



**VIRTUAL/TELECONFERENCE
PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST SECTION
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS, AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
Virtual, 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison
Contact: Brad Wojciechowski (608) 266-2112
May 1, 2024**

The following agenda describes the issues that the Section plans to consider at the meeting. At the time of the meeting, items may be removed from the agenda. Please consult the meeting minutes for a record of the actions of the Section.

AGENDA

1:00 P.M.

OPEN SESSION – CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

- A. Adoption of Agenda (1-3)**
- B. Approval of Minutes of August 9, 2023 (4)**
- C. Introductions, Announcements and Recognition
- D. Reminders: Conflicts of Interest, Scheduling Concerns
- E. Administrative Matters**
 - 1) Department, Staff and Section Updates
 - 2) 2024 Meeting Dates **(5)**
 - 3) Annual Policy Review **(6-8)**
 - 4) Election of Officers, Appointment of Liaisons and Alternates, and Delegation of Authorities **(9-25)**
 - 5) Board Members – Term Expiration Dates:
 - a. Gbolo, Prosper – 7/1/2025
 - b. Nobile, Trevor W. – 7/1/2024
 - c. Williams, Stephanie – 7/1/2017
- F. Legislative and Policy Matters – Discussion and Consideration
- G. Education and Examining Matters – Discussion and Consideration
- H. Administrative Rule Matters – Discussion and Consideration (26)**
 - 1) Board discussion of Preliminary Rule Draft of GHSS 1 and 2, related to Professional Development and Continuing Education for Geologists **(27-36)**
 - 2) Pending or Possible Rulemaking Projects **(37)**
- I. Speaking Engagements, Travel, or Public Relation Requests, and Reports – Discussion and Consideration**

- 1) Consider Travel: Fall Administrators Workshop, Annual Meeting and COE Workshop

J. Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Matters – Discussion and Consideration

K. Deliberation on Items Added After Preparation of Agenda:

- 1) Introductions, Announcements and Recognition
- 2) Administrative Matters
- 3) Election of Officers
- 4) Appointment of Liaisons and Alternates
- 5) Delegation of Authorities
- 6) Education and Examination Matters
- 7) Credentialing Matters
- 8) Practice Matters
- 9) Legislative and Policy Matters
- 10) Public Health Emergencies
- 11) Administrative Rule Matters
- 12) Liaison Reports
- 13) Board Liaison Training and Appointment of Mentors
- 14) Informational Items
- 15) Division of Legal Services and Compliance (DLSC) Matters
- 16) Presentations of Petitions for Summary Suspension
- 17) Petitions for Designation of Hearing Examiner
- 18) Presentation of Stipulations, Final Decisions and Orders
- 19) Presentation of Proposed Final Decisions and Orders
- 20) Presentation of Interim Orders
- 21) Petitions for Re-Hearing
- 22) Petitions for Assessments
- 23) Petitions to Vacate Orders
- 24) Requests for Disciplinary Proceeding Presentations
- 25) Motions
- 26) Petitions
- 27) Appearances from Requests Received or Renewed
- 28) Speaking Engagements, Travel, or Public Relation Requests, and Reports

L. **Public Comments**

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION to deliberate on cases following hearing (s. 19.85(1)(a), Stats.); to consider licensure or certification of individuals (s. 19.85(1)(b), Stats.); to consider closing disciplinary investigations with administrative warnings (ss. 19.85(1)(b), and 440.205, Stats.); to consider individual histories or disciplinary data (s. 19.85(1)(f), Stats.); and to confer with legal counsel (s. 19.85(1)(g), Stats.).

M. Deliberation of Items Added After Preparation of the Agenda

- 1) Education and Examination Matters
- 2) Credentialing Matters
- 3) DLSC Matters
- 4) Monitoring Matters
- 5) Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Matters
- 6) Petitions for Summary Suspensions
- 7) Petitions for Designation of Hearing Examiner
- 8) Proposed Stipulations, Final Decisions and Order

- 9) Proposed Interim Orders
- 10) Administrative Warnings
- 11) Review of Administrative Warnings
- 12) Proposed Final Decisions and Orders
- 13) Matters Relating to Costs/Orders Fixing Costs
- 14) Case Closings
- 15) Board Liaison Training
- 16) Petitions for Assessments and Evaluations
- 17) Petitions to Vacate Orders
- 18) Remedial Education Cases
- 19) Motions
- 20) Petitions for Re-Hearing
- 21) Appearances from Requests Received or Renewed

N. Consulting with Legal Counsel

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

O. Vote on Items Considered or Deliberated Upon in Closed Session, if Voting is Appropriate

P. Open Session Items Noticed Above Not Completed in the Initial Open Session

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 7, 2024

 MEETINGS AND HEARINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND MAY BE CANCELLED WITHOUT NOTICE.

Times listed for meeting items are approximate and depend on the length of discussion and voting. All meetings are held virtually unless otherwise indicated. In-person meetings are typically conducted at 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison, Wisconsin, unless an alternative location is listed on the meeting notice. In order to confirm a meeting or to request a complete copy of the board’s agenda, please visit the Department website at <https://dps.wi.gov>. The board may also consider materials or items filed after the transmission of this notice. Times listed for the commencement of disciplinary hearings may be changed by the examiner for the convenience of the parties. Requests for interpreters for the hard of hearing, or other accommodations, are considered upon request by contacting the Affirmative Action Officer, or reach the Meeting Staff by calling 608-267-7213

**VIRTUAL/TELECONFERENCE
PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST SECTION
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS, AND
SOIL SCIENTISTS
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2023**

PRESENT: Prosper Gbolo, Trevor Nobile, Stephanie Williams

STAFF: Brad Wojciechowski, Executive Director; Whitney DeVoe, Legal Counsel;
Dialah Azam, Bureau Assistant; and other Department staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Trevor Nobile, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. A quorum was confirmed with three (3) members present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to adopt the Agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2023

MOTION: Stephanie Williams moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to approve the Minutes of February 1, 2023 as published. Motion carried unanimously.

**SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, TRAVEL, OR PUBLIC RELATION REQUESTS, AND
REPORTS**

**Consider Travel: Fall Administrators Workshop, Annual Meeting and COE Workshop,
Spokane, WA**

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to authorize the travel liaison to designate a Section member as the Section's delegate, to attend the Fall Administrators Workshop on October 23-27, 2023 in Spokane, WA. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Stephanie Williams moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

**EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS & SOIL
SCIENTISTS
2024 Meeting Dates**

Meeting Date		Start time	Agenda item deadline
Wednesday, January 31, 2024	In Person	<i>11:00 AM</i>	1/19/2024
Wednesday, May 1, 2024	Virtual	<i>11:00 AM</i>	4/19/2024
Wednesday, August 7, 2024	Virtual	<i>11:00 AM</i>	7/26/2024

**GHSS – GEOLOGISTS SECTION
2024 Meeting Dates**

Meeting Date		Start time	Agenda item deadline
Wednesday, January 31, 2024	In Person	<i>1:00 PM</i>	1/19/2024
Wednesday, May 1, 2024	Virtual	<i>1:00 PM</i>	4/19/2024
Wednesday, August 7, 2024	Virtual	<i>1:00 PM</i>	7/26/2024

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

1) Name and title of person submitting the request: Brenda Taylor, Board Services Supervisor		2) Date when request submitted: 12/14/2023	
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections: All Boards			
4) Meeting Date: First Meeting of 2024	5) Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? Annual Policy Review	
7) Place Item in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session	8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if applicable: N/A	
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed: Board SharePoint Site: https://dsps.boards.wisconsin.gov/			
<p>Please be advised of the following Policy Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In-Person Meeting Policy: Depending on the frequency of Board meetings, a Board may be allowed a certain number of in-person meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-5 Meetings per year = 1 in-person opportunity • 6-8 Meetings per year = 2 in-person opportunities • 12 Meetings per year = 4 in-person opportunities 2. Attendance/Quorum: Thank you for your service and commitment to meeting attendance. If you cannot attend a meeting or have scheduling conflicts impacting your attendance, please let us know as soon as possible. Timely notification is appreciated as a quorum is required for Boards, Sections, and Councils to meet pursuant to Open Meetings Law. 3. Walking Quorum: Board/Section/Council members must not collectively discuss the body's business outside a properly noticed meeting. Should several members of a body do so, the members could be violating the open meetings law. 4. Mandatory Training: All Board Members must complete Public Records and Ethics Training, annually. Register to set up an account in the Cornerstone LearnCenter online portal or Log in to an existing account. 5. Agenda Deadlines: Please communicate agenda topics to your Executive Director before the agenda submission deadline at 12:00 pm, 8 business days prior to a meeting. (Attachment: Timeline of a Meeting) 6. Per Diem and Reimbursement Claims: Please submit all Per Diem and Reimbursement claims to DSPTS within 30 days of the close of each month in which expenses are incurred. (Attachment: Per Diem Example) 7. Lodging Accommodations/Hotel Cancellation Policy: Lodging accommodations are available to eligible members. Standard eligibility: the member must leave home before 6:00 am to attend a meeting by the scheduled start time. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If a member cannot attend a meeting it is their responsibility to cancel their reservation within the applicable cancellation timeframe. b. If a meeting is changed to occur remotely, is canceled, or rescheduled, DSPTS staff will cancel or modify reservations as appropriate. 8. Inclement Weather Policy: In the event of inclement weather, the DSPTS may change a meeting from an in-person venue to hosted as virtual/teleconference only. 			
11)		Authorization	
<i>Brenda Taylor</i>		<i>12/14/2023</i>	
<p>Directions for including supporting documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This form should be saved with any other documents submitted to the Agenda Items folders. 2. Post Agenda Deadline items must be authorized by a Supervisor and the Policy Development Executive Director 			

Timeline of a Meeting

8 business days prior to the meeting: All agenda materials are due to the Department by 12:00 pm, 8 business days prior to the meeting date.

7 business days prior to the meeting: The draft agenda page is due to the Executive Director. The Executive Director transmits to the Chair for review and approval.

5 business days prior to the meeting: The approved agenda is returned to the Board Administration Specialist for agenda packet production and compilation.

4 business days prior to the meeting: Agenda packets are posted on the DSPS Board SharePoint site and on the Department website.

Agenda Item Examples:

- Approval of the Agenda and previous meeting Minutes
- Open Session Items
 - Public Hearings (relating to Administrative Rules)
 - Administrative Matters
 - Legislation and Policy Matters
 - Administrative Rules Matters
 - Credentialing Matters
 - Education and Exam Issues
 - Public Agenda Requests
 - Current Issues Affecting the Profession
 - Public Comments
- Closed Session items
 - Deliberations on Proposed Disciplinary Actions
 - Stipulations
 - Administrative Warnings
 - Case Closings
 - Monitoring Matters
 - Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Issues
 - Proposed Final Decisions and Orders
 - Orders Fixing Costs/Matters Relating to Costs
 - Credentialing Matters
 - Education and Exam Issues

Thursday of the Week Prior to the Meeting: Agendas are published for public notice on the Public Notices and Meeting Minutes website: publicmeetings.wi.gov.

1 business day after the Meeting: "Action" lists are distributed by staff detailing board actions on closed session business.

5 business days after the Meeting: "To Do" lists are distributed to staff to ensure that board decisions are acted on and/or implemented within the appropriate divisions in the Department. Minutes approved by the board are published on the the Public Notices and Meeting Minutes website: publicmeetings.wi.gov.

Department of Safety and Professional Services

PER DIEM REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS: Claimant records board-related activities by entering the date of an activity, the duration of time spent in that activity, the relevant purpose code (see purpose code descriptions below), where the activity is conducted, and the type of activity performed. Only one (1) \$25.00 per diem payment can be issued on any given calendar day.

Purpose Codes:

- A. Official meetings including video/teleconference calls** (automatic day of per diem): i.e., board, committee, board training or screening panels; **Hearings**, i.e., Senate Confirmation, legislative, disciplinary or informal settlement conferences; **Examinations and Test Development Sessions**, i.e., test administration, test review or analysis events, national testing events, tour of test facilities, etc.)
- B. Other** (One (1) per diem will be issued for every five (5) hours spent in category B, per calendar month): i.e., review of disciplinary cases, consultation on cases, review of meeting materials, board liaison work e.g., contacts regarding Monitoring, Professional Assistance Procedure, Credentialing, Education and Examinations

NAME OF EXAMINING BOARD OR COUNCIL EXAMPLE EXAMINING BOARD			BOARD OR COUNCIL MEMBER'S NAME MARY SUNSHINE	
Activity Date MM/DD/YY	Duration of Activity Hours/Minutes	Purpose Code A or B	Where Performed City/Location (Home, Work, DSPS)	Activity Describe Activity Performed (see purpose codes)
12/2/20	2 hrs	B	Pleasant Prairie/Home	Review of screening panel materials
12/3/20	2 hr / 30 mins	B	Pleasant Prairie/Home	Review of screening panel materials
12/10/20	1 hr	A	Pleasant Prairie/Home	Screening Panel Meeting - Teleconference
12/12/20	1 hr / 30 mins	B	Pleasant Prairie/Home	Case consultation
12/13/20	1 hr	B	Pleasant Prairie/Home	Liaison: Application Review
12/16/20	6 hrs	A	Madison/DSPS	Board Member Training
				<p>The 5-hour rule applies to "B" code activities. Add the 'B' codes within the calendar month and then divide by five (5) hours to calculate your per diem payment. In this case the total is seven (7) hours which equals one (1) day of per diem.</p> <p>Each 'A' code is an automatic day of per diem regardless of time spent in that activity. Ms. Sunshine is eligible for two (2) additional days of payment.</p> <p>Department staff completes the fields titled "Total Days Claimed".</p>
CLAIMANT'S CERTIFICATION			Comments:	
The undersigned certifies, in accordance with § 16.53, Wis. Stats., that this account for per diem, is just and correct; and that this claim is for service necessarily incurred in the performance of duties required by the State, as authorized by law.			<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: #ff9900;">↓</div>	
<i>Mary Sunshine</i> Claimant's Signature		1/4/2021 Date		
			Supervisor	Date

EMPL ID: 100012345-0

To be completed by Department staff: TOTAL DAYS CLAIMED: 3 @ \$25.00 = 75.00

Professional Geologist Section
Elections as of 12/31/2023

ELECTION RESULTS	
Chairperson	Trevor Nobile
Vice Chairperson	Prosper Gbolo
Secretary	Stephanie Williams

Appointment of Liaisons

LIAISON APPOINTMENTS	
Credentialing Liaison(s)	Trevor Nobile <i>Alternate:</i> Prosper Gbolo
Monitoring Liaison(s)	Trevor Nobile <i>Alternate:</i> Stephanie Williams
Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Liaison(s)	Stephanie Williams <i>Alternate:</i>
Education and Examinations Liaison(s)	Trevor Nobile <i>Alternate:</i>
Legislative Liaison(s)	Trevor Nobile <i>Alternate:</i>
Travel Authorization Liaison(s)	Trevor Nobile <i>Alternate:</i>
Website Liaison(s)	Prosper Gbolo <i>Alternate:</i>
Screening Panel	Stephanie Williams <i>Alternate:</i> Prosper Gbolo



State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENCE / MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2024

TO: Board, Council, and Committee Members

FROM: Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: Liaison Definitions and Delegations Explanations

Overall Purpose of Liaison Appointments

Each Board/Section (Board) has inherent authority that is established in our Wisconsin Statutes. This authority may change from Board to Board. For further information on your Board's authority review Wis. Stat. ch. 15. Generally, each Board has authority to grant credentials, discipline credential holders, and set standards for education and examinations. Additionally, Liaisons assist with the operations of the Boards purpose by weighing in on legislative matters, traveling to national conferences, or communicating with stakeholders.

The Department asks that each year the Boards make liaison appointments to assist the Board and Department to accomplish these tasks in an efficient manner. Your practical knowledge and experience, as an appointed member of a professional board, are essential in making determinations regularly. The Liaison positions below assist the Department to complete operations between Board meetings. In most cases, Liaisons can make decisions for the full Board in their designated area. These are determined through the delegation process. However, a Liaison may also decide to send the delegated issue to the full Board for consideration as appropriate. Delegations assist the Board in defining the roles and authorities of each Liaison.

Liaison Definitions

Credentialing Liaison: The Credentialing Liaison is empowered by the Board to review and make determinations regarding certain applications for credentials. The Credentialing Liaison may be called on by Department staff to answer questions that pertain to qualifications for licensure, which may include whether a particular degree is suitable for the application requirements, whether an applicant's specific work experience satisfies the requirements in statute or rule for licensure, or whether an applicant's criminal or disciplinary history is substantially related to the practice of the profession in such a way that granting the applicant a credential would create a risk of harm to the public. Questions will likely be sent by Department

staff to the Credentialing Liaison via email and may include application materials. The Credentialing Liaison serves a very important role in the credentialing process.

Monitoring Liaison: The Monitoring Liaison is empowered by the Board to make decisions on any credential that is limited either through a disciplinary order or initial licensure. The Department Monitors will send requests from credential holders to the Monitoring Liaison. These requests vary wildly. A common request could be to remove a limitation that has been placed on a credential or to petition for full licensure. The Monitoring Liaison can review these requests and make decisions on behalf of the Board. The Board has the authority to grant decision making latitude to their liaison to any degree. The specific monitoring delegations are found in the Monitoring Document attached to the agenda. If the Monitoring Liaison has a question on a request, it is advisable for the Liaison to consult further with Department staff or bring the matter to the full Board for consideration.

Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Liaison: PAP is a voluntary program open to credential holders with substance abuse issues who wish to seek help by being held accountable through treatment and monitoring by the Department and Board. As part of PAP, the credential holder enters into an agreement with the Department to undergo testing, counseling, or other rehabilitation. The PAP Liaison's role includes responding to credential holders' requests for modifications and terminations of provisions of the agreement. Similar to the Monitoring Liaison, the Department Monitors will send requests from credential holders to the PAP Liaison for further review.

Education and Examination Liaison: Some Boards are required by statute or rule to approve qualifying education and examinations. The Education and Examination Liaison provides guidance to Department staff to exercise authority of the Board to approve or decline examinations and educational programs. This determination requires a level of professional expertise and should be performed by a professional member of the Board. For some Boards, the Education and Examination Liaison will also be tasked with approving continuing education programs and courses.

Legislative Liaison: The Legislative Liaison is permitted to act and speak on the Board's behalf regarding pending and enacted legislation or actions being considered by the legislature outside of Board meetings. The Legislative Liaison is not the Board's designated lobbyist and should exercise their delegated authority carefully.

Travel Authorization Liaison: The Travel Authorization Liaison is authorized to approve a Board member to travel to events and speak or act on the Board's behalf between Board meetings. The Travel Authorization Liaison is called upon to make decisions when sufficient notice was not received, and the full Board could not determine a representative to travel. The Travel Authorization Liaison is tasked with making determinations if the Board appointed representative is not able to attend or if the Board becomes authorized to send additional members. As scholarship and funding streams can be unpredictable.

Communication Liaison: The Communication Liaison responds on behalf of the Board when questions arise that require a response from the Board. The Communication Liaison works with

the Department to cultivate an appropriate response. The Communication Liaison can be responsible for all types of communication on behalf of the Board. However, the Board can appoint a separate **Website Liaison** to work with DSPS staff to make changes and ensure the Board webpage contains updated and accurate information. Additionally, for the Boards that are required by statute to produce a newsletter or digest. The Board can appoint a separate **Newsletter/Digest Liaison** to assemble and approve content for those communications.

Screening Panel Members: The duties of the Screening panel are to review incoming complaints against credential holders and determine which complaints should be opened for investigation and which complaints should be closed without further action. The complexity and amount of work in this role depends substantially on your particular Board. As a member of the Screening panel you are asked to apply your professional expertise to determine if a complaint alleges unprofessional conduct.

Delegations Explanations

Credentialing Delegations

The overall purpose of credentialing delegations is to allow the credentialing process to proceed as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Delegation of Authority to Credentialing Liaison (Generic)

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Credentialing Liaison(s) to serve as a liaison between the Department and the Board and to act on behalf of the Board in regard to credentialing applications or questions presented to them, including the signing of documents related to applications.

PURPOSE: To permit one representative of the Board to assist Department staff with credentialing applications and eliminate the need for the entire Board to convene to consider credential application content or questions. Additionally, it is most efficient to have the designated liaison who has assisted with the credentialing process to be able to effectuate decisions which require a signature.

Delegation of Authority to DSPS When Credentialing Criteria is Met

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate credentialing authority to the Department to act upon applications that meet all credentialing statutory and regulatory requirements without Board or Board liaison review.

PURPOSE: To permit Department staff to efficiently issue credentials and eliminate the need for Board/Section/Liaison review when all credentialing legal requirements are met in an application.

Delegation of Authority for Predetermination Reviews

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Department Attorneys to make decisions regarding predetermination applications pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 111.335(4)(f).

PURPOSE: In general, the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act (codified in Wis. Stat. Ch. 111) prohibits licensing agencies from discriminating against applicants because of their arrest and/or conviction record. However, there are exceptions which permit denial of a license in certain circumstances. Individuals who do not possess a license have a legal right to apply for a determination of whether they are disqualified from obtaining a license due to their conviction record. This process is called “Predetermination”. Predeterminations must be completed within 30 days. This delegation allows Department Attorneys to conduct predetermination reviews and efficiently make these legal determinations without need for Board/Section/Liaison review.

Delegation of Authority for Conviction Reviews

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Department Attorneys to review and approve applications with convictions which are not substantially related to the practice.

PURPOSE: As used here, “substantially related” is a legal standard that is used in the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act. The concept of what is “substantially related” is informed by case law. This delegation permits Department Attorneys to independently conduct conviction reviews and efficiently approve applications if convictions are not substantially related to the practice of the profession. Applications that contain conviction records that may be substantially related to the practice of a profession will still be submitted to the Credentialing Liaison for input.

Delegation to DSPS When Applicant’s History Has Been Previously Reviewed

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to Department staff to approve applications where Applicant’s prior discipline has been approved for a previous credential and there is no new discipline.

PURPOSE: Some Boards offer progressive levels of credentials. This delegation eliminates the need for a re-review of discipline that has already been considered and approved by the Board/Section/Liaison for a lower-level credential.

Delegation to DSPS When Applicant’s Conviction History Has Been Previously Reviewed

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to Department staff to approve applications where criminal background checks have been approved for a previous credential and there is no new conviction record.

PURPOSE: Some Boards offer progressive levels of credentials. This delegation eliminates the need for a re-review of conviction history that has already been reviewed and approved for a lower-level credential.

Delegation of Authority for Reciprocity Reviews

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Department Attorneys to review and approve reciprocity applications in which the out of state license requirements meet Wisconsin license requirements. (specific legal standards are referenced in the motion depending on credential/profession type).

PURPOSE: Applications via reciprocity or endorsement require comparison of Wisconsin licensing requirements to the licensing requirements of another jurisdiction. These reviews consider the legal standard for reciprocity, which varies by profession, as well as the specified legal requirements to obtain licensure in the profession. This delegation permits Department Attorneys to independently conduct reciprocity reviews and efficiently approve applications if legal standards and requirements are met for licensure. Applications for which reciprocity may not be available will still be submitted to the Credentialing Liaison for input.

Delegation of Authority for Military Reciprocity Reviews

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Department Attorneys to review and approve military reciprocity applications in which the individual meets the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 440.09.

PURPOSE: The law permits service members, former service members, and their spouses to be licensed if they hold licensure in other jurisdictions that qualify them to perform acts authorized by the credential they are seeking in Wisconsin. This is a shortened path to licensure that does not require meeting the specific requirements/standards for licensure/reciprocity in a profession. By law, the Department/Board must expedite the issuance of a reciprocal license via military reciprocity. This delegation permits Department Attorneys to independently conduct military reciprocity reviews and efficiently approve applications if legal standards and requirements are met for licensure. Applications for which reciprocity may not be available will still be submitted to the Credentialing Liaison for input.

Delegation of Authority for Application Denial Reviews

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Department's Attorney Supervisors to serve as the Board designee for purposes of reviewing and acting on requests for hearing as a result of a denial of a credential.

PURPOSE: When an application is denied, the applicant has a legal right to appeal the denial determination. Applicants must meet a specified legal standard in order to have an appeal granted. Additionally, Wisconsin law sets specific time frames for appeal decisions. This delegation permits Department Attorney Supervisors to independently review and efficiently act on requests for hearing as a result of a denial of a credential.

Delegation to Department Attorneys to Approve Duplicate Legal Issue

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to Department Attorneys to approve a legal matter in connection with a renewal application when that same/similar matter was already addressed

by the Board and there are no new legal issues for that credential holder. Motion carried unanimously.

PURPOSE: The intent of this delegation is to be able to approve prior discipline by the Board for the renewal applicant. This delegation eliminates the need for a re-review of discipline that has already been considered and approved by the Board/Section/Liaison.

Monitoring Delegations

The overall purpose of monitoring delegations is to be able to enforce the Boards orders and limited licenses as efficiently and effectively as possible. Monitoring delegations have two categories: delegations to the monitoring liaison and delegations to the Department Monitor.

Delegation of Authority to Department Monitor

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Department Monitor

- a. to grant full reinstatement of licensure if education is the only limitation and credential holder has submitted the required proof of course completion.
- b. to suspend the credential if the credential holder has not completed Board ordered education, paid costs, paid forfeitures, within the time specified by the Board Order.
- c. to lift a suspension when compliance with education and costs provisions have been met.

PURPOSE: These delegations allow for the Department Monitor to automatically act on requests when certain criteria are met or not met without needing to burden the Board Monitoring Liaison. The Board can set their own criteria for what actions they would like to be handled by the Department, the Monitoring Liaison and the full Board.

Delegation of Authority to Monitoring Liaison

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Monitoring Liaison to approve or deny all requests received by the credential holder.

PURPOSE: These delegations allow the Board to set criteria for what decisions can be made by the Board member(s) serving as the Monitoring Liaison and what matters should be decided by the full Board. The Board has the authority to set specific criteria or to permit the liaison to make all determinations at their discretion.

Education and Exam Delegations

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Education and Examination Liaison(s) to address all issues related to continuing education and examinations. Motion carried unanimously. (Differs by Board)

PURPOSE: Some Boards are responsible for approving qualifying educational programs or continuing education courses. A delegation is executed in order for a Board member to make

these determinations on behalf of the Boards and with assistance of the Department. Additionally, some Boards review examinations and individual scores to qualify for a credential.

Miscellaneous Delegations

Document Signature

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Chairperson (or in absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving board member in that succession) to sign documents on behalf of the Board in order to carry out its duties. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION EXAMPLE: in order to carry out duties of the Board, the Chairperson (or in absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving board member in that succession) has the ability to delegate signature authority for purposes of facilitating the completion of assignments during or between meetings. The members of the Board hereby delegate to the Executive Director, Board Counsel or DPD Division Administrator, the authority to sign on behalf of a Board member as necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

PURPOSE: In order to take the action approved at Board meetings, the Department may need to draft correspondence and/or Orders after the meetings have adjourned. These actions then need to be signed by a Board Member. This interaction usually takes place over email and a Board member can authorize the use of his/her signature that is kept on file.

Urgent Matters

MOTION EXAMPLE: in order to facilitate the completion of urgent matters between meetings, the Board delegates its authority to the Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving Board member in that succession), to appoint liaisons to the Department to act in urgent matters. Motion carried unanimously.

PURPOSE: Allows for quick responses to urgent matters that may need Board approval or for which the Department requires guidance from the Board.

Delegation to Chief Legal Counsel

Due to Loss of Quorum

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate the review and authority to act on disciplinary cases to the Department's Chief Legal Counsel due to lack of/loss of quorum after two consecutive meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

PURPOSE: Sometimes Boards can struggle to meet quorum necessary to conduct business. This happens for a multitude of reasons but this delegation allows for the Boards to have disciplinary cases decided by Chief Legal Counsel if the Board fails to meet quorum for two consecutive meetings.

Stipulated Resolutions

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate to the Department's Chief Legal Counsel (CLC) the authority to act on behalf of the Board concerning stipulated resolutions providing for a surrender, suspension, or revocation of a credential, where the underlying merits involve serious and dangerous behavior, and where the signed stipulation is received between Board meetings. The Board further requests that CLC only act on such matters when the best interests of the Board, Department and the Public are best served by acting upon the stipulated resolution at the time the signed stipulation is received versus waiting for the next Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PURPOSE: For matters of public safety, it may be necessary to take immediate action on a stipulated agreement rather than allowing a credential holder to continue practicing unencumbered until the next scheduled meeting. This delegation allows CLC to act on behalf of the Board when there is a stipulated agreement. A stipulated agreement is an agreement to which all relevant parties have consented to the terms.

Voluntary Surrenders

MOTION: to delegate authority to the assigned case advisor to accept or refuse a request for voluntary surrender pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.19 for a credential holder who has a pending complaint or disciplinary matter.

MOTION: to delegate authority to the Department to accept the voluntary surrender of a credential when there is no pending complaint or disciplinary matter with the Department pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.19.

PURPOSE: Credential holders can ask the Boards to surrender their credentials at any time. These delegations are in place for the different situations that arise from those requests. If a credential holder is seeking to surrender their credential because they wish to leave the profession that can be processed with this delegation by the Department if they have no pending disciplinary complaints. If the credential holder wishes to surrender while they have a pending disciplinary complaint that request is reviewed by the individual Board member assigned to the case.

DLSC Pre-screening

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate pre-screening decision making authority to the DSPS screening attorney for opening cases where the credential holder has failed to respond to allegations contained in the complaint when requested by intake (Case will be opened on failure to respond and the merits of the complaint).

PURPOSE: Pre-Screening delegations exist so the Board can define specific parameters where the Department can review disciplinary complaints and open those cases if they meet certain criteria. Boards also have the authority to set certain criteria that would allow the Department to review and close a case if the criteria is met.

Roles and Authorities Delegated for Monitoring

The Monitoring Liaison (“Liaison”) is a Board/Section designee who works with department monitors (“Monitor”) to enforce Board/Section orders as explained below.

Authorities Delegated to the Monitoring Liaison

The Liaison may take the following actions on behalf of the Board/Section:

1. Grant a temporary reduction in random drug screen frequency upon Respondent’s request if he/she is unemployed and is otherwise compliant with Board/Section order. The temporary reduction will be in effect until Respondent secures employment in the profession. The Department Monitor (“Monitor”) will draft an order and sign on behalf of the Liaison.
2. Grant a stay of suspension if Respondent is eligible per the Board/Section order. The Monitor will draft an order and sign on behalf of the Liaison.
3. Remove the stay of suspension if there are repeated violations or a substantial violation of the Board/Section order. In conjunction with removal of any stay of suspension, the Liaison may prohibit Respondent from seeking reinstatement of the stay for a specified period of time. The Monitor will draft an order and sign on behalf of the Liaison.
4. Grant or deny approval when Respondent proposes continuing/disciplinary/remedial education courses, treatment providers, mentors, supervisors, change of employment, etc. unless the order specifically requires full-Board/Section approval.
5. Grant full reinstatement of licensure if Respondent has fully complied with all terms of the order without deviation. The Monitor will draft an order and obtain written authorization from the Liaison to sign on their behalf.
6. Grant or deny a request to appear before the Board/Section in closed session.
7. The Liaison may determine whether Respondent’s petition is eligible for consideration by the full Board/Section.
8. Accept Respondent’s written request to surrender credential. If accepted by the Liaison, Monitor will consult with Board Counsel to determine if a stipulation is necessary. If a stipulation is not necessary, Monitor will draft an order and sign on behalf of the Liaison. If denied by the Liaison, the request to surrender credential will go to the full Board for review. (Except PHM, MED)

9. Grant Respondent's petition for a reduction in drug screens per the standard schedule, below. If approved, Monitor will draft an order and sign on behalf of the Liaison. Orders that do not start at 49 screens will still follow the same standard schedule.
 - a. Initial: 49 screens (including 1 hair test, if required by original order)
 - b. 1st Reduction: 36 screens (plus 1 hair test, if required by original order)
 - c. 2nd Reduction: 28 screens plus 1 hair test
 - d. 3rd Reduction: 14 screens plus 1 hair test
10. (*Dentistry only*) Ability to approve or deny all requests from a respondent.
11. The Liaison may approve or deny Respondent's request to be excused from drug and alcohol testing for work, travel, etc. (Applies only to these Boards: Dietitians, Massage/Bodywork Therapy Board, DEN, PAB, CHI, MED, RAD)
12. **The Liaison may have full authority to approve or deny a request from a Respondent that otherwise would require the approval of the full Board if the request cannot be heard and voted on due to lack of/loss of quorum.**
13. **The Liaison may have full authority to terminate any treatment ONLY upon written request from Respondent and written recommendation from Respondents treater.**

Authorities Delegated to the Department Monitor

The Monitor may take the following actions on behalf of the Board/Section, draft an order and sign:

1. Grant full reinstatement of licensure if education is the sole condition of the limitation and Respondent has submitted the required proof of completion for approved courses.
2. Suspend the license if Respondent has not completed Board/Section-ordered education and/or paid costs and forfeitures within the time specified by the Board/Section order. The Monitor may remove the suspension and issue an order when proof of completion and/or payment have been received.
3. Suspend the license (or remove stay of suspension) if Respondent fails to enroll and participate in an Approved Program for drug and alcohol testing within 30 days of the order, or if Respondent ceases participation in the Approved Program without Board approval. This delegated authority only pertains to respondents who must comply with drug and/or alcohol testing requirements.
4. Grant or deny approval when Respondent proposes treatment providers [, mentors, supervisors, etc.] unless the Order specifically requires full-Board/Section or Board designee approval. (Except for MED)
5. Grant a maximum of one 90-day extension, if warranted and requested in writing by Respondent, to complete Board/Section-ordered continuing/disciplinary/remedial education.
6. Grant a maximum of one 90-day extension or payment plan for proceeding costs and/or forfeitures if warranted and requested in writing by Respondent.
7. Grant a maximum of one 90-day extension, if warranted and requested in writing by Respondent, to complete a Board/Section-ordered evaluation or exam.

Authorities Delegated to Board Legal Counsel

Board Legal Counsel may take the following actions on behalf of the Board/Section:

1. Sign Monitoring orders that result from Board/Section meetings on behalf of the Board/Section Chair.
-

Updated 03/13/2023

2022 Roles & Authorities

Professional Geologist Section 2023 Delegations

Delegation of Authorities

Document Signature Delegations

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate authority to the Chairperson (or in absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving section member in that succession) to sign documents on behalf of the Section in order to carry out its duties. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Brenda Halminiak moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, in order to carry out duties of the Section, the Chairperson (or in absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving section member in that succession) has the ability to delegate signature authority for purposes of facilitating the completion of assignments during or between meetings. The members of the Section hereby delegate to the Executive Director or DPD Division Administrator, the authority to sign on behalf of a section member as necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegated Authority for Urgent Matters

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, that in order to facilitate the completion of urgent matters between meetings, the Section delegates its authority to the Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving section member in that succession), to appoint liaisons to the Department to act in urgent matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to Chief Legal Counsel Due to Loss of Quorum

MOTION: Stephanie Williams moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to delegate the review and authority to act on disciplinary cases to the Department's Chief Legal Counsel due to lack of/loss of quorum after two consecutive meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to Chief Legal Counsel for Stipulated Resolutions

MOTION: Brenda Halminiak moved, seconded by Trevor Nobile, to delegate to DSPS Chief Legal Counsel the authority to act on behalf of the Section concerning stipulated resolutions providing for a surrender, suspension, or

revocation of a credential, where the underlying merits involve serious and dangerous behavior, and where the signed stipulation is received between Section meetings. The Section further requests that CLC only act on such matters when the best interests of the Section, Department and the Public are best served by acting upon the stipulated resolution at the time the signed stipulation is received versus waiting for the next Section meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Monitoring Delegations

Delegation of Authorities for Monitoring

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to adopt the “Roles and Authorities Delegated for Monitoring” document as presented in the February 1, 2023 agenda materials on pages 17-19. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation of Authorities for Legal Counsel to Sign Monitoring Orders

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate to Legal Counsel the authority to sign Monitoring orders that result from Section meetings on behalf of the Section Chairperson. Motion carried unanimously.

Credentialing Authority Delegations

Delegation of Authority to Credentialing Liaison

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate authority to the Credentialing Liaison(s) to serve as a liaison between the Department and the Section and to act on behalf of the Section in regard to credentialing applications or questions presented to them, including the signing of documents related to applications. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation of Authority for Predetermination Reviews

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Brenda Halminiak, to delegate authority to the Department Attorneys to make decisions regarding predetermination applications pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 111.335(4)(f). Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation of Authority for Conviction Reviews

MOTION: Brenda Halminiak moved, seconded by Trevor Nobile, to delegate authority to the Department Attorneys to review and approve applications

with convictions which are not substantially related to the practice of professional geology. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to DSPS When Applicant's Discipline History Has Been Previously Reviewed

MOTION: Brenda Halminiak moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to delegate authority to Department staff to approve firms, partnerships, and corporation applications where Applicant's prior discipline has been approved for a previous geologists credential and there is no new discipline. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to DSPS When Applicant's Conviction History Has Been Previously Reviewed

MOTION: Brenda Halminiak moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate authority to Department staff to approve firms, partnerships, and corporation applications where criminal background checks have been approved for a previous geologists credential and there is no new conviction record. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegated Authority for Application Denial Reviews

MOTION: Brenda Halminiak moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to delegate authority to the Department's Attorney Supervisors to serve as the Section's designee for purposes of reviewing and acting on requests for hearing as a result of a denial of a credential. Motion carried unanimously.

Voluntary Surrenders

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to delegate authority to the assigned case advisor to accept or refuse a request for voluntary surrender pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.19 for a credential holder who has a pending complaint or disciplinary matter. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Brenda Halminiak moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate authority to the Department to accept the voluntary surrender of a credential when there is no pending complaint or disciplinary matter with the Department pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.19. Motion carried unanimously.

Screening Decision Delegation

MOTION: Brenda Halminiak moved, seconded by Trevor Nobile, to authorize DSPS to contact the Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the

highest-ranking officer or longest serving section member in that succession) when enforcement action is needed, and to authorize the Chairperson (their designee or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving section member in that succession) to request that a screening panel be convened. Motion carried unanimously.

Education and Examination Liaison(s) Delegation

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate authority to the Education and Examination Liaison(s) to address all issues related to education and examinations. Motion carried unanimously.

Authorization for DSPS to Provide Section Member Contact Information to National Regulatory Related Bodies

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Trevor Nobile, to authorize the Department staff to provide national regulatory related bodies with all section member contact information that the Department retains on file. Motion carried unanimously.

Optional Renewal Notice Insert Delegation

MOTION: Brenda Halminiak moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to designate the Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving board member in that succession) to provide a brief statement or link relating to Section-related business within the license renewal notice at the Section's or Section designee's request. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Liaison Delegation

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate authority to the Legislative Liaisons to speak on behalf of the Section regarding legislative matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Travel Authorization Liaison Delegation

MOTION: Brenda Halminiak moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate authority to the Travel Authorization Liaison to approve any section member travel to and/or participation in events germane to the Section, and to designate representatives from the Section to speak and/or act on the Section's behalf at such events. Motion carried unanimously.

Website Liaison(s) Delegation

MOTION: Stephanie Williams moved, seconded by Trevor Nobile, to authorize the Website Liaison(s) to act on behalf of the Section in working with Department staff to identify and execute website updates. Motion carried unanimously.

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

1) Name and title of person submitting the request: Jake Pelegrin Administrative Rules Coordinator		2) Date when request submitted: 4/17/24 Items will be considered late if submitted after 12:00 p.m. on the deadline date which is 8 business days before the meeting	
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections: Geologists Section			
4) Meeting Date: 5/1/24	5) Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? Administrative Rule Matters – Discussion and Consideration 1. Board discussion of Preliminary Rule Draft of GHSS 1 and 2, related to Professional Development and Continuing Education for Geologists 2. Pending or possible rulemaking projects	
7) Place Item in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session	8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? <i>(If yes, please complete Appearance Request for Non-DSPS Staff)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required: N/A	
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed: Attachments: -Preliminary Rule Draft of GHSS 1 and 2 -Rule Projects Chart			
11) <i>Jake Pelegrin</i>		Authorization _____ Date	
Signature of person making this request		Date	
Supervisor (if required)		Date	
Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda)		Date	
Directions for including supporting documents: 1. This form should be attached to any documents submitted to the agenda. 2. Post Agenda Deadline items must be authorized by a Supervisor and the Policy Development Executive Director. 3. If necessary, provide original documents needing Board Chairperson signature to the Bureau Assistant prior to the start of a meeting.			

STATE OF WISCONSIN
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS AND
SOIL SCIENTISTS

IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING	:	PROPOSED ORDER OF THE
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE	:	EXAMINING BOARD OF
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL	:	PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS AND	:	HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL
SOIL SCIENTISTS	:	SCIENTISTS
	:	(CLEARINGHOUSE RULE)

PROPOSED ORDER

An order of the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists to **amend** GHSS 1.01, Chapter GHSS 2 (title), and GHSS 2.01; to **repeal and recreate** GHSS 1.02; and to **create** GHSS 1.05 (3) and 2.08 to 2.15 relating to Professional Development for Professional Geologists.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

Statutes interpreted:

Sections 470.03 (2) and 470.07, Stats.

Statutory authority:

Sections 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) (a), 470.03 (1) (a), and 470.03 (2), Stats.

Explanation of agency authority:

Section 15.08 (5) (b), Stats., provides that each examining board “[s]hall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains, and define and enforce professional conduct and unethical practices not inconsistent with the law relating to the particular trade or profession.”

Section 227.11 (2) (a), Stats., provides that “Each agency may promulgate rules interpreting the provisions of any statute enforced or administered by the agency, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute, but a rule is not valid if the rule exceeds the bounds of correct interpretation.”

Section 470.03 (1) (a), Stats., states that the examining board shall “Upon the advice of the professional geologist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and standards for the practice of professional geology by a person who is licensed as a

professional geologist under this chapter, including a code of ethics that governs the practice of professional geology.

Section 470.03 (2), Stats., states that “Upon the advice of the appropriate section of the examining board, the examining board may promulgate rules that establish continuing education requirements that a person must satisfy to be eligible to renew a license that is issued under this chapter.”

Related statute or rule:

Rule in progress GHSS 1 and 3, relating to Professional Development for Professional Hydrologists (scope statement SS 063-23).

Plain language analysis:

The objective of the proposed rule is to add requirements for continuing education for professional geologists by creating new definitions in GHSS 1 and additional renewal requirements in GHSS 2.

Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation:

None.

Comparison with rules in adjacent states:

Illinois:

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is responsible for the licensure and regulation of professional geologists. The expiration date and renewal period are set by administrative rule [225 Illinois Combined Statutes 745]. The Illinois Administrative Code states that professional geologist licenses shall expire on March 31 of odd-numbered years and renewal may occur prior to the expiration date by payment of a fee [Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Chapter VII Subchapter b Part 1252 Section 1252.70]. Continuing Education requirements are not included in the Illinois statutes or administrative code for professional geologists.

Iowa:

Iowa does not require licensure or registration of professional geologists.

Michigan:

Michigan does not require licensure or registration of professional geologists.

Minnesota:

The Minnesota Board of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Landscape Architects, Geoscientists, and Interior Designers is responsible for the licensure and regulation of geoscientists, among other professions. Geoscientists are required to complete at least 24 professional development hours, 2 of which must be on the topic of professional ethics per biennial renewal period [Minnesota Statutes 2022, Section 326.02 and 336.107]. The Minnesota Board currently recognizes geology and soil science as geoscience disciplines [Minnesota Administrative Rules Part 1800.3900].

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

The proposed rule was developed by reviewing Wisconsin Administrative Code chapters GHSS 1 and 2, and making amendments and additions based on current professional geology practice.

Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:

The proposed rules will be posted for a period of 14 days to solicit public comment on economic impact, including how the proposed rules may affect businesses, local government units, and individuals.

Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis:

The Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis will be attached upon completion.

Effect on small business:

These proposed rules do not have an economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. The Department’s Regulatory Review Coordinator may be contacted at Jennifer.Garrett@wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-2112.

Agency contact person:

Jake Pelegrin, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 8366, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8366; telephone 608-267-0989; email at DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov.

Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

Comments may be submitted to Jake Pelegrin, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 8366, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8366, or by email to DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov. Comments must be received on or before the public hearing to be included in the record of rule-making proceedings.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. GHSS 1.01 is amended to read:

GHSS 1.01 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to specify general requirements and procedures which apply to all 3 sections of the board. Requirements specific to professional geologists, professional hydrologists and professional soil scientists, including continuing education requirements, are specified in chs. GHSS 2, 3 and 4. Rules of professional conduct for all licensees are specified in ch. GHSS 5.

SECTION 2. GHSS 1.02 is repealed and recreated to read:

GHSS 1.02 Definitions. In chs. GHSS 1 to 5: (1) “Asynchronous” means a process of learning where instructor-student interaction is delayed over time allowing the learners to participate intermittently according to their schedule, and be geographically separate from the instructor, and includes correspondence courses, e-learning, instructional television, or online courses.

(2) “Biennium” means a 2-year period beginning August 1 of each even-numbered year.

(3) “Board” or “joint board” means the examining board of professional geologists, hydrologists, and soil scientists.

(4) “Contact hour” means 50 minutes of instruction or participation spent by the registrant in actual attendance or completion of an approved educational activity.

(5) “Continuing education” means professional educational programs and activities on topics related to the practice or theories of practice of a professional geologist, hydrologist, or soil scientist which foster the enhancement of general or specialized knowledge, values, and practice of a professional geologist, hydrologist, or soil scientist.

(6) “Course” or “activity” means any qualifying course, program or activity with a clear purpose and objective that will maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the licensee’s practice of professional geology, hydrology, or soil science.

(7) “Department” means the department of safety and professional services.

(8) “Extreme hardship” means an inability to devote sufficient hours to fulfilling the continuing education requirements during the applicable renewal period because of one of the following:

(a) Full-time or temporary active duty in the uniformed services of the United States of America for a period of time exceeding 120 consecutive days during a biennium, where the duty restricts participation in a continuing education program.

(b) An incapacitating medical illness or disability documented by a statement from a licensed health care provider which shows that participation in the active practice of

professional geology, hydrology, or soil science and a continuing education program is not possible.

(c) A physical inability to travel to the sites of approved programs documented by a licensed physician.

(d) Retirement from the occupation of professional geology, hydrology, or soil science whereby the renewal applicant no longer receives remuneration from providing professional geologic hydrologic, or soil science services.

(e) Any other extenuating circumstances approved by the board.

(9) “Licensee” means a person licensed as a professional geologist, professional hydrologist, or professional soil scientist.

(10) “Professional organization or society” means an organization or society that seeks to further the practice of professional geology, hydrology, or soil science, and the interests of licensees engaged in that profession.

(11) “Section of the board” means either the professional geologist section, the professional hydrologist section, or the professional soil scientist section.

(12) “Synchronous” means a process of learning where the student and instructor interact simultaneously in real-time, including traditional classroom events, computer conferencing, interactive video conferences or online communications where participants are logged on at the same time and communicate directly with each other.

SECTION 3. GHSS 1.05 (3) is created to read:

GHSS 1.05 (3) Except for as specified in s. 470.07, Stats., professional geologists shall comply with the continuing education requirements specified in ch. GHSS 2. For late renewal of a license or reinstatement of a license, further requirements for continuing education are listed in s. GHSS 2.14.

SECTION 4. Chapter GHSS 2 (title) is amended to read:

Chapter GHSS 2

PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST ~~LICENSE~~ LICENSURE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

SECTION 5. GHSS 2.01 is amended to read:

GHSS 2.01 Authority and purpose. This chapter is adopted under authority in ss. 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2), 470.03 (1) (a), 470.03 (2), ~~and~~ 470.04, and 470.07 Stats. The purpose of this chapter is to interpret basic education, experience and examination requirements

for licensure as a professional geologist as specified in ss. 470.04 and 470.05, Stats., and to govern biennial continuing education of professional geologists.

SECTION 6. GHSS 2.08 to 2.15 is created to read:

GHSS 2.08 Continuing education requirements. (1) Except as outlined in sub. (a) or if granted a waiver under s. GHSS 2.13, beginning with the **August 2026** biennial license renewal period, every licensee shall complete at least 24 hours of approved contact hours, pertinent to the practice of professional geology which may include scientific, technical, ethical, or relevant managerial content.

(a) Between the initial license and the first renewal period, a new licensee shall not be required to comply with the continuing education requirements for the first renewal period.

(b) During each biennial renewal period, each licensee shall complete a minimum of 4 continuing education contact hours in each of the following categories:

1. Programs, courses, or activities in which the licensee practices.

2. Programs, courses, or activities in the area of professional conduct and ethics including in the area of Wisconsin statutes and rules that regulate professional geologists.

(2) Approved continuing education programs and activities offered by acceptable sponsors or providers where continuing education credit may be obtained include any of the following:

(a) Successful completion of geology-related courses, presented by correspondence, internet, television, video or audio, ending with examination or other verification processes, may earn a varying number of contact hours depending on the course provider.

(b) Successful completion of a college or university course in the area of geology or ethics. One semester credit hour of course work is equivalent to 15 contact hours and one quarter credit hour of course work is equivalent to 13.5 contact hours.

(c) Successful completion of professional geology coursework or programs offering contact hours on geologic topics.

(d) Active participation and successful completion of professional geology programs, seminars, tutorials, workshops, short courses, or in-house courses.

(e) Attending program presentations at related technical or professional meetings at which at least 50 minutes is spent discussing professional geology issues or attending a lecture on geology related issues, or both. Each approved meeting will be awarded one contact hour.

(f) Teaching or instructing courses or programs on a professional geology topic. Teaching credit is counted for teaching a course or seminar for the first time only and does not apply to faculty in the performance of their regularly assigned duties. Two contact hours will be awarded for every 50 minutes of teaching or presentation.

(g) Authoring professional geology related papers, articles, geographical maps that appear in circulated journals or trade magazines or in published geology textbooks. Credit is earned in the biennium of publication. A maximum of 16 contact hours per renewal shall be awarded for this activity.

(h) Field trips organized and run by professional or technical societies or in conjunction with meetings, conventions, or conferences shall be awarded one contact hour for each hour of duration, up to 8 contact hours per day.

(3) Continuing education requirements shall be completed within the preceding biennium and approved at the time of renewal under this section.

GHSS 2.09 Compliance. (1) Continuing education shall be completed within the preceding biennium. Continuing education hours earned in excess of the minimum requirements for renewal of a license may be carried forward to the next renewal period, but are limited to a maximum of 12 contact hours.

(2) A licensee who fails to meet the continuing education requirements by the renewal date, as specified in s. 470.07, Stats., may not engage in the practice of professional geology until the license is renewed based upon proof of compliance with the continuing education requirements.

GHSS 2.10 Standards for approval. (1) To be approved for credit, a continuing education program shall meet all of the following criteria:

(a) The program includes instruction in an organized method of learning contributing directly to the professional competency of the licensee and pertains to subject matters which integrally relate to the practice of the profession.

(b) The program is conducted by individuals who have specialized education, training, or experience and are considered qualified concerning the subject matter of the program.

(c) The program provides proof of attendance or certificate of completion, which may include course completion examination, by the licensees and fulfills pre-established goals and objectives.

(2) The section may approve sponsors or providers for continuing education programs and activities including the following:

(a) Courses sponsored by a technical or professional society or similar organization devoted to geologic sciences and education.

(b) Accredited colleges, universities, or other educational institutions and schools of higher education.

(c) Courses sponsored by a governmental unit.

(d) Courses from any other provider approved by the section or its designee.

(3) The section or its designee may make recommendations as to approval of courses, credit, contact hour value for courses, and other methods of earning credit.

(4) Credit for college or technical school courses approved by a section shall be based upon course credit established by the college or technical school.

GHSS 2.11 Certificate of completion, proof of attendance. (1) Each licensee shall certify on the renewal application their full compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in this chapter.

(2) The section may require additional evidence demonstrating compliance with the continuing education requirements, including a certificate of attendance or documentation of completion or credit for the courses completed.

(3) If there appears to be a lack of compliance with the continuing education requirements, the section shall notify a licensee in writing and request submission of evidence of compliance within 30 days of the notice.

(4) The section may require a licensee to appear for an interview to address any deficiency or lack of compliance with the continuing education requirements.

(5) A licensee may be subject to discipline by the board for failure to comply with subs. (2) to (4).

GHSS 2.12 Recordkeeping. It shall be the responsibility of the licensee to maintain records of continuing education hours for at least 2 biennia from the date on the certificate or statement of attendance is signed. A minimum of at least one contact hour is required for recordkeeping purposes, with increments of one-quarter contact hour allowed thereafter. The recordkeeping shall include all of the following:

(1) The name and address of the sponsor or provider.

(2) The title of the program or activity and a brief statement of the subject matter.

(3) Printed program schedules, registration confirmations or receipts, certificates of attendance or completion, examination scores, or other proof of participation.

(4) The number of hours attended by program or activity and the date and place of the program or activity.

GHSS 2.13 Waiver of continuing education. (1) A licensee may apply to the section for a postponement or waiver of the requirements of this chapter on grounds of prolonged illness or disability, or on other grounds constituting extreme hardship. The section shall consider each application individually on its merits, and the section may grant a postponement, partial waiver, or total waiver as deemed appropriate in the circumstances.

(2) A renewal applicant seeking renewal of license without having fully complied with the continuing education requirements shall file a renewal application along with the required fee, and a statement setting forth the facts concerning non-compliance and requesting a waiver of the requirements. The request for a waiver shall be made prior to the renewal date. Extreme hardship shall be determined on an individual basis by the geologist section. If the geologist section finds from the affidavit or any other evidence submitted that extreme hardship has been shown, the geologist section shall waive enforcement of the continuing education requirements for the applicable renewal period.

(3) A renewal applicant who requests a waiver of the continuing education requirements for extreme hardship shall file a renewal application along with the required registration fee and submit an affidavit which describes the circumstances of the hardship and provide any supporting documentation. The request for a waiver shall be submitted prior to the renewal date.

(4) A licensee who receives a waiver for continuing education on the basis of extreme hardship due to an incapacitating disability, medical illness, active military duty or other extenuating circumstance may be required to complete continuing education upon his or her return to the active practice of professional geology as determined necessary by the section to ensure the ability of the licensee to practice professional geology in a safe and competent manner.

GHSS 2.14 Late renewal. (1) Continuing education hours shall apply only to the biennium in which the hours are acquired. A licensee who applies for renewal after the renewal date specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., shall submit proof to the section that the licensee has completed at least 24 continuing education hours during the 2 years immediately preceding the date of application for renewal and meet the requirements for late renewal specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats.

(2) Continuing education hours submitted to satisfy this requirement for late renewal shall not be used to satisfy continuing education requirements for a subsequent renewal.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) pertain to a licensee applying for renewal of their license less than 5 years after its expiration, as stated in s. GHSS 1.05 (1). A licensee who applies for renewal more than 5 years after the expiration date must still comply with subsections (1) and (2), and go through the process for reinstatement as described in s. 440.08 (3) (b), Stats., and ss. GHSS 1.05 (2) (a) and (b).

GHSS 2.15 Reciprocity. An applicant for licensure from another state or jurisdiction who applies for license to practice as a professional geologist shall, in addition to the information required under s. GHSS 2.03 submit proof of completion of continuing education obtained in another jurisdiction within the 2 years prior to application.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro), Stats.

(END OF TEXT OF RULE)

DRAFT

Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists and Soil Scientists

Clearinghouse Rule Number	Scope #	Scope Expiration	Code Chapter Affected	Relating clause/ Summary	Current Stage	Next Step
	043-23	12/26/25	GHSS 1 and 2	Professional Development - Geologists. Review and update rules for continuing education and professional development for geologists.	Rule Drafting	Board approval of preliminary rule draft for posting for EIA comments and submittal to Clearinghouse.
	063-23	2/28/2026	GHSS 1 and 3	Professional Development - Hydrologists. Review and update rules for continuing education and professional development for hydrologists.	Hydrologists section has done a motion to recommend approval of preliminary rule draft.	Board approval of preliminary rule draft for posting for EIA comments and submittal to Clearinghouse.