



Oregon

**State Board of Examiners for
Engineering & Land Surveying**

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OREGON SPECIFIC EXAMINATION TASK FORCE

Minutes of Meeting

April 11, 2014

Members present:

Sue Newstetter, Chair

James Doane

Staff present:

Mari Lopez, Administrator

Jenn Gilbert, Executive Assistant

Matt Bryan

Jennifer O'Neill

Joy Pariente

Others present:

Warren Foote, Assistant Attorney General

Anne Hillyer (Observer)

Ken Hoffine (Observer)

Bob Neathamer, Oregon-specific land surveying examination development team liaison

Art Noxon, Acoustical engineering examination development team liaison

Dr. John Sessions, Forest engineering examination development team liaison

The meeting of the Oregon Specific Examination Task Force (Task Force) was called to order at 12:35 p.m. in the OSBEELS Conference Room at 670 Hawthorne Avenue SE, Suite 220, Salem, OR 97301. The Task Force meeting occurred out of scheduled order to accommodate guests present for this meeting.

Unfinished Business

Mission, Functions and Goals

The Task Force members reviewed a draft of the Mission, Functions and Goals statement prepared by Ms. Newstetter. After discussion, the Task Force recommends the Board approve the Mission, Functions and Goals statement. There was no further discussion.

New Business

Proposed Forest Syllabus

Initially, there were questions regarding the permitted materials list developed by Board Staff based on determinations made by the Board. Ms. Newstetter asked why the list of permitted

calculators isn't the same as the NCEES list. Ms. Lopez said the Board determined to develop its own list to avoid having to continually change Board policies to coincide with NCEES changes. Ms. Newstetter said she thought it was confusing to have different calculator options between the examinations. Mr. Neathamer said he was fine with the policy because if an applicant can't properly read the instructions regarding calculator use for the exam they're sitting for, they're not really completing the exam. He said it hasn't been an issue during the Oregon-specific land surveying exam. Additionally, Mr. Neathamer explained that the security issues due to software that forced NCEES to develop a permitted calculator list aren't a concern during Oregon's land surveying exam. Dr. Sessions said software restrictions for calculators aren't necessary for the forest engineering examination either, as examinees are required to show each step of their work to receive full credit. Therefore, correct answers generated through a calculator program would not on their own result in a passing grade. It was also clarified that the Board's permitted materials list allows examinees to bring multiple calculators to the Oregon-specific exams in case of any malfunctions.

Dr. Sessions was present to discuss the amended forest engineering exam syllabus. He explained that the revisions were made to bring the syllabus in line with Task Force policies. Dr. Sessions explained that the exam was originally developed in the 90s and initially, examinees were allowed to choose which questions to answer without any restrictions. He said many examinees gravitated toward forest operations subjects for all their answers, which was not an adequate measure of overall competency in forest engineering. He said later revisions to the exam made it a requirement to answer questions from specific categories, such as safety or surveying, along with questions chosen for completion by the examinees. He said this resulted in a much more well-rounded evaluation of competency. Dr. Sessions also informed the Task Force that his team is planning to meet in the summer to review the question bank, add new questions and revise the exam to avoid repeated questions on subsequent exams for repeat examinees. Ms. Newstetter said she appreciated the extensive suggested reference list Dr. Sessions included in the syllabus. After discussion, the Task Force recommends the Board approve the revised forest engineering exam syllabus. There was no further discussion.

Acoustical Exam Date Change

The Task Force discussed whether to change the date of the acoustical engineering examination or extend the grading period to accommodate for holiday commitments and conflicts. Ms. Newstetter asked about impacts on Staff of changing the examination date. Mr. Bryan said the Oregon-specific land surveying and forest engineering exams are also administered in the spring and Ms. Lopez noted that examinees for the PE examinations can test in the same room. After discussion, the Task Force recommends the Board begin rulemaking to change the acoustical engineering examination to a spring examination date. There was no additional discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.