

KENTUCKY STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LICENSURE MEETING  
JANUARY 31, 2025**

KENTUCKY ENGINEERING CENTER  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gregory Meredith, PE, Chair  
Joshua Calico, PLS, Vice Chair  
Michael McGhee, PE  
James Knoth, PLS  
Nicole Galavotti, PE  
Don Pedigo, PLS  
Ryan Griffith, PE  
Doug Klein (Partial attendance. See 2. Introductions and  
Recognitions below.)  
Emmanuel Collins, Ph.D.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rudolph Buchheit, Ph.D.  
Kyle Chism, PE

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kyle Elliott, PLS, Executive Director  
Heather Baldwin, PE, PLS, Director of Enforcement  
Jake Miller, J.D., General Counsel  
Wanda Jordan, Executive Assistant  
Sarah Uzzle, Assistant to the Director  
Shane Beaubien, Board Investigator

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Russ Romine, NSPE-KY  
Charlotte Pyles  
Sandy Gardner

**1. Opening of Meeting** – Gregory Meredith called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

**1.1 Approval of Agenda** – Nicole Galavotti moved to approve the agenda. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**1.2 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest** – Mr. Meredith asked if any member had a conflict with any agenda item. No members indicated a conflict.

**1.3 Approval of Minutes** – Don Pedigo moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2024, meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. **Introductions and Recognitions** - Mr. Meredith introduced returning Board member Ryan Griffith, PE. Mr. Griffith will be serving out the remaining term of Joseph C. Pyles, PE, after his recent unfortunate passing.

Kyle Elliott recognized Charlotte Pyles and her late husband, Joseph C. Pyles's, for his five years of service on the Board. Mr. Elliott then recognized Doug Klein for his eight years of service on the Board.

After receiving his recognition, Doug Klein left the meeting and, therefore did not take part in voting after this time.

3. **Information - Enforcement**

- 3.1 **Franklin Circuit Court**

- 3.1.1 – **Byron Irvin, Civil Action No. 08-CI-1296** - Heather Baldwin updated the Board on the status of this recent civil action and provided the Board with the recent Agreed Amended Order of Settlement and Permanent Injunction, signed by Judge Wingate on November 4, 2024.

- 3.1.2 – **John Richard Sewell, Civil Action No. 24-CI-1080** – Ms. Baldwin updated the Board on the status of this recent civil action and provided the Board with a copy of the Agreed Final Order of Settlement and Permanent Injunction, signed by Judge Wingate on January 16, 2025.

- 3.2 **Actions of the Executive Director**

- 3.2.1 **Closed Cases** – Ms. Baldwin presented a tabulation of cases closed during the fourth calendar quarter of 2024 with actions other than disciplinary actions. Mr. Griffith moved to accept the closed cases report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 3.3 **2024 Year End Report** – Ms. Baldwin provided the Board with the 2024 Year End Enforcement Report and then answered questions from the Board. James Knoth moved to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. **Action Items - Enforcement**

- 4.1 **Board Actions**

- 4.1.1 – **Beckham B. Barnes, Administrative Action No. 24-KBELS-0054** – Jake Miller updated the Board on this administrative action and then presented the Agreed Order of Dismissal. Mr. Pedigo

moved to approve the Agreed Order of Dismissal. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Griffith moved to waive the \$500 reinstatement application fee for a future reinstatement application. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**4.1.2 - Robert Jackson Webster, PE #33097 (expired), Administrative Action No. 24-KBELS-0078** – Mr. Miller updated the Board on the status of this administrative action. After discussion, Ms. Galavotti made a motion for the Board to voluntarily dismiss, without prejudice, both charges asserted against Robert Jackson Webster in the Administrative Complaint as the Board no longer wishes to pursue this matter in light of the unjustifiably belated production of documents by Mr. Webster during discovery. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Board directed the Board’s general counsel to prepare the appropriate Notice of Voluntary Dismissal dismissing, without prejudice, the Administrative Complaint against Mr. Webster and to file said Notice with the Hearing Officer in this matter.

#### **4.2 Settlement Agreements/Consent Decrees**

**4.2.1 Whitsun LLC, f/k/a The Asset Company, PLLC** – Ms. Baldwin presented the terms of the Settlement Agreement with Whitsun, LLC, f/k/a The Asset Company, PLLC, and asked for the Board’s approval. Mr. Knoth moved to approve the terms of the agreement. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**4.2.2 Trident Engineering Associates, Inc.** – Ms. Baldwin presented the terms of the Settlement Agreement with Trident Engineering Associates, Inc. and asked for the Board’s approval. Joshua Calico moved to approve the terms of the agreement. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**4.2.3 Eric Charles Schrader, PE** - Ms. Baldwin presented the terms of the Settlement Agreement with Eric Charles Schrader, PE, and asked for the Board’s approval. Mr. Griffith moved to approve the terms of the agreement. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **5. Action Items – Other**

**5.1 Financial Report** – Mr. Elliott presented the Financial Report for the second fiscal quarter of 2025. Mr. Griffith moved to accept the financial report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**5.2 Ad Interim Actions of the Executive Director** – Mr. Elliott presented the Ad Interim actions for the fourth calendar quarter of 2024. Mr. Calico moved to accept the Ad Interim report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **5.3 Applications**

**5.3.1 Denied/Rejected applications** – Mr. Elliott presented a list of denied and rejected applications for the fourth calendar quarter of 2024. Mr. Pedigo moved to accept the list. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **5.4 Executive Committee**

**5.4.1 October 17, 2024, committee minutes** - Mr. Meredith made a motion from the committee for the Board to accept the committee’s meeting minutes from October 17, 2024. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**5.4.2 Review of “active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States” language from KRS 322.160 (4)** – Mr. Elliott and Mr. Meredith discussed a recent inquiry from a civilian employee of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, stationed overseas, regarding the exemption for license renewal fees and continuing professional development for active-duty military. No action was taken.

**5.4.3 Potential new board policies** - Mr. Meredith discussed a proposal from Mr. Elliott for staff to draft some new board policies to address potential structural program deficiencies identified by a recent Legislative Oversight & Investigations Committee meeting involving the review of another licensing board, and to return those draft policies to the Board for their review.

**5.4.4 Administrative Regulation review update** - Mr. Miller provided the Board with an update on the current administrative regulations being reviewed by the legislature.

### **5.5 Engineering Committee**

**5.5.1 October 17, 2024, committee minutes** – Mr. Meredith made a motion from the committee for the Board to accept the committee’s minutes from its October 17, 2024, meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**5.5.2 Appeal of Endorsement Application denial of Kyle Gauthier** – Michael McGhee discussed the appeal by Kyle Gauthier of his endorsement license application denial by the Executive Director. Mr. Gauthier has an engineering technology degree from Montana

State University which also has engineering degree programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. Mr. Gauthier also obtained a master's degree in engineering management from Arkansas State University. This program is not accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET at the master's or undergraduate level. Mr. McGhee made a motion from the committee that the Board uphold the application denial. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**5.5.3 Reinstatement application of Hayong Kim** – Mr. McGhee discussed the reinstatement application of Hayong Kim. Mr. Kim was originally licensed in Kentucky in April of 2015 by application from South Korea. Mr. Kim immigrated to Portland, OR, in early 2021 for his work at Intel. He subsequently let his Kentucky license expire on June 30, 2021. By all accounts Mr. Kim is highly qualified in his field of engineering. Mr. McGhee made a motion from the committee that the Board approve Mr. Kim's reinstatement application. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**5.5.4 Review of staff proposed changes to 201 KAR 18:072, Experience, Sections 1 and 3** - Mr. McGhee discussed these two sections of the regulation that were reviewed by the engineering committee and provided committee suggestions. A motion was deferred pending a report from the Surveying Committee's review of this regulation.

## **5.6 Surveying Committee**

**5.6.1 October 17, 2024, committee minutes** – Mr. Calico made a motion for the Board to approve the committee's minutes from its October 17, 2024, meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**5.6.2 Review of staff proposed changes to 201 KAR 18:072, Experience, Sections 2 and 3** – Mr. Calico discussed these two sections of the regulation that were reviewed by the surveying committee.

Mr. Knoth made a motion that the Board approve the proposed changes for Sections 1, 2, and 3 with the suggested changes from the engineering committee. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**5.7 CPD Committee** – Mr. Knoth updated the Board on the CPD committee activities from the previous day.

**5.7.1 October 17, 2024, committee minutes** – Mr. Knoth made a motion for the Board to approve the committee's minutes from its October 17, 2024, meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**6. Information Items – Other**

**6.1 General Update from the Executive Director** - Mr. Elliott provided the Board with recent updates of the Board of Licensure staff.

**6.2 Kentucky/National Quarterly Exam Results** – Mr. Elliott provided a summary of the engineering and surveying exam results from the fourth calendar quarter of 2024.

**6.3 National Society of Professional Engineers – Kentucky** – Russ Romine updated the Board on NSPE- KY events.

**6.4 Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors** – No report.

**7. Election of Board Officers for 2025** – Mr. Elliott provided the Board with a partial potential slate of candidates for Board officers in 2025. Ms. Galavotti made a motion for a slate of officers of the Board for 2025 be:

Chair – Joshua Calico

Vice Chair – Michael McGhee

Secretary/Treasurer – Ryan Griffith

The motion was seconded by Don Pedigo and passed by unanimous vote.

**7.1 NCEES Southern Zone Meeting, April 24-26, 2025, Little Rock, AR** – Mr. Elliott discussed the upcoming NCEES Southern Zone Meeting and the selection of Board members and staff to attend the Zone meeting. Mr. Pedigo and Ms. Galavotti volunteered to attend if any of the new Board officers were unable to attend.

Mr. Calico moved to approve the out of state travel request for Heather Baldwin to attend the NCEES Zone Meeting April 24 – 26, 2025 in Little Rock, AR. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Board directed the Board’s executive director to seek the necessary approval for the out-of-state travel for Ms. Baldwin with the Secretary of the Executive Cabinet or his or her designee in accordance with the Secretary’s Order No. 21-102. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**8. Adjournment** – There being no further business, Mr. Pedigo moved to adjourn. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 A.M.