

Meeting Minutes

**MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO BOARD OF
LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS held at
9:00 a.m., Friday, April 17, 2026,
Toney Anaya Building, Hearing Room 1, 2nd Floor
2550 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505
& Virtual**

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

Members Absent – Maxine McReynolds, Esq., Public Member
Karen Nichols, Public Member
Robert Gromatzky, PS

Others Present – Perry Valdez, BLPEPS, Executive Director
Crystal Bustamante, BLPEPS, Budget/Finance Manager, CPO
Miranda Gonzales, BLPEPS, Administrative Manager
Zack Shandler, Legal Counsel, NMDOJ
Ralph Vincent
Earl Burkholder, PEPS
Melissa Cannata, Amber Book
Adrian R. (*No Last Name Given*)

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 9:03 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

Mr. Aragon requested to add under 5.b. Western Regional Surveying Conference for discussion.

MOTION by Dr. Elaksher to approve the agenda as amended, **SECONDED** by Ms. McNally,

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes of January 16, 2026

MOTION by Ms. Dohleman to approve the Minutes of January 16, 2026, as presented, **SECONDED** by Dr. Elaksher,

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

5. Requested Public Comment/Correspondence

a. A. Elaksher - Request for Letter of Support – NM Space Grant AI Workforce Proposal

Dr. Elaksher introduced a request for support for the NASA Space Grant AI Workforce initiative. He explained that the proposal will focus on geospatial and geomatics topics and how these fields can be integrated with AI. The proposal includes a summer camp or class that would bring together students from various colleges to participate in hands-on learning activities. This approach would help increase the visibility of the geospatial and geomatics program. He also mentioned that there is a mechanical engineering component to the program, but he does not have many details on that portion, as he is primary working on the geospatial and geomatics topic.

****Dr. Elaksher recused himself after the introduction and left the room at 9:16 am.****

MOTION by Mr. Aragon to approve the request for letter of support for the NM Space Grant AI Workforce Proposal as submitted, **SECONDED** by Ms. Dohleman,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Mr. Wayne, Ms. McNally, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Flores, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **Passed**.

****Dr. Elaksher was not present for the vote and returned to the meeting at 9:18 a.m.****

b. Western Regional Surveying Conference

Mr. Valdez reported that he presented at the Western Regional Surveying Conference with the western member boards in Nevada. He stated that the presentation prompted numerous questions from the attending surveyors.

Mr. Aragon noted that what he found interesting is the Nevada Board currently has only one licensed surveyor serving as a board member.

Dr. Elaksher inquired about the representation of licensed surveyors across the western boards.

Mr. Valdez responded that the number of licensed professional surveyors is increasing; however, much of this growth is due to out-of-state licensees. He added that, based on the data presented at the meetings, the number of exam candidates continues to rise.

Mr. Aragon further stated that most states have adopted the PLSS module.

6. Director's Report

a. License Status Report

Mr. Valdez gave the following licensing status report:

April 2026

Number of Active Licenses: **11,618** as of April 10, 2026

- **Professional Engineers**
 - Number of active PEs: **11,022**
 - In State: 1,949
 - Out of State: 9,073
- **Professional Surveyors**
 - Number of active PSs: **590**
 - In State: 208
 - Out of State: 382
- **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: 42***
 - In State: 22
 - Out of State: 20

2025 License Renewals

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

Number of Licenses that Lapsed: **553** as of March 1, 2026

- Professional Engineers

- Lapsed PEs: **538**
 - In State: 41
 - Out of State: 497

- Professional Surveyors

- Lapsed PSs: **15**
 - In State: 4
 - Out of State: 11

- Professional Engineers/Professional Surveyors

- Lapsed PEPS: **0**
 - In State: 0
 - Out of State: 0

b. Financial/Audit Report

1) Budget Adjustment Request (BAR) – Contracts

a) FY26

b) FY27

Ms. Bustamante reported that the Board is projected to have \$26,900 left in the 200's category, \$4,600 in 300's category, and \$36,000 in the 400's category. She noted that in the contracts category there is an excess of \$661,000. With the excess she would like to propose a BAR to move the \$661,000 from the 300's category to the Board's fund balance for FY26. Then request another BAR for FY27 to move the \$661,000 from the Board's fund balance to the 300's category. Ms. Bustamante informed the Board that, because the project began later in the fiscal year, the remaining funds would be spent in FY27. To ensure the licensing project proceeds without interruption, the BAR would facilitate a smooth transition for the purchase order. She noted that the scholarship fund has an excess of \$50,900. Ms. Bustamante noted that for FY26, the Board has waived \$24,840 on applications and initial license fees.

MOTION by Mr. Aragon to approve a BAR for \$661,000 for FY26 to move from the operating budget to the fund balance and to approve a BAR to move \$661,000 from the fund balance to the operating budget for FY27 effective July 1, 2026,
SECONDED by Ms. Dohleman,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Mr. Wayne, Ms. McNally, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Flores, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

c. Directive Tracking

Mr. Valdez provided a status of all the Committee and Board directives. He noted that there are eight directives and one has been completed and one has been discontinued.

7. Old Business

a. Scholarship Disbursements for Fiscal Year 2027

Mr. Valdez presented the staff's recommendation based on enrollment numbers from the four schools. He suggested allocating the \$100,000 scholarship fund as follows: \$20,000 each to New Mexico State University (NMSU) Engineering, University of New Mexico (UNM), and NM Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech); \$10,000 to Northern New Mexico College (NNMC); and \$30,000 to the NMSU Surveying program, for the next two to three years. He added that, in the future, the Board may consider increasing the scholarship amounts either by shifting funds between the scholarship and program support or by requesting additional University Support Funding from the Legislature.

Dr. Elaksher asked if the Board could require the FE exam to be within the criteria for the scholarship.

Mr. Valdez stated that the Board could put this within the scholarship criteria, and we would place the criteria on the June 12, 2026, Full Board meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Aragon to approve the FY27 scholarship funds in the amount of \$30,000 to NMSU surveying program, \$20,000 NMSU engineering program, \$20,000 to UNM, \$20,000 to NM Tech, and \$10,000 to NNMC, **SECONDED** by Dr. Elaksher,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Mr. Wayne, Ms. McNally, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Flores, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

b. University Support Criteria Review

Mr. Valdez stated that the Board has received some requests that the Board could not approve based on the criteria. He wanted to see if the Board wanted to amend the criteria to define if the Board would allow for purchases of computers.

Mr. Aragon stated that the criteria is general and that the criteria should be left alone.

8. **New Business**

a. **University Support Application for New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology - Leclerc, C.**

Mr. Valdez stated that the application states that the request is for \$50,000 but the quote is for \$49,991.64. He noted that the Board will need to go off the exact amount from the quote.

MOTION by Dr. Elaksher to approve the University Support for New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for \$49,991.64, **SECONDED** by Mr. Aragon,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Mr. Wayne, Ms. McNally, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Flores, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

b. **Emeritus Request**

1) **Brasher, P.**

Mr. Valdez introduced Mr. Brasher request for renewal of his emeritus status.

MOTION by Mr. Aragon to approve emeritus status for Paul Brasher, **SECONDED** by Dr. Elaksher,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Mr. Wayne, Ms. McNally, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Flores, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

c. **FY27 Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Valdez presented the proposed FY27 meeting calendar to the Board. He noted that the Board may consider adjusting meeting locations if the budget allows for it.

MOTION by Ms. Dohleman to accept the draft meeting schedule as presented, **SECONDED** by Mr. Aragon,

Roll Call Vote:

Voting 'Aye': Mr. Wayne, Ms. McNally, Mr. Aragon, Mr. Flores, Ms. Dohleman

The motion **PASSED unanimously**.

d. 2026 NCEES Annual Meeting Attendance – Henderson, NV

Mr. Valdez stated that he must provide NCEES with the names of the funded delegates by the end of April. He noted that there are three funded delegate spots available. Mr. Valdez noted that he will send a reminder email to all Board members so they can review their schedules and determine their availability.

e. SPCS 2022 Proposed Legislation

Mr. Valdez reported that Mr. Gromatzky has completed the draft language for New Mexico State Plane Coordinate Systems. He noted that the PSC will begin to look for a sponsor to carry the bill in the 2027 Legislature. Mr. Aragon provided a report for the members regarding the bill and the statutes being updated.

f. Public Service Announcement Regarding Freelance Marketplace Platforms

Mr. Valdez explained that he placed this item on the agenda because he believes the Board should issue a public service announcement regarding fraudulent services emerging on freelance marketplace platforms. The goal is to remind the public to verify that any individual they hire is a licensed New Mexico professional engineer or profession surveyor. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the information provided on freelance platforms matches the Board's official roster.

Ms. Dohleman stated that she would like to see these announcements be sent to Construction Industries Division (CID), officials at each county that accept plats and building permit applications.

Mr. Valdez stated that he will look into the public service announcement and get it out to the public.

Dr. Elaksher stated that we could send it to state governments, counties and the professional organizations.

9. Committee Reports

a. PS Committee

Mr. Aragon reported that the Committee met on Thursday, April 16, 2026. He noted that the Committee approved the meeting minutes of January 15, 2026. He noted that there were two items under public comment that were tabled to a special meeting in May. The Committee addressed old business items SPCS 2022 Update, FFA/4H outreach, and guidance for DOT concerning monumentation after construction.

Mr. Aragon stated that the Committee acknowledge the sub-committee and staff reviewed applications. He concluded that the Committee went into closed session and there were 1 self-reporting case and 3 applications for review.

b. PE Committee

Mr. Flores reported that the Committee met on Thursday, April 16, 2026. He noted that the Committee approved the meeting minutes of January 15, 2026. The Committee addressed new business items NCEES Credential Evaluations Standards for PE Endorsement Applicants Issued Prior to October 1, 2025.

Mr. Flores stated that the Committee acknowledge the sub-committee and staff reviewed applications. He concluded that the Committee went into closed session and there were 5 disciplinary cases, 7 self-reporting cases, 1 PDH audit, and 1 application for review.

c. Executive Committee

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

d. Joint Practice Committee

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

Ms. Dohleman stated that she has provided Mr. Valdez with an item to place on the JPC agenda for the next schedule meeting.

e. Public Information, Exam and Licensure Promotion Committee

1) Newsletter

2) Presentation(s)

Ms. McNally stated that the Public Information, Exam and Licensure Promotion Committee has not met. She noted that the NMSPE meeting will be at the end of June. She requested that someone from the Board attend to provide a Board update.

Mr. Valdez noted that he was invited to attend the President's Dinner at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Mr. Gonzales reported that the licensing staff will be presenting to civil engineering students at the University of New Mexico.

f. Legal Enforcement Committee

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

g. Penalties and Fees Committee

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

h. NCEES Committee Members

Mr. Valdez reported that the MBA Committee will be bringing forward four motions to that August 2026 Annual Meeting. Furthermore, for the Western Zone

Leadership Development Committee he noted that they continue to host virtual presentations. The Committee has discussed planning new member introductions at western zone meeting through a welcome and icebreaker card.

Mr. Valdez noted that at the Western Zone Mobility Committee meeting they have discussed mobility within the western zone states. There was a spreadsheet that was sent to each jurisdiction to identify the requirements for PE and PS. He concluded that with the Western Zone Planning Team he has been helping Oregon plan the 2026 western zone meeting in Bend, Oregon.

i. Project Steering Committee

Ms. Dohleman stated that the Committee met and during the meeting they were informed that the contract was awarded. She noted that the projects is projected to be completed in February 2027.

Mr. Vincent provided the Board with a brief overview of the project schedule.

10. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: June 12, 2026 – Santa Fe/Virtual

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

s/Miranda Gonzales
Miranda Gonzales, Administrative Manager

s/John Wayne
John Wayne, Board Chair

June 12, 2026 **Approved Date**