

**STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR GEOLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS  
OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: September 26, 2024  
Meeting Location: 76 Northern Ave. Gardiner, ME & by remote access Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.  
§403-A.

Time Meeting Began: 9:00 a.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Johanna Szillery called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Attended in person:

Johanna Szillery

Irwin Novak

Ivan Fernandez

Keith Taylor

Ryan Gordan, State Geologist

Attended remotely:

Matthew Boucher, State Soil Scientist

The following members were absent: None

6 board members are present, which constitutes a quorum.

Staff Present:

Holly Poirier, Board Manager

Tyler Robinson, Board Staff

Kristen Bowker, Board Staff

Karen Ross, Board Staff

AAG Present: Samantha Andrews

**II. MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Ivan Fernandez

Second: Keith Taylor

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained
Johanna Szillery	X		
Ryan Gordon			X
Irwin Novak	X		
Ivan Fernandez	X		
Keith Taylor	X		
Matthew Boucher	X		

Vote: 5 in favor / 1 Abstained (Ryan Gordon voted to abstain because he did not attend the July 26, 2024 board meeting)  
Motion carried

### **III. UPDATE FROM GEOLOGIST COMPLAINT COMMITTEE**

The Board reviewed documents produced on September 13, 2023 in response to an investigative subpoena dated August 28, 2023 and voted to close its inquiry into whether a company has been providing Grand Penetrating Radar services without employing or contracting with one or more licensed geologists.

Motion: Irwin Novak

Second: Keith Taylor

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained
Johanna Szillery	X		
Ryan Gordon	X		
Irwin Novak	X		
Ivan Fernandez	X		
Keith Taylor	X		
Matthew Boucher	X		

Vote: 6 in favor / 0 Abstained

Motion Carried

### **IV. EXAMINATION APPLICATION REVIEW**

#### **A. GEO-679**

A motion was made to approve the applicant to sit for the examination, the applicant provided enough evidence/documentation to show field work experience

Motion: Irwin Novak

Second: Ivan Fernandez

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained
Johanna Szillery	X		
Ryan Gordon	X		
Irwin Novak	X		
Ivan Fernandez	X		
Keith Taylor	X		
Matthew Boucher	X		

Vote: 6 in favor / 0 Abstained

Motion Carried

### **V. INTERPRETATION OF CHAPTER 73, SECTION 4906**

The Board reviewed correspondence from Austin Young dated September 3, 2024, which asked whether he would qualify for the exemption to licensure in 32 M.R.S. § 4906(1). Section 4906(1) provides: “A person not a resident of and having no established place of business in this State, practicing or offering to practice in the profession of geologist or soil scientist when that practice does not exceed in the aggregate more than 30 days in any calendar year, as long as that person is licensed to practice the profession in the person’s own state or country in which the requirements and qualifications for obtaining a license are equivalent to those specified in this chapter.” Mr. Young, who is not licensed by the Board, represented in his correspondence that he is a resident of Maryland, holds a Certified Professional Soil Scientist certification from the Soil Science Society of America, and has been asked to provide a soil survey in the Town of Lisbon that would be completed over a period of less than 30 days. The Board discussed the fact that Maryland does not issue soil scientist licenses, and it was unclear whether Maryland requires certification by the Soil Science Society of America to practice soil science in that state. The Board therefore could not determine whether the requirements and qualifications in Maryland are equivalent to Maine’s.

Motion: Ivan Fernandez

Second: Irwin Novak

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained
Johanna Szillery			X
Ryan Gordon	X		
Irwin Novak	X		
Ivan Fernandez	X		
Keith Taylor	X		
Matthew Boucher	X		

Votes: 5 in favor / 1 Abstained (Johanna Szillery abstained because she stated that it wasn’t Clear if the examination is equivalent)

Motion Carried

## VI. BOARD MANAGER’S REPORT

### A). Election of Officers

A motion was made to re-elect Johanna Szillery as Board Chairman

Motion: Irwin Novak

Second: Ivan Fernandez

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained
Johanna Szillery			X
Ryan Gordon	X		
Irwin Novak	X		
Ivan Fernandez	X		
Keith Taylor	X		
Matthew Boucher	X		

Votes: 5 in favor / 1 Abstained

Motion Carried

## OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Board Members discussed their concerns with the State Geologist Examination questions based on the public comment made at the end of the last board meeting. Board Members asked for the examination questions to be sent to them for review by the board staff. The board members agreed to review questions before the next board meeting and discuss any changes while in an executive session.
- The Board members scheduled the next board meeting which will be 2/06/2025.

## **VII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The board will offer an opportunity to members of the public in attendance to comment on any public matter under the jurisdiction of the board. While the board cannot take action on any issues presented, the board will listen to comments and may ask staff to place the issue on a subsequent agenda. At the discretion of the board, a time limit on comments may be set.

## **VII. ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

Motion: Irwin Novak

Second: Ivan Fernandez

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained
Johanna Szillery	X		
Ryan Gordon	X		
Irwin Novak	X		
Ivan Fernandez	X		
Keith Taylor	X		
Matthew Boucher	X		

Vote: 6 in favor / 0 Abstained

Motion Carried