



**TELECONFERENCE/VIRTUAL
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS, AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
Virtual, 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison
Contact: Will Johnson (608) 266-2112
February 4, 2026**

The following agenda describes the issues that the Board 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 Board.

AGENDA

11:00 A.M.

OPEN SESSION – CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

- A. Adoption of Agenda (1-3)**
- B. Approval of Minutes of August 6, 2025 (4)**
- C. Reminders: Conflicts of Interest, Scheduling Concerns**
- D. Introductions, Announcements and Recognition**
- E. Administrative Matters**
 - 1) Department, Staff and Board Updates
 - 2) **2026 Meeting Dates (5)**
 - 3) **Annual Policy Review (6-9)**
 - 4) **Election of Officers, Appointment of Liaisons and Alternates, Delegation of Authorities (10-23)**
 - 5) Board Members – Term Expiration Dates:
 - a. Gbolo, Prosper – 7/1/2029
 - b. Hirekatur, Ann – 7/1/2028
 - c. Hunt, Randall – 7/1/2012
 - d. Myers, Dennis – 7/1/2027
 - e. Nobile, Trevor W. – 7/1/2028
 - f. Small, John – 7/1/2026
 - g. Williams, Stephanie – 7/1/2017
- F. Administrative Rule Matters – Discussion and Consideration (24-36)**
 - 1) Preliminary Rule Draft for GHSS 1 to 4 relating to Licensure and Examinations
 - 2) Pending or Possible Rulemaking Projects
- G. Speaking Engagements, Travel, or Public Relation Requests, and Reports (37)**

- 1) Travel Report: ASBOG Annual Meeting, October 14-18, 2025 – Salt Lake City, UT (Nobile)
- 2) 2026 ASBOG Spring Council of Examiners Workshop – April 9-11, Branson, MO
- 3) 2026 Fall COE Workshop and Annual Business Meeting – October 27-31, Hershey, PA

H. Section Reports – Discussion

- 1) Geologist Section
- 2) Hydrologist Section
- 3) Soil Scientist Section

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

J. Emerging Trends in GHSS Professions – Discussion

K. Legislative and Policy Matters – Discussion and Consideration

L. 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) Motions
- 17) Petitions
- 18) Appearances from Requests Received or Renewed
- 19) Speaking Engagements, Travel, or Public Relation Requests, and Reports

M. Public Comments

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 5, 2026

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://dsps.wi.gov>. The board may also consider materials or items filed after the transmission of this notice. Times listed for the commencement of any agenda item may be changed by the board for the convenience of the parties. The person credentialed by the board has the right to demand that the meeting

at which final action may be taken against the credential be held in open session. 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.

**TELECONFERENCE/VIRTUAL
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS, AND
SOIL SCIENTISTS
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2025**

PRESENT: Zachary Freedman, Prosper Gbolo, Ann Hirekatur, Jingyi Huang, Randall Hunt, Dennis Myers, Trevor Nobile, Inna Popova, John Small, Stephanie Williams

STAFF: Will Johnson, Executive Director; Whitney DeVoe, Legal Counsel; Jacob Pelegrin, Administrative Rule Coordinator; Ashley Sarnosky, Board Administration Specialist; and other Department staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Trevor Nobile, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. A quorum was confirmed with ten (10) members present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, to adopt the Agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2025

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to approve the Minutes of June 11, 2025 as published. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

**EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS, AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
2026 Meeting Dates**

Board/Section/Council	Meeting Date	Start time	Location	Agenda Item Deadline
GHSS	Wednesday, February 4, 2026	11:00 AM	Virtual	1/23/26
GHSS	Wednesday, August 5, 2026	11:00 AM	Hybrid	7/24/26
GHSS: Geologist Section	Wednesday, February 4, 2026	9:00 AM	Virtual	1/23/26
GHSS: Geologist Section	Wednesday, August 5, 2026	9:00 AM	Hybrid	7/24/26
GHSS: Hydrologist Section	Wednesday, January 28, 2026	11:00 AM	Virtual	1/16/26
GHSS: Hydrologist Section	Tuesday, August 4, 2026	9:00 AM	Virtual	7/23/26
GHSS: Soil Scientist Section	Wednesday, January 28, 2026	9:00 AM	Virtual	1/16/26
GHSS: Soil Scientist Section	Tuesday, August 4, 2026	11:00 AM	Virtual	7/23/26

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

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

- 1) Name and title of person submitting the request: Audra Cohen-Plata, DPD Division Administrator
- 2) Date When Request Submitted: 12/11/2025
- 3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Section: **All Boards**
- 4) Meeting Date: **First Meeting of 2026**

- 5) Attachments: **Yes**
- 6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? **Administrative Matters: Annual Policy Review**
- 7) Place Item in: **Open Session**
- 8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? No
- 9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if applicable: N/A

- 10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed:

Please be advised of the following policy item attachments:

- 1) 2026 Annual Policy Review Memo
- 2) Timeline of a Meeting
- 3) Sample Per Diem Report



DATE: January 1, 2026

TO: DSPS Board, Council, and Committee Members

FROM: Division of Policy Development

SUBJECT: 2026 Administrative Policy Reminders

Please be advised of the following policy items:

1. **In-Person and Virtual Meetings:** Depending on the frequency of scheduled meetings, discussion topics, and member availability, DSPS may host one or more in-person meetings. Virtual connection options are available for all board meetings. If you are traveling internationally, please see item 9 below.
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. A quorum is required for Boards, Sections, and Councils to meet pursuant to Open Meetings Law. Connect to / arrive at meetings 10 minutes before posted start time to allow for audio/connection testing, and timely Call to Order and Roll Call. Virtual meetings include viewable onscreen materials and A/V (speaker/microphone/video) connections.
3. **Walking Quorum:** Board/Section/Council members must not collectively discuss the body's business outside a properly noticed meeting. If several members of a body do so, they 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 p.m., eight business days before a meeting. (Attachment: Timeline of a Meeting)
6. **Travel Voucher and Per Diem Submissions:** Please submit all Per Diem and Reimbursement claims to DSPS within 30 days of the close of each month in which expenses are incurred. (Attachment: Per Diem Form) Travel Vouchers are distributed on travel approval.
7. **Lodging Accommodations/Hotel Cancellation Policy:** Lodging accommodations are available to eligible members for in-person meetings. Standard eligibility: the member must leave home before 6:00 a.m. to attend an in-person meeting by the scheduled start time.
 - a. If a member cannot attend a meeting, they must cancel their reservation with the hotel within the applicable cancellation timeframe.
 - b. If a meeting is changed to occur remotely, is canceled, or rescheduled, DSPS staff will cancel or modify reservations as appropriate.
8. **Inclement Weather Policy:** In inclement weather, the DSPS may change a meeting from an in-person venue to a virtual/teleconference only.
9. **International Travel:** Use of State-managed IT resources and access of State data outside the United States are strictly prohibited, as they cause an unacceptable level of cybersecurity risk. This prohibition includes all State-provided or State-managed IT resources housed on personal devices. Please advise your Executive Director of any planned international travel commitments that may coincide with board meetings or other board business in advance of your departure.

Timeline of a Meeting

At least 2 weeks (10 business days) prior to the meeting

Submit Agenda Item suggestions to the Board's Executive Director. Include background materials. Copyright-protected materials must be accompanied by written permission from the publisher to share documents.

8 business days prior to the meeting

The Agenda is drafted. (All agenda materials are due to the Department by 12:00 p.m.)

7 business days prior to the meeting

The draft agenda is submitted to the Executive Director; the Executive Director transmits it to the Chair for review and approval.

5 business days prior to the meeting

The approved agenda is returned to the Board Administration Specialist (BA) 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 Board webpage.

Agenda Item Examples:

- Open Session Items
 - Public Hearings and Administrative Rules Matters
 - Administrative Matters
 - Legislation and Policy Matters
 - Credentialing Matters
 - Education and Exam Issues
 - Public Agenda Requests
 - Current Issues Affecting the Profession
- Closed Session items
 - Deliberations on Proposed Disciplinary Actions
 - 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 Wisconsin Public Notices and Meeting Minutes website: publicmeetings.wi.gov.

1 business day after the Meeting

"Action" lists are distributed to Department 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 open session decisions are acted on and/or implemented within the appropriate divisions in the Department. Minutes approved by the board are published on the Wisconsin Public Notices and Meeting Minutes website: publicmeetings.wi.gov.

Department of Safety and Professional Services

PER DIEM REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS: Record board-related activities by date, indicate relevant purpose code, the duration of time spent in B-code activities, location, and activity description. Only one \$25.00 per diem payment will be issued on any given calendar day. Submit one form per month and within 60 days of the last activity being reported. Send completed forms to your Board's Administrative Specialist.

Purpose Codes:

A CODE Official meetings including Board Meetings, Hearings and Examinations and Test Development Sessions

(automatic day of per diem) Examples: board, committee, board training or screening panels; Senate Confirmation hearings, legislative and disciplinary hearings, or informal settlement conferences; test administration, test review or analysis events, national testing events, tour of test facilities, etc.

B CODE **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

CLAIMANT'S CERTIFICATION The Board/Council member named above, 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. (Rev.04/24)

(Rev.04/24)

Board Member Approval & Date: _____

TOTAL DAYS CLAIMED: _____ @ \$25.00 = _____

Supervisor Approval & Date: _____

GHSS EXAMINING BOARD

2025 OFFICERS

OFFICERS	
Chairperson	Trevor Nobile
Vice Chairperson	Ann Hirekatur
Secretary	Stephanie Williams

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

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

1) Name and title of person submitting the request: Paralegal Richanda Turner, on behalf of Attorney Gretchen Mrozinski		2) Date when request submitted: 01/20/26 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: GHSS Examining Board			
4) Meeting Date: 02/04/2026	5) Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? Reaffirming 2025 delegations and new 2026 delegations	
7) Place Item in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session		8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? (If yes, please complete Appearance Request for Non-DSPS Staff) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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: The Board members need to review and consider reaffirming 2025 delegations and new delegations for 2026.			
11) Authorization <u>Richanda Turner</u> 01/20/26 Signature of person making this request Date			
Supervisor (Only required for post agenda deadline items) Date			
Executive Director signature (Indicates approval for post agenda deadline items) Date			
Directions for including supporting documents: 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. 3. If necessary, provide original documents needing Board Chairperson signature to the Bureau Assistant prior to the start of a meeting.			



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

DATE: January 1, 2026

TO: Board, Council, and Committee Members

FROM: Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: Liaison Definitions and Delegations Explanations

Executive Summary

This memorandum provides an overview of the liaison roles and common delegation authorities that enable DSPS Boards, Sections, and Committees to efficiently fulfill their statutory responsibilities. It explains the function of each liaison position, such as, Credentialing, Monitoring, PAP, Education and Examination, Legislative, Travel Authorization, and Communication Liaisons, as well as Screening Panel Members, and outlines how these roles support Board operations between meetings. This memorandum also includes model motions for liaisons, Department staff, and Department attorneys to ensure timely processing of credential applications, monitoring requests, disciplinary matters, and administrative tasks. The delegations promote consistency, reduce delays, and allow the Department and Boards to respond promptly to legal and operational needs while maintaining their responsibility to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

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. Further information on your Board's authority can be found in Wis. Stat. ch. 15. Generally, each Board has authority to grant credentials, discipline credential holders, and set standards for education and examinations and unprofessional conduct. In order to efficiently accomplish these tasks, Boards may appoint Liaisons. Liaisons assist with the operations of the Boards' purpose by weighing in on legislative matters, traveling to national conferences, or communicating with stakeholders.

At the first Board meeting of each year, the Department asks the Boards to make Liaison appointments. Your practical knowledge and experience as an appointed member of a professional board are essential in making determinations regularly. The Liaison positions listed 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. However, these areas are determined through the delegation process. Please note a Liaison may also decide to send the delegated matter to the full Board for consideration as appropriate. Delegations assist the Board in defining the roles and authorities of each Liaison and other Board functions.

Liaison Definitions

Credentialing Liaison: The Credentialing Liaison is empowered by the Board to review and make determinations regarding certain credential applications. 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. The Credentialing Liaison serves a very important role in the credentialing process. If the Credentialing 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.

Monitoring Liaison: The Monitoring Liaison is empowered by the Board to make decisions on any credential that is subject to Monitoring either through a disciplinary order or initial licensure. The Department Monitors will send requests from credential holders to the Monitoring Liaison. 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. 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 and related requests. 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 not the Board's designated lobbyist and should exercise their delegated authority carefully. 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. Please review Wis. Stat. ch. 13 for important reminders on lobbying.

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 to questions that arise on behalf of the Board. The Communication Liaison works with the Department to cultivate an appropriate response which will be sent by the Executive Director or Board Counsel. 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: Screening Panel Members 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 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 allow a 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 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. This delegation greatly decreases the workload of Board members and cuts down processing time on applications.

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.” Predetermination reviews 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 relevant professional 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 Disciplinary 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.

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.

Delegation to Department Attorneys to Approve Prior Discipline

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to Department attorneys to approve an applicant's prior professional discipline which resulted in a forfeiture/fine/other monetary penalty, remedial education, and/or reprimand, that is 10 years old or older, and the previously disciplined credential is currently in good standing.

PURPOSE: In order to continue improving processing application legal reviews in a timely matter, this delegation gives Department attorneys authority to approve prior professional discipline which meets all of the following criteria: (1) it is at least ten years old; (2) it resulted in a monetary penalty, remedial education, and/or reprimand; and (3) the previously disciplined credential is currently in good standing.

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 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 from 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.

Education and Examination Delegations

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Education and Examination Liaison(s) to address all issues related to qualifying education, 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 an Education and Examination Liaison to make these determinations on behalf of the Board 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: 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 their 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.

Delegation to Chief Legal Counsel-Stipulated Resolutions

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate to the Department's Chief Legal Counsel 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 Chief Legal Counsel 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 Chief Legal Counsel 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 EXAMPLE: 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 EXAMPLE: 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 accept surrender of 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.

Delegation to Handle Administrative Rule Matters

MOTION EXAMPLE: to delegate authority to the Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving Board member in that succession), to act on behalf of the Board regarding administrative rule matters between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

PURPOSE: In order to advance the administrative rules process, action may need to occur between meetings. This allows for quick responses to urgent matters that may need Board approval or for which the Department requires guidance from the Board.

GHSS EXAMINING BOARD
February 5, 2025
2025 DELEGATIONS

2025 New Delegations

Delegation to Handle Administrative Rule Matters

MOTION: Randall Hunt moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate authority to the Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving Board member in that succession), to act on behalf of the Board regarding administrative rule matters between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and Approval of 2024 Delegations including new modifications

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Ann Hirekatur, to reaffirm all delegation motions made in 2024, as reflected in the February 5, 2025 agenda materials, which were not otherwise modified or amended during the February 5, 2025 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

All Combined Delegation of Authorities

Review and Approval of 2024 Delegations including new modifications

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Ann Hirekatur, to reaffirm all delegation motions made in 2024, as reflected in the February 5, 2025 agenda materials, which were not otherwise modified or amended during the February 5, 2025 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Document Signature Delegations

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Randall Hunt, 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: Stephanie Williams moved, seconded by Randall Hunt, 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.

Delegated Authority for Urgent Matters

MOTION: John Small moved, seconded by Ann Hirekatur, that 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.

Delegation to Handle Administrative Rule Matters

MOTION: Randall Hunt moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate authority to the Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving Board member in that succession), to act on behalf of the Board regarding administrative rule matters between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and Approval of 2025 Delegations including new modifications

MOTION: [Board member name] moved, seconded by [Board member name], to reaffirm all delegation motions made in 2025, as reflected in the February 4, 2026 agenda materials, which were not otherwise modified or amended during the February 4, 2026 meeting. Motion carried [].

**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: 1/23/26
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections: GHSS Examining Board		
4) Meeting Date: 2/4/26	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. Preliminary Rule Draft for GHSS 1 to 4 relating to Licensure and Examinations 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? (If yes, please complete Appearance Request for Non-DSPS Staff) <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: -Rule drafting materials for GHSS 1 to 4		
11) Authorization <i>Jake Pelegrin</i> 1/23/26 <hr/> Signature of person making this request Date <hr/> Supervisor (if required) Date <hr/> Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda) Date		
<p>Directions for including supporting documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		

Below is the redlined GHSS 2.06 with the changes proposed by the rule. Essentially, the (2) and (3) are proposed to be repealed. This looks like it is repealing a lot, but these are just pre-exam requirements. The same requirements are also listed in the Education section of the Geologists' code (GHSS 2.05), and the Experience Requirements part of the statutes for Geologists (470.04(2)).

Let me know with any questions, comments, or other proposed changes you would like to see. We also have one question for the section which is at the end.

GHSS 2.06 Examinations.

(1) Required examinations. An applicant for initial licensure as a professional geologist shall pass examinations for the professional practice of geology approved by the professional geologist section. Required examinations shall include a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice of geology examination. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of geology. The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply geologic principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional geology.

(2) Fundamentals examination. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of geology. To be eligible to take the fundamentals examination, an applicant shall have done one of the following:

(a) Completed at least 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours of course credits in geology and be of not less than second semester senior standing in a bachelor program meeting the requirements of s. GHSS 2.05.

(b) Completed at least 4 years of experience, which is determined by the professional geologist section to be equivalent to the requirements of s. GHSS 2.04 (1).

(3) Principles and practice examination. The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply geologic principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional geology. To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant shall have done one of the following:

(a) To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant under s. 470.04 (2) (c) 1., Stats., shall have done all of the following:

1. Met the requirements under s. 470.04 (2) (a), Stats.

2. Met the requirement under s. 470.04 (2) (b), Stats., or have at least 5 years of professional experience in addition to the qualifying experience under subd. 3., which is determined by the professional geologist section to be substantially equivalent to the requirement under s. 470.04 (2) (b), Stats.

3. Completed at least 4 years of professional experience in geologic work of a character satisfactory to the professional geologist section, or completed at least 3 years of professional experience in geologic work of a character satisfactory to the section if the applicant has one or more advanced degrees relevant to the practice of professional geology, demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of geologic work. At least one year of the qualifying professional experience under this subdivision must have been performed under the supervision of one or more of the following:

a. A person who is at the time of application licensed as a professional geologist under this chapter or who, during the period of supervised experience, was licensed as a professional geologist under ch. 470, 1997 Stats.

b. A person who, during the period of supervised experience, was licensed as a professional geologist in another state, territory or possession of the United States or in another country that has licensure requirements for professional geologists that are not lower than the requirements for licensure under this chapter.

c. A person who, during the period of supervised experience, is deemed by the professional geologist section to have been qualified to have responsible charge of geologic work.

(b) To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant under s. 470.04 (2) (c) 2., Stats., shall have done all of the following:

1. Met the requirements under s. 470.04 (2) (a), Stats.

2. Met the requirement under s. 470.04 (2) (b), Stats., or have at least 5 years of professional experience in addition to the qualifying experience under subd. 3., which is determined by the professional geologist section to be equivalent to the requirement under s. 470.04 (2) (b), Stats.

3. Completed at least 6 years of professional experience in geologic work of a character satisfactory to the professional geologist section, or completed at least 5 years of professional experience in geologic work of a character satisfactory to the section if the applicant has one or more advanced degrees relevant to the practice of professional geology, demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of geologic work. At least one year of the qualifying professional experience under this

subdivision must have been performed under a peer review system approved by the professional geologist section.

Question for the section: the specific numbers for Geologists' experience requirements (the number of years required, etc.) are currently in statute ([470.04\(2\)\(c\)](#)). So they will always be required either way. However, most of those specific numbers are being repealed from the Geologists' code as seen above. The Experience Requirements section of the Geologists' code ([GHSS 2.04](#)) doesn't list those specific numbers, although it does cite and provide a link to that statute. The experience requirements in the code is really only describing the required content of the experience. So, does the section want to add those specific numbers into your code in [GHSS 2.04, Experience Requirements?](#) Or are you fine with the code simply citing and providing a link to [470.04\(2\)\(c\)](#), which has all the needed information?

(Another important part of the statutes is [470.04\(6\)](#), which is the part that allows the reduction from 7 to 6 years if the applicant has an advanced degree, which the code describes in the final repealed paragraph above. The [470.04\(2\)\(c\)](#) cites this, so it is fairly clear to the reader, but if you want this to be added into your code in [GHSS 2.04](#) we can do that.)

(Another important part of the statutes is [470.04\(7\)](#), which allows the waiver of the bachelor's degree if they have 5 years experience which the section determines to be substantially equivalent. The code describes this in the second-to-last repealed paragraph above.)

Below is the redlined GHSS 3.05 with the changes proposed by the rule. Essentially, the (2) and (3) are proposed to be repealed. This looks like it is repealing a lot, but these are just pre-exam requirements. The same requirements are also listed in the Education section of the Hydrologists' code (GHSS 3.04), and the Experience Requirements part of the statutes for Hydrologists (470.04(3)).

Let me know with any questions, comments, or other proposed changes you would like to see. We also have one question for the section which is at the end.

GHSS 3.05 Examinations.

(1) Required examinations. An applicant for initial licensure as a professional hydrologist shall pass examinations for the professional practice of hydrology approved by the professional hydrologist section. Required examinations shall include a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice examination. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of hydrology. The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply hydrologic principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional hydrology.

(2) Fundamentals examination. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of hydrology. To be eligible to take the fundamentals examination, an applicant shall have done one of the following:

(a) Completed at least 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours of course credits in hydrology or water resources and be of not less than second semester senior standing in a bachelor program meeting the requirements of s. GHSS 3.04.

(b) Completed at least 4 years of experience which is determined by the professional hydrologist section to be equivalent to the requirements of s. GHSS 3.04.

(3) Principles and practice examination. The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply hydrologic principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional hydrology. To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant shall have done one of the following:

(a) To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant under s. 470.04 (3) (c) 1., Stats., shall have done the following:

1. Met the requirements under s. 470.04 (3) (a), Stats.
2. Met the requirement under s. 470.04 (3) (b), Stats., or have at least 5 years of professional experience in addition to the qualifying experience under subd. 3., which is determined by the professional hydrologist section to be equivalent to the requirement under s. 470.04 (3) (b), Stats.
3. Completed at least 4 years of professional experience in hydrologic work of a character satisfactory to the professional hydrologist section, or completed at least 3 years of professional experience in hydrologic work of a character satisfactory to the section if the applicant has one or more advanced degrees relevant to the practice of professional hydrology, demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of hydrologic work. At least one year of the qualifying professional experience under this subdivision must have been performed under the supervision of one or more of the following:

 - a. A person who is at the time of application licensed as a professional hydrologist under this chapter or who, during the period of supervised experience, was licensed as a professional hydrologist under ch. 470, 1997 Stats.
 - b. A person who, during the period of supervised experience, was licensed as a professional hydrologist in another state, territory or possession of the United States or in another country that has licensure requirements for professional hydrologists that are not lower than the requirements for licensure under this chapter.
 - c. A person who, during the period of supervised experience, is deemed by the professional hydrologist section to have been qualified to have responsible charge of hydrologic work.

(b) To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant under s. 470.04 (3) (c) 2., Stats., shall have done the following:

1. Met the requirements under s. 470.04 (3) (a), Stats.
2. Met the requirement under s. 470.04 (3) (b), Stats., or have at least 5 years of professional experience in addition to the qualifying experience under subd. 3., which is determined by the professional hydrologist section to be equivalent to the requirement under s. 470.04 (3) (b), Stats.
3. Completed at least 6 years of professional experience in hydrologic work of a character satisfactory to the professional hydrologist section, or completed at least 5 years of professional experience in hydrologic work of a character satisfactory to the section if the applicant has one or more advanced degrees relevant to the practice of professional hydrology, demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of

~~hydrologic work. At least one year of the qualifying professional experience under this subdivision must have been performed under a peer review system approved by the professional hydrologist section.~~

Question for the section: the specific numbers for Hydrologists' experience requirements (the number of years required, etc.) are currently in statute [\(470.04\(3\)\(c\)\)](#). So they will always be required either way. However, most of those specific numbers are being repealed from the Hydrologists' code as seen above. The Experience Requirements section of the Hydrologists' code ([GHSS 3.03](#)) doesn't list those specific numbers, although it does cite and provide a link to that statute. The experience requirements in the code is really only describing the required content of the experience. So, does the section want to add those specific numbers into your code in [GHSS 3.03, Experience Requirements](#)? Or are you fine with the code simply citing and providing a link to [470.04\(3\)\(c\)](#), which has all the needed information?

(Another important part of the statutes is [470.04\(6\)](#), which is the part that allows the reduction from 7 to 6 years if the applicant has an advanced degree, which the code describes in the final repealed paragraph above. The [470.04\(3\)\(c\)](#) cites this, so it is fairly clear to the reader, but if you want this to be added into your code in [GHSS 3.03](#) we can do that.)

(Another important part of the statutes is [470.04\(7\)](#), which allows the waiver of the bachelor's degree if they have 5 years experience which the section determines to be substantially equivalent. The code describes this in the second-to-last repealed paragraph above.)

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 GEOLOGISTS,
PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,	:	HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL
HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL	:	SCIENTISTS ADOPTING RULES
SCIENTISTS	:	(CLEARINGHOUSE RULE)

PROPOSED ORDER

A proposed order of the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists to *repeal* GHSS 2.06 (2) and (3), 3.05 (2) and (3), and 4.05 (2) and (3); and to *amend* GHSS 2.06 (1), 3.05 (1), 4.02 (Note), 4.05 (1), and 4.06 (10) (Note) relating to Licensure and Examinations.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

Statutes interpreted:

Section 440.071 (1), Stats.

Statutory authority:

Sections 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) (a), and 470.03 (1) (a) to (c), 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 “[e]ach 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) to (c), Stats., state that the examining board shall: (a) “[u]pon 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.

(b) Upon the advice of the professional hydrologist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and standards for the practice of professional hydrology by a person who is licensed as a professional hydrologist under this chapter, including a code of ethics that governs the practice of professional hydrology.

(c) Upon the advice of the professional soil scientist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and standards for the practice of professional soil science by a person who is licensed as a professional soil scientist under this chapter, including a code of ethics that governs the practice of professional soil science.”

Related statute or rule:

Section 440.071 (1), Stats.

Plain language analysis:

The objective of the proposed rule is to update the administrative code of the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists to bring it into compliance with s. 440.071 (1), Stats. This statute prohibits credentialing boards from requiring a person to complete postsecondary education before the person is eligible to take an examination for a credential. Current GHSS code contains experience, education, and examination requirements to apply for licensure as a geologist, hydrologist, or soil scientist. The basics of these requirements are set by statute and are given details and specifics in the GHSS code.

Current GHSS code states various pre-examination requirements that applicants must complete before being allowed to take licensure exams. The proposed rule repeals these pre-examination requirements. In general, the pre-examination requirements being repealed are simply requirements that an applicant has reached a certain point in their education and experience requirements. Overall, applicants must complete all of these education and experience requirements anyway. The rule does not repeal or lower the level of qualifications for licensure as a geologist, hydrologist, or soil scientist. It simply changes the timing, so applicants are able to take licensure exams before their education and experience requirements are substantially completed, if they wish.

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

None.

Summary of public comments received on statement of scope and a description of how and to what extent those comments and feedback were taken into account in drafting the proposed rule:

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. It does require that to take the geologists' licensing exam, an applicant must complete a bachelor's or graduate degree in a geology educational program [Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Chapter VII Subchapter b Part 1252 Section 1252.20]. Illinois does not require licensure for professional hydrologists or professional soil scientists.

Iowa:

Iowa does not require licensure of professional geologists, hydrologists, or soil scientists. However, they do require certification as a "certified groundwater professional" for any person who provides subsurface soil contamination and groundwater consulting services, or who contracts to perform or who supervises remediation or corrective action services at leaking underground storage tank sites [567 Iowa Administrative Code 134.1 to 134.5]. There are many different pathways to acquiring this certification, with some that do require post-secondary education before taking an examination, and some that do not.

Michigan:

Michigan does not require licensure of professional geologists, hydrologists, or soil scientists.

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. The Minnesota Board currently recognizes geology and soil science as geoscience disciplines [Minnesota Administrative Rules Part 1800.3900]. The Minnesota Board does require completion of postsecondary education before an applicant is eligible to take a licensing exam [Minnesota Administrative Rules Part 1800.3910 subp. 2. and 3.].

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

The proposed rule was developed by the GHSS Examining Board reviewing 2013 WI Act 114 and determining where changes in the GHSS code are needed to bring compliance.

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 will 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, Office of Chief Legal Counsel, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 14497, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-0497; 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, Office of Chief Legal Counsel, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 14497, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-0497, 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 2.06 (1) is amended to read:

GHSS 2.06 Examinations. **(1)** REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS. An applicant for initial licensure as a professional geologist shall pass examinations for the professional practice of geology approved by the professional geologist section. Required examinations shall include a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice of geology examination. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of geology. The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply geologic principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional geology.

SECTION 2. GHSS 2.06 (2) and (3) are repealed.

SECTION 3. GHSS 3.05 (1) is amended to read:

GHSS 3.05 Examinations. (1) REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS. An applicant for initial licensure as a professional hydrologist shall pass examinations for the professional practice of hydrology approved by the professional hydrologist section. Required examinations shall include a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice examination. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of hydrology. The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply hydrologic principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional hydrology.

SECTION 4. GHSS 3.05 (2) and (3) are repealed.

SECTION 5. GHSS 4.02 (Note) is amended to read:

Note: Applications Instructions for applications are available upon request to the Professional Soil Scientist Section of the board at 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8935; phone (608) 266-2112 or available for download from the department webpage: on the department's website at <http://dps.wi.gov>.

SECTION 6. GHSS 4.05 (1) is amended to read:

GHSS 4.05 Examinations. (1) REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS. All applicants for initial licensure as a professional soil scientist shall pass examinations for the professional practice of soil science approved by the professional soil scientist section. Required examinations shall include a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice examination. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of soil science. The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply soil science principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional soil science.

SECTION 7. GHSS 4.05 (2) and (3) are repealed.

SECTION 8. GHSS 4.06 (10) (Note) is amended to read:

Note: Application forms Instructions for applications are available upon request to the Professional Soil Scientist Section of the board at 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8935; phone (608) 266-2112 or available for download from the department webpage: on the department's website at <http://dps.wi.gov>.

SECTION 9. 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)

This Proposed Order of the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists is approved for submission to the Governor and Legislature.

Dated _____

Chair

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

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

1) Name and Title of Person Submitting the Request: Will Johnson, Executive Director		2) Date When Request Submitted: 01/23/2026	
		Items will be considered late if submitted after 4:30 p.m. and less than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 work days before the meeting for Medical Board ▪ 14 work days before the meeting for all others 	
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections: Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists			
4) Meeting Date: 02/04/2026	5) Attachments: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? Speaking Engagements, Travel, or Public Relation Requests, and Reports Discussion and Consideration -2026 ASBOG Spring Council of Examiners Workshop, Branson, MO, 04/09/26 – 04/11/26 -2026 ASBOG Annual Meeting and COE Fall Workshop, Hershey, PA, 10/27/26 – 10/31/26	
7) Place Item in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/> Both	8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Fill out Board Appearance Request) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required:
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed:			
11) Authorization			
Will Johnson		01/23/2026	
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 Board Admin Specialist prior to the start of a meeting.			