

Engineers/ Land Surveyors Public Board Meeting

March 7, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

OPLC, 7 Eagle Square, Concord NH 03301

There was a combined Board meeting with the Board of Engineers and the Board of Land Surveyors. Board members present from the Engineers were Chris Mulleavey, Mac Morin, David Gill and Paul Mullen. Board members from the Land Surveyors were William Doucet, Joe Wichert, and Timothy Peloquin. OPLC staff present were Division Director Bethany Cottrell, Attorney Shane Goulet and Chris Horne.

1. Call to Order- C. Mulleavey called the joint meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

2. New Business-

a. The Board met to discuss the rationale behind HB655. This Bill came out of the SB330 committee. It will put all Boards in line with how investigations are completed. All Boards will have the same process and procedures. It will help expedite licensure. Streamline license fees to help licensing staff work with multiple Boards.

Board is concerned that it takes the authority away from the Boards. OPLC director would have the authority to approve licenses. This is concerning for the Board. How does this protect the public if a non-engineer is approving work product to determine qualifications/ ability. The Engineers Board has a combined experience of 125 years.

If the intent is to expedite licensing, the PE Board already has a quick turn around for licensure. A Model Law process is in place and applicants can be done within days. The Board reviews completed applicants every month. The Land Surveyors have exams twice a year as required by statute. They approve applicants to test throughout the year. Applicants are notified within 30 days of a completed application.

M. Morin made a motion to go into non-meeting at 11:20 a.m. D. Gill seconded and motion passes with a roll call vote.

M. Morin made a motion to come out of non-meeting at 11:27 a.m.

M. Morin leaves at 12:01 p.m.

There are 2 sessions for HB655 on Wednesday March 8, 2023. Attorney Goulet did let the Board know that this Bill will be changing, and many things may be removed so, it will be very different. This was frustrating to the Board. How can they oppose specific items if they don't know what's being removed. Attorney Goulet individuals, societies and the Board can voice their opinions at hearings.

W. Doucet made a motion to have Attorney Shane Goulet speak in opposition of HB655 on the Boards behalf. T. Peloquin seconded and motion passes with a roll call vote. D. Gill made a motion to have Attorney Shane Goulet speak in opposition of HB655 on the Boards behalf. P. Mullin seconded and motion passes with a roll call vote.

b. The Board also discussed HB2. What is the rationale for combining the Engineers and Land Surveyors Boards? the meetings would be longer, and the Boards do not have the same scope of work. Board feels this would be more costly. Director Cottrell suggested the Board make a matrix of what types of licenses can be done by staff. This goes back to the Model law discussion and the experience level.

There are multiple Boards that are combined in other states. NCEES is the National council for both, but they aren't licensed same. Land Surveyors must take a state specific exam. Engineers have multiple specialties. The 2 Boards would lose a vote at the national meetings.

There are 2 types of Boards Governing Boards and Advisory Boards. the Engineers and Land Surveyors are governing Boards.

Other objectives of HB2 are to make the OPLC self-funding and not have to send funds to the states general fund. This would be a positive change. To increase workforce development for the state, along with many other items.

There will be public hearings on HB2. Both Boards feel very strongly that it is not in the best interest of the public to combine the Boards, to allow OPLC to license applicants without proper engineering and land surveying experience. Board feels this bill can't go forward in its current state.

With both Bills the Boards are both very concerned with the authority of licensure, renewals being at the discretion of the director of the OPLC.

3. Adjournment- W. Doucet made a motion to adjourn at 12:18 p.m. P. Mullin seconded and motion passes with a roll call vote.