

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
ILLINOIS LAND SURVEYORS LICENSING BOARD

**Open Minutes**

Illinois Land Surveyors Licensing Board

Date: September 26, 2023  
Convened: 10:03 am  
Adjourned: 11:50 am  
Location: Springfield/Chicago/WEBEX

Members Present: Kim Lyons, Chair  
Gale E. Hake, Vice-Chair  
James W. Abbitt Jr., Member  
Michael Filipski, Member  
John G. Huff, Public Member

Member(s) Absent: Carol Sweet-Johnson, Member

Staff Present: Kyle Lazell, Design Licensing Manager  
Ron Almiron, IDFPR General Counsel  
Oscar Pina, IDFPR Prosecuting Attorney

Guests Present: Ryan Roth, IPLSA

Open Session: The Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.  
Roll Call: The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

**I. Board Member  
Announcements,  
comments**

Ms. Lyons welcomed everyone and asked if there were any Board announcements or comments.

*No board announcements.*

**II. Guest Announcements,  
comments**

Mr. Roth shared that planning for the 2024 IPLSA annual meeting is underway and they also have several outreach efforts being conducted.

**III. Licensing Manager  
Report**

A. IDFPR Staff Changes

Mr. Lazell shared that Cecilia Abundis, Division Director for professional regulation is resigning as of Friday, September 22, 2023, to pursue a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

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He also shared that Eduardo Fernandez, DPR Prosecuting Attorney for design professions, is resigning as of Friday, September 22, 2023, and will be working in a position in Cook County.

**B. DesignTimes Newsletter Quiz**

Mr. Lazell notified the Board that he received notice that the newsletter is not compliant with the Rule requiring self-administered courses, etc. to have a quiz for PDH credit to be awarded. He indicated that DPR will be working to correct this oversight.

**C. NCEES Zone Award Nominations**

Mr. Lazell shared he received notice from Jan Bostleman, NCEES CZ vice-president that the Central Zone is accepting nominations for the Zone Distinguished Service Award.

**IV. Review of Open Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the July 28, 2023, meeting. Motion was made, seconded (Abbitt/Huff) to accept the minutes of the meeting as presented. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

**V. Ongoing Business**

*No business presented.*

**VI. Report from Subcommittees**

**A. Complaint Review Subcommittee**

*No complaints for review at this time.*

**VII. New Business**

**A. NCEES Annual Meeting - report**

Mr. Hake reported on the NCEES Annual Meeting, held August 15-17, 2023, in Boston, Massachusetts. The main takeaways/discussion items were:

- FE/FS cords for use at college graduation
- NCEES Foundation
- Board of Directors discrepancy for the PS exam module
- NCEES encourages members and associations to get more involved in the community.

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Mr. Lazell shared two items from the member board administrator meetings:

- NCEES encouraged boards and associations to become more involved with incoming legislators, meeting with them, sharing knowledge about the profession and being available as a resource for any future needs/bills.
- He inquired with the other members boards who still utilized the TOEFL-iBT exam to test the English speaking and reading abilities of foreign educated applicants. After hearing none and confirming with NCEES, it was made apparent that the Illinois jurisdiction is the only jurisdiction that still utilizes this exam.

The reasons given by other jurisdictions for the discontinuation of the exam were that the required license examinations are administered in English, and licensure requires experience gained within the U.S. These were deemed sufficient items to assess that an applicant is at least minimally competent to read and speak English, which was the intent of the TOEFL exam. Additionally, the applicant's ability to effectively communicate with coworkers, clients, etc., would ultimately be determined by employers and if unable to satisfy the requirements, the person would not be able to gain the necessary experience.

Upon discussion with DPR staff, continuing to require the TOEFL-iBT exam was deemed no longer defensible and was recommended to be removed from the Rules for the administration of the PLS Act.

#### B. Draft Rule Revisions

Mr. Lazell shared a revised version of the proposed Rule changes including the removal of the TOEFL-iBT exam requirement.

The Board reviewed the draft and had no additional comments or recommended changes.

Ms. Lyons asked for a motion pertaining to this item.

Motion was made, seconded (Filipski/Hake) to accept the proposed Rule changes as presented. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

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**Motion to move into Closed Session:** Motion was made, seconded (Huff/Filipski) to move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2c (4) & (15) of the Open Meetings Act at 11:18 am. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

**VIII. Closed Session:**

A. Review of Closed Minutes  
The Board reviewed the closed minutes of the July 28, 2023, meeting.

B. Application Review/Discussion  
The Board discussed no applications pursuant to Sections 1270.5, 1270.10, 1270.30 and 1270.65 of the Rules for the Administration of the Illinois Land Surveyors Act of 1989.

Moved back into Open Session: Board Chair adjourned the Closed Session and moved the meeting back into Open Session at 11:49 am.

**IX. Motions:**

Review of closed minutes: Motion was made, seconded (Filipski/Huff) to approve the closed meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

Keep closed minutes closed: Motion was made, seconded (Filipski /Huff) to keep the closed minutes closed. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

**X. Reminders** Mr. Lazell reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled to be on November 17, 2023.

**XI. Adjournment** Ms. Lyons adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

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