beginning fund balance was \$1,300,000, and as of December 30, 2026, the Board collected \$849,700 in revenue and had \$516,400 in expenses. She noted that the scholarship fund began with \$2,106, and as of December 30, 2026, there was no revenue and expenses. Ms. Bustamante noted that for FY26, the Board has waived \$11,355 in applications and initial license fees.

Ms. Bustamante reported that the Board did not have any audit findings for FY25. She noted that the fund balance sheets on June 30, 2025, were \$1,350,121. The scholarship fund, the Board started at \$250,000 and spent \$248,000.

Mr. Aragon asked if the penalty fees are being sent to the correct place.

Mr. Valdez stated that the state constitution requires disciplinary fines to be deposited into the school fund. He noted that Ms. Bustamante had researched these issues and contacted other state agencies in effort to locate the school fund. As of today, the fund’s location remains unknown. However, additional inquiries will be made to demonstrate that the Board has exercised due diligence.

**c. Directive Tracking**

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that staff have created a Board/Committee directive. This will help staff and Board members see where the directives are and when they are completed.

Mr. Gromatzky requested the NM SPCS 2022, and minimum standards update be added to the list to ensure tracking.

## 7. Old Business

### a. **Scholarship Criteria Review**

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that they should annually review the scholarship criteria.

Ms. Gonzales notified the Board that staff were asked to help a student from Northern New Mexico College on how to take the FE exam. After helping the student staff noticed that the college has two ABET accredited engineering technology programs which students are currently enrolled in. She noted that the Board could add Northern New Mexico College to the scholarship criteria. Ms. Gonzales informed the Board that she had made changes to the criteria updating "scholarship program" to "university support program", to be consistent with the Practice Act. She noted that she also, removed Central New Mexico College since the Board has not been providing scholarships to them.

Ms. Dohleman requested to add Northern New Mexico College to the criteria as item number 4.

Dr. Elaksher requested a change in the educational institution from "Must be a student in the School of Engineering" to "Must be a student pursuing an ABET accredited engineering or engineering technology degree". Furthermore, changing "Must be a student in the School of Surveying (Geomatics)" to "Must be a student pursuing an ABET accredited surveying (geomatics) degree".

Ms. Dohleman requested in the requirements section to change "School of Engineering" to "ABET accredited programs"

**MOTION** by Ms. Dohleman to amend the scholarship criteria utilized by the universities toward applicants with a scholarship amount per the edits currently shown on the computer screen and available to staff, **SECONDED** by Dr. Elaksher,

### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Voting 'Aye':** Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Gromatzky, Mr. Flores, Dr. Elaksher, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously.**

**b. University Support Criteria Review**

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that similar to the scholarship criteria the Board should have an annual review of the university support criteria.

Mr. Aragon requested to add Northern New Mexico College to the criteria as item 4.

Dr. Elaksher stated that we need to stay consistent and change “schools to be added provide surveying and engineering programs” to “schools to be added that offer ABET accredited surveying (geomatics), engineering, and/or engineering technology degrees.”

**MOTION** by Ms. Dohleman to amend the university support criteria utilized by the universities to purchase equipment or related materials to support engineering and surveying students to be modified for the edits shown on the screen and available to staff, **SECONDED** by Dr. Elaksher,

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Voting ‘Aye’:** Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Gromatzky, Mr. Flores, Dr. Elaksher, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

**c. Scholarship Disbursements for Fiscal Year 2026**

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that for FY26 the Board would disburse \$23,333 to UNM, \$23,333 to New Mexico Tech, \$23,333 to NMSU’s engineering program, and \$30,000 to NMSU’s surveying program.

Ms. Dohleman requested that the Board staff look at Northern New Mexico College’s student enrollment and provide a recommendation at the April Board meeting for FY27 disbursements.

**MOTION** by Mr. Aragon to approve the disbursements as stated for FY26, **SECONDED** by Ms. Dohleman,

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Voting ‘Aye’:** Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Gromatzky, Mr. Flores, Ms. Dohleman

**Recused:** Dr. Elaksher

The motion **Passed**.

**d. University Support Application**

**1) NM Tech, Rinehart, A**

Mr. Valdez introduced New Mexico Tech's university support application. He noted that they are requesting \$49,717 for two Trimble R980 receivers with RTX and RTK capabilities and one Juniper Geode GNSS system for remote sub-meter mapping applications.

**MOTION** by Mr. Aragon to approve the request as submitted by New Mexico Technology, **SECONDED** by Dr. Elakser,

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Voting 'Aye':** Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Gromatzky, Mr. Flores, Dr. Elaksher, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

**8. New Business**

**a. 2026 NCEES Western Zone Interim Meeting Attendance – Bend, OR**

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that the 2026 NCEES Western Zone meeting will be held in Bend, Oregon from April 30 through May 2, 2026. He stated the funded delegate names must be submitted to NCEES by January 20, 2026.

Ms. Dohleman showed interest in attending but would provide a definite answer to Mr. Valdez by the end of the day.

Both Dr. Elaksher and Mr. Flores requested to be a funded delegate for the Western Zone meeting.

**b. Emeritus Request**

**1) Bohannon, R.**

**2) Cala, C.**

**3) Chavez, G.**

**4) Thurow, G.**

**5) Tonander, K.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Gromatzky to approve all members listed under item 8.b for emeritus status, **SECONDED** by Dr. Elaksher,

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Voting 'Aye':** Mr. Wayne, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Gromatzky, Mr. Flores, Dr. Eaksher, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

## 9. Committee Reports

### a. **PS Committee**

Mr. Gromatzky reported that the Committee met on Thursday, January 15, 2026. He noted that the Committee approved the meeting minutes of November 6, 2025. The Committee addressed old business items SPCS 2022 Update, FFA/4H outreach, guidance for DOT concerning monumentation after construction, New Mexico subdivision regulation, and Easement surveying on parallel easement granting. He reported in new business about outreach initiatives.

Mr. Gromatzky stated that the Committee acknowledged the sub-committee and staff reviewed applications. He concluded that the Committee went into closed session and there were 6 disciplinary cases, 1 self-reporting case, and 3 applications for review.

### b. **PE Committee**

Mr. Flores reported that the Committee met on Thursday, January 15, 2026. He noted that the Committee approved the minutes of November 6, 2025, and December 18, 2025. Mr. Flores stated that the Committee acknowledged the sub-committee and staff reviewed applications. He concluded that the Committee went into closed session and there were 4 disciplinary cases, 8 self-reporting cases and 3 applications for review.

### c. **Executive Committee**

Mr. Valdez reported that the Executive Committee had not met.

### d. **Joint Practice Committee**

Mr. Aragon reported that the Joint Practice Committee had not met.

### e. **Public Information, Exam and Licensure Promotion Committee**

#### 1) **Newsletter**

#### 2) **Presentation(s)**

Mr. Valdez reported that the Public Information, Exam and Licensure Promotion Committee has not met. However, he informed the Board that ACEC is requesting interviews from Professional Engineers to promote being an engineer. He noted that he will provide the link to the engineers. He noted that he has been requested to attend the Western Regional Conference, and he provided a presentation to NMSPE.

### f. **Legal Enforcement Committee**

Mr. Valdez reported that the Legal Enforcement Committee had not met.

### g. **Penalties and Fees Committee**

Mr. Wayne reported that the Penalties and Fees Committee had not met.

**h. NCEES Committee Members**

Mr. Valdez stated that as the Western Zone secretary, he will be requesting state reports for the meeting in April. He stated that he will be meeting in San Diego on Monday, January 19, 2026, for the MBA committee to discuss the charges they were assigned to the Committee.

Dr. Elaksher reported that he is on the education committee, and they met two weeks ago, where they discussed the five motions that were assigned to Committee. They addressed credential evaluations, alignment of language for ETAC degrees, edited language for the structural engineering licensure, and continuing professional competency.

**i. Project Steering Committee**

Ms. Dohleman reported that the Project Steering Committee had not met.

Ms. Bustamante stated that the procurement of the contract is underway and is hoping to have that completed by the end of the month.

Mr. Valdez noted that once completed the Project Steering Committee will meet.

**10. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: April 17, 2026 – Santa Fe/Virtual**

**11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

s/Miranda Gonzales  
Miranda Gonzales, Administrative Manager

s/John Wayne  
John Wayne, Board Chair

April 17, 2026 **Approved Date**