NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS Minutes of the Interim Board Meeting Held virtually Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 9:15am

Board members participating were Chair Brent Wright, PE/SE; Vice-chair Matt Gingerich, PLS; Thomas Matter, public member; Karen Purcell, PE; Jay Dixon, PE; Greg DeSart, PE; Robert Fyda, PE; and Michael Kidd, PLS. Board member Angelo Spata, PE, was excused.

Also participating were Mark Fakler, Executive Director; Chris MacKenzie, Board Legal Counsel; Murray Blaney, Operations and Compliance; Ed McGuire, Professional Standards, and Derek Vogel; Communications.

1. <u>Meeting conducted by Chair Brent Wright, call to order and roll call of board members to determine presence of quorum—board members Angelo Spata, Karen Purcell, Michael Kidd, Thomas Matter, Jay Dixon, Matt Gingerich, Robert Fyda, Greg DeSart.</u>

Mr Wright called the meeting to order, and a quorum was determined.

2. Public comment.

Mr Wright asked if there was any public comment.

Gregory Lindsey

I am a land surveyor out here in Lake Tahoe, and I recently submitted an application that was denied because of work experience; and I just, I submitted a special consideration; and I just wanted to... just kind of give a statement of why I believe that my work experience should qualify concurrent with my school. I currently... I went to school at Oregon Tech and got my Geomatics degree. I worked full-time in land surveying under the direct supervision of a licensed land surveyor. It wasn't just a job, it was an extension of my education, allowing me to apply what I was learning in class to real-world projects every day. I was actively involved in boundary analysis, field work, drafting, and preparing survey documents, gaining the same type of hands-on experience expected of licensed professionals. I understand... requirements and rules; and I respectfully ask for special consideration to account this time towards my qualifying experience. So, with that, I rest.

There was no additional public comment in-person, virtually, or via email.

3. <u>Consideration of initial licensure applicant requests to waive certain requirements of Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 625.</u>

Mr Wright asked Ms Purcell to present the waiver request.

Ms Purcell recommended denial of the request to waive NRS 625.183 (4)(b) made by Mohammad Medhi Gilbert applying for fire protection engineering licensure. Ms Purcell requested that Mr Mehdi update and retransmit his NCEES record with specific fire protection engineering experience and include at least one reference from a licensed FPE.

Mr Wright suggested that the board delegate consideration for approval of the Medhi application to Ms Purcell pending her acceptance of the requested items. The board members agreed.

25-52 A motion was made by Ms Purcell, seconded by Mr Dixon to deny the waiver request with recommendations noted. The motion passed unanimously. Mr Spata was excused from the vote.

4. <u>Board approval of non-appearance applications for initial licensure.</u> Refer to Addendum A for list of applicants.

Mr Wright asked board members if they had comments on the applications presented.

Mr Gingerich said he had concerns with two of the applications presented for special consideration, Mr Yoro for civil and Mr Lindsey for land surveying. He said engineering experience (Mr Yoro) during the degree is an issue and the land surveyor for experience and schooling concurrent.

Mr Fakler clarified the inclusion of the special consideration packets sent to board members. He said these contain additional information with regard to references and transcripts which are not public documents. They are provided with applications that don't meet past board guidance for approval.

Mr Gingerich said the land surveyor is different. He appreciated the effort of work and schooling at the same time, but he believed some additional experience was required – not a full four years, but some additional time. He said it would be his recommendation to deny the Yoro and Lindsey applications.

Mr Wright asked if information in the application was not clear or just that the experience time was insufficient.

Mr Gingerich said the experience time was insufficient.

Ms Purcell said she noted Mr Parker (civil) having only three years of experience. The master's only took him 9 months but was given 24 months' experience credit, and in her opinion the experience is one year short. Ms Purcell recommended denial of the Parker application pending additional 10 months experience to bring the total to four years, so roughly June 2026.

Mr Fyda said he would push back on that. The accelerated program has a heavier course load during a shortened time period, and he did not believe that detracted from the experience. He said he would be willing to give experience credit of two years for the 9 months master's because of the course load. Mr Fyda said he had done an accelerated master's program in one year.

Ms Purcell said she understood the point with the heavier course load, but the required eight years of experience should be made up of four years education and four years of experience, or with a masters, six years for education and two years' experience. Ms Purcell added that the board may need to review the current statutes and regulations as accelerated master's programs are becoming more common. (ACTION Item)

Mr Matter said with accelerated programs the question of the level of experience is a concern. The

traditional model is built around a period that equates to eight years. He agreed the board may need to review statutes and regulations.

Mr Fyda said, he did not have issue with Mr Parker's experience, but he did have concerns on the concurrent experience of the special consideration applicants.

Mr Kidd said he had concerns on the concurrent experience with the special consideration applicants, and disclosed that Mr Hulslander was a direct employee and he would abstain from voting on that application.

Mr DeSart suggested that the special consideration applicants be discussed separately, at a regular board meeting, to allow time for clarity. He added he did not have concerns about any of the other applications.

Mr MacKenzie recommended the board consider a motion on the applications not requiring special consideration, then re-open discussion and consideration of the special consideration applications separately.

25-53 A motion was made by Mr Gingerich, seconded by Ms Purcell to approve the non-appearance applications for initial licensure, with the exception of Mr Medhi, and the applications with special consideration – Mr Yoro (CE), Mr Lindsey (PLS), and Mr Parker (CE). The motion passed unanimously (Mr Kidd abstained from the Hulslander (PLS) application). Mr Spata was excused from the vote.

Mr Wright said the special consideration requests would now be discussed, starting with Mr Lindsey applying for PLS licensure.

Mr Kidd said he has concerns with the amount of experience and the references. He said the reference exposure was in months as opposed to years. Mr Kidd said he would like to see some more experience for Mr Lindsay.

Mr Gingerich said he identified the same issues and agreed with Mr Kidd.

Ms Purcell asked, for clarification, how much additional experience would be appropriate.

Mr Gingerich said he would like to at least another year and preferably under the same PLS reference that was included in the special consideration packet.

Mr Kidd added that after the additional experience he would like to schedule an oral interview for the applicant before the board.

Mr MacKenzie asked for a clarification as to whether the applicant would then need to reapply.

Mr Blaney said the current application would be held open pending completion of what is prescribed by the board.

Ms Purcell asked if the NCEES record would need to be updated at that point.

Mr Blaney said it would need to be revised and retransmitted.

Mr Matter asked when the one year additional experience would be considered to be complete and when the oral interview would likely be conducted.

Mr Gingerich said if the experience was completed within the next year then the oral interview could be conducted at the July 2026 board meeting – with it being in the north.

Mr Blaney said from a historical perspective, the board has viewed four years of education and four years of experience to equate eight years. Where there is a minimum of eight years in the saddle so to speak. He said that it also includes master's programs, his understanding, when the law was written, master's programs took two years and fit into the eight-year equation.

Mr DeSart said the concept is that the board wants to see eight years as a combination of education and experience. Historically the board has not allowed applicants to double dip, in accruing these requirements concurrently. We are talking about Mr Lindsey now, but it also applies to Mr Yoro. Mr DeSart said he had a concern of the applicants not getting the full eight years of combined schooling and practicing experience. He added that setting a precedence of less than that could set the board up for difficulties in the future. Mr DeSart said he respects Mr Gingerich's judgement that one additional year may be sufficient, but from a precedent perspective, he would still be well short of the eight years and that is something we should consider in more depth.

Mr Gingerich said the applicant is a little more unique then what we have seen in the past from land surveyor applicants. This is someone who upon starting their education immediately started working full-time, who appears to have gone above and beyond. With the way education is now delivered, we may see this being more frequent going forward.

Mr Matter asked for clarification on whether partial credit had been given for experience gained during or prior to education in unique circumstances with previous applicants, as to whether a precedent would be set in this instance.

Mr Blaney said there have been applicants where partial credit had been given but they have generally been those who have completed the education requirement over an extended period of time. In those past instances the education and experience timeframe have equated to a minimum of eight years.

Mr Kidd said he agreed with the points Mr DeSart has made and was comfortable with extending the experience timetable.

Ms Purcell asked for clarification on what that extension would look like.

Mr DeSart said with the graduation date being March 2025, four years would be in early 2029. He added the board does have discretion in judgement with special considerations as to what is satisfactory experience, but we must be cautious in granting exceptions and how that relates to precedence.

Mr Fyda said it appears he has some experience prior to beginning his education which could be accrued.

Mr DeSart said for surveying, historically, the board has accepted experience prior to education, so that would be acceptable.

Mr Wright said based on the extended discussion, if there was a motion on the table.

25-54 A motion was made by Mr DeSart, seconded by Mr Gingerich to deny Mr Lindsey's application but provide clarification of when, based on an assessment by staff of applicable experience, he would meet the four years' experience requirement and be eligible for consideration and approval by the board. The motion passed unanimously. Mr Spata was excused from the vote.

Mr Wright said the next special consideration application for discussion is Mr Yoro applying for civil engineering licensure. He asked for comments from the board.

Ms Purcell said the applicant is ten months short of the four-year experience requirement and recommend he gain an additional ten months of experience to be eligible for consideration and approval by the board.

Mr Gingerich said he agreed with Ms Purcell's assessment.

25-55 A motion was made by Mr Fyda, seconded by Ms Purcell to deny Mr Yoro's application with the requirement that he gain an additional ten months experience to be eligible for consideration and approval by the board. The motion passed unanimously. Mr Spata was excused from the vote.

Mr Wright said the next special consideration application for discussion is Mr Parker applying for civil engineering licensure. He asked for comments from the board.

Ms Purcell said she believed an additional year of experience was warranted. She added that she would also like to see the details of the representative projects updated in his NCEES record. It states his work experience began in July 2023, but the project detail list starts in 2024.

Mr Fyda said this can be seen as punishment of someone who has been motivated and met the requirements of a master's program in an accelerated period, to not give the equivalency of the two years credit. The same could apply to someone who graduates early with their bachelor's degree.

Mr DeSart said he does not see it as a penalty, rather it is consistent with the intent of having eight years of combined education and experience.

Mr Matter said it is important to note the way education is delivered is changing. The availability of classes has changed degrees and post graduate programs so they can be completed in less time. He added that this is only going to become more prevalent with younger engineers and land surveyors trying to complete their education as soon as possible.

Mr Wright said he agrees we maintain consistency now, with the precedent of a total of eight years, four education and four experience, but Mr Fyda and Mr Matter have very valid points about accelerated programs. Tradition has it based around four plus four, but if someone did the education in lesser time, they still did the same number of courses – just more efficiently. He said this discussion may be newer to us, but NCEES likely has experience dealing with these situations and has some opinion or guidance. At this point we should stay with the historic norm but do some research for the board to consider in future discussion to develop a protocol. (ACTION Item)

Mr Blaney said he was aware of some NCEES research relating at least to accelerated masters programs where in model law the equivalency is now one year.

Mr Fyda said he would like to see some of the input from the national level before making a decision.

Mr MacKenzie recommended that with the discussion becoming more substantive, and before any decision is made, the item should be agendized for deliberation at a future board meeting as the decision may have a broader impact than this single application. He added the consideration of the current application should be tabled until after that discussion. (ACTION Item)

25-56 A motion was made by Mr Fyda, seconded by Ms Purcell to table Mr Parkers 's application to a future board meeting following deliberation on accelerated degrees and post-graduate programs with staff providing some historical context. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr Spata was excused from the vote.

5. Public comment.

Mr Wright asked if there was any public comment

Quinlan Parker

This is Quin Parker, of the discussion point, earlier. I wanted to follow up. If, before the next meeting as well, if I can, if it would be any help to provide additional work experience, project information, or, I, I've passed my 8-hour FE, or PE, in California, and so... I'm sure that was in the NCEES report that you guys saw, but if there's any other information I can provide, I wanted to offer that.

Mr Wright asked that staff connect with Mr Parker to see if there is any additional information to be added to his NCEES record.

There was no additional public comment in-person, virtually, or via email.

6. Adjournment.

Mr Wright thanked board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 10:08 am.

Respectfully,

Mark Fakler
Executive Director