CALL TO ORDER

The March 12, 2021, meeting of the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects was held in the 5th floor conference room, 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Chairperson Bostelman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Jan Bostelman, Chair; Brett Foley, Vice-Chair; Daniel Thiele, Secretary; Lenora Isom; Bruce Dvorak, David Johnson; Brian Kelly; Jason Suelter

Staff Present: Jon Wilbeck, Executive Director (Ed); Amy Habe, Compliance Officer (CO); Jean Lais, Business Manager (BM); Mia Azizah, Public Information Officer (PIO)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion by Isom, second by Johnson to nominate Foley as Chair, Thiele as Vice-Chair, and Kelly as Secretary. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

As only one motion was offered and all members affirmatively voted on the motion, Bostelman stated Foley was elected Chair, Thiel was elected Vice-Chair, and Kelly was elected as Secretary by acclamation. The new officer terms became effective immediately.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kaitlin Reece & Jim Grotrian, Catalyst Public Affairs - 8:30 a.m.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

February 19, 2021 meeting minutes

Motion by Isom, second by Johnson to approve the consent agenda. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

B. MEETING REPORTS

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

LB83 - Change the Open Meetings Act to provide for virtual conferencing

A summary of the legislative action on LB83 was provided. The Government, Veterans, and Military Affairs (GVMA) has designated this as a priority bill.

LB250 - Adopt the Interior Design Voluntary Registration Act

A summary of the legislative action on LB250 was provided. Also included was an email from ED Wilbeck to the American Institute of Architects-Nebraska (AIA), American Council of Engineering Companies-Nebraska (ACEC), and the Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers (NeSPE); communication between Catalyst and Dick Clark, legal counsel for the GVMA Committee; and ED Wilbeck and NCARB.

ED Wilbeck provided a copy of AM471 which was introduced on March 9, 2021. The amendment would allow interior designers to act in the coordinating professional role. The members re-stressed the Board's position is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Nebraska and not to advocate for a profession. Isom commented this may be a topic for the spring newsletter explaining the Board's position from a regulatory view and to address some of the misconceptions that may exist among licensees and the professional societies as to the Board's position.

LB263 – Require occupational board to issue credentials based on credentials or work experience in another jurisdiction

A summary of the legislative action on LB263 was provided.

Other Meeting Reports

Catalyst Public Affairs

Jim Grotrian and Kaitlin Reece reported on legislative activity that has taken place since the last board meeting. Priority bills must be identified by the end of the day. LB250 has not been prioritized and due to the opposition to the bill it does not have much chance of being amended into another bill this session. LB263 is still in committee, and LB390 (Uniformed Credentialing Act (health care professions)) has been designated as a priority bill by Senator Murman.

Reece and ED Wilbeck met with Senator Hunt regarding AM471 to LB250 and the Board's concern with the amendment language and to clarify the Board's position of neutrality on Thursday, March 11th. Senator Hunt will be reviewing the language for possible revisions. There also appears to be some confusion as what the role of the coordinating professional comprises. Discussion was held as to the Board's position on the language. It was determined the Board should look no further than what is set out in the statutes and rules.

Members inquired about LB594 which would adopt the *Rural Workforce Crisis Act*. The Act would allow the Director of Economic Development to grant waivers on certain projects related to the requirements for licensees if certain conditions are met. Reece report the bill is still in committee and there was no testimony in favor of the bill at the hearing.

Reece reminded the members, as this is the first year of the legislative session, any bills not passed this year will be forward to next year. Priority bills will always take precedent over any other bills.

C. OLD BUSINESS

NCARB 2021 Virtual Member Board Executive Workshop and Regional Summit Recap

A recap of the Member Board Executive (MBE) Workshop and Regional Summit was provided. ED Wilbeck the MBE Workshop consisted of discussion on the various occupational license related bills from around the nation. Kathy Evans from North Carolina was nominated as the MBE Committee Chair and representative on the NCARB Board of Directors.

Isom was elected as Regional Chair during the Regional meeting. She will stay in the position until her term expires as she was a member of the Nebraska Board at the time of the election. She also reported she will be introducing a revision to the Regional Bylaws to allow non-seated board members to hold office.

NCARB 2021 Draft Resolutions

A copy of the draft resolutions to be discussed at the NCARB Regional Summit meetings was provided.

- Resolution 2021-B: NCARB Certification Guidelines Amendment-Qualifications for Education Alternative updates the Certification Requirements in the NCARB Certification Guidelines to clarify that architects must be licensed for the last three (3) consecutive years in order to qualify for the Education Alternative option as well as that NCARB determines which degrees qualify for this option.
- **Resolution 2021-C:** *NCARB Certification Guidelines* **Amendment-Qualifications for Foreign Alternative** updates the Certification Requirements in the *NCARB Certification Guidelines* to address unintended impediments for foreign architects pursuing the foreign alternative path to certification that occur during the application and review process in some countries.

• **Resolution 2021-D: Sunset of Resolution 2000-1 (Opposition to Interior Design Licensing)** sunsets a 2000 resolution that states the Council can take a neutral position on interior design licensing.

Isom reported this partly comes from the fact that almost half of the NCARB jurisdictions now have interior designers on their board. This resolution puts those jurisdictions in direct contradiction with the NCARB position.

- Resolution 2021-E: Amendment and Restatement of the NCARB Legislative Guidelines and Model Law/Model Regulation is the result of the multi-year Model Law Task Force's work to revise the NCARB Model Law and Regulations. It reorganizes the document, makes it easier to use, and ensures it is consistent with the uniform programs and national models for architectural licensure.
- **Resolution 2021-F: Omnibus Sunset of Resolutions in Conflict with Current Council Policies** is the first part of a multi-year effort to review and sunset resolutions passed by the membership that no longer align to NCARB operations today. These include resolutions from 1980-2018:
 - o Resolution 1996-03: Encouraging Recognition of Practice of Academic Promotion/Tenure
 - Resolution 1995-11: Addition of the IDP Requirement to Architectural School Catalogs
 - o Resolution 1994-01: Amending 1992 Resolution to Authorize Two ADVP Monographs Each Year
 - Resolution 1992-06 and 07: Professional Development (Continuing Education)/Activating ADVP
 - o Resolution 1987-15: Removal of Impediments to Interstate Practice
 - o Resolution 1983-04: Establishing a Procedure for Evaluating Alternate Education
- **Resolution 2021-G:** *NCARB Bylaws Amendment-Director Term Limits* reduces the term limits for directors on the NCARB Board of Directors from three years to two in the *NCARB Bylaws*.

Isom reported this resolution was proposed by the Diversity Task Force. This is an attempt to provide for a more diverse Board of Directors to reflect the diversity of the profession.

• **Resolution 2021-H:** *NCARB Bylaws* **Amendment-NCARB Board of Directors Realignment** realigns positions on the NCARB Board of Directors in the *NCARB Bylaws* to remove the second vice president position, merge the secretary and treasurer positions, and add two at-large director positions. In addition, it creates a nominating committee to vet and nominate candidates for the at-large director positions.

This was also proposed by the Diversity Task Force. The at-large director positions could also be used to appoint subject matter experts for special charges.

The Nominating Committee would be made up of one representative from each region appointed and one additional member appointed by the Board of Directors. The immediate Past President would act as Chair.

Concern was raised that while Resolutions 2021-G and H may allow for diversity of individuals on the Board of Directors, it does not provide requirements for a diversity of abilities.

• **Resolution 2021-I: Member Board Dues Resolution** reduces the Member Board dues and updates the *NCARB Bylaws* to only require the membership to vote on future increases to the dues.

Isom reported dues are being reduced to \$1,000/year from \$6,500 due to the impact of COVID-19 and the additional financial cuts many boards are facing as a result. Any future increase would require a vote of the member boards.

The draft resolutions were discussed at the Regional Summit Meetings in March. The Board of Directors will make a decision at its April meeting on which resolutions need revisions and/or will be brought before the members at the annual business meeting.

Action was deferred to a later board meeting after the final resolutions have been received.

FY 2020-21 Marketing Plan Update

PIO Azizah updated the members on the status of the 2020-21 Marketing Plan. Highlights included:

- CO Habe and PIO Azizah presented at the Randolph Planning Commission and City Administrator on February 23rd. They discussed when licensees may be required on certain building projects and when they are exempt. Questions received included the definition of engineering and licensees' responsibilities, such as sealing plans, clarifications, and requirements. The City Administrator also how they may better inform the public the city serves. It was suggested anyone applying for a permit be given the *Before You Build* brochure, the handbook, calling out the flowcharts on pages 58 and 59. Copies were left to be distributed to the public.
- CO and PIO Azizah are scheduled to present during a breakout session at the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) annual conference on March 25th in Kearney. Topics will include when a licensee may be required on a project. The conference typically draws over 300 attendees and some 120 exhibitors, though numbers are expected to be lower during this conference. Attendees include school administrators and other school offices.
- ED Wilbeck presented to Professor Steve Hardy's architectural class on March 11th. He covered revisions to the statutes as a result of LB755 and professional licensure in Nebraska.
- ED Wilbeck will give a presentation to the CIVE385 class on March 30th on professional licensure in Nebraska. This is a junior and higher standing class for civil engineering majors.
- PIO Azizah has been communicating with Tess Mayer, relations and events coordinator for the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO), to find ways to reach the county officials. As its spring district meetings are limited this year, collaborations are in the works to host a webinar focused on an overview of the Board and the E&A Act. May has been indicated as the preferred timing for the webinar by NACO.
- The NACO webinar will serve as a starting point for Board staff to develop a webinar that can be used by different organizations, including local jurisdictions, the general public, and newly licensed individuals, about the E&A Act. Based on the 2021 jurisdiction survey results, there are still numerous jurisdictions who are unfamiliar with the Board and Act. Hosting a webinar is both cost and time effective and the Board can reach out to more people from different parts of the state.

Kelly inquired if the Board is stilling Facebook and suggested posts could include some of the regional and national activities the members are involved with. PIO Azizah reported she is looking at ways to increase the number posts.

Database Update

ED Wilbeck updated the Board on the database project. He and BM Lais continue to participate in bi-weekly meetings is inLumon and have received access to start working and testing in the new system.

D. NEW BUSINESS

NBEA Operational Planning Meeting

ED Wilbeck provided a list of potential topics for the Board's annual Operational Planning Meeting. These included:

• Interior Designer Registration – continue dialogue with the interior designers, research and draft rules in anticipate of the passage of LB250

- Legislative provide talking points, public hearing testimony, and other statements as needed related to potential bill and other bills directly impacting the Board in 2022, particularly as it relates to occupational reform bills
- Direct Registration of the PE Exam discussion of any related statute and rules revisions needed to allow for direct registration of the PE exam
- Board Staff Size discussion on possibly adding staff to support an increasing workload of compliance issues and support for interior designer registration if LB250 passes.
- Unified/Allied Board discussion on the possibility of combining the Board of Engineers and Architects, Board of Geologists, State Board of Landscape Architects, and the Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors – The members requested ED Wilbeck reach out to these boards to determine their interest in undergoing this endeavor.

The following were suggested after discussion:

- Farm Building Definition start work on revising language related to the definition of farm buildings in the statutes and rules
- NCEES General Education Requirement look at the potential of introducing a resolution to revert the general education requirement in the NCEES Education Standard to 16 from 12.
- Review of Fees
- Organization Title Blocks discussion of requiring organizations to place a title block on drawings and the statutes and rules revisions needed.

The meeting was scheduled for May 4, 2021, beginning at 12:00pm. ED Wilbeck will work with Chair Foley to finalize the agenda and prepare the meeting materials.

NCARB Board of Directors Candidates

Copies of letters announcing candidacy for the NCARB Board of Directors were provided from the following candidates:

- Bayless Ward, MT, First Vice President/President-Elect
- John Baker, CA, Second Vice President
- Kenneth Van Tine, MI, Treasurer

Discussion of Resolution to Reset Education Standard to 16 General Education Hours

In July 2019, the NCEES Board of Director's changed the number of general education hours in the Education Standard from sixteen to twelve on the recommendation of the Education Committee without input or vote of the member boards. Discussion on the issue took place at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Inserts from the meeting's Action Items and Conference Reports along with the minutes related to the issue were provided.

Discussion was held as to the steps taken by the NCEES Board of Directors since the 2019 Annual Meeting. As per the resolution, the issue was referred to the Bylaws Committee for further study. This resulted in Section 7.04 of the NCEES Bylaws being revised to require a full vote of the member boards before any future changes to the Education Standard were implemented. It also added an annual review of the Education Standard charge to the Education Committee.

Further discussion will take place at the Board's Operational Planning meeting.

Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects **Draft Board Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2021, 8:30 a.m.** 5th Floor Large Conference Room, 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE

2021 NCEES Central Zone Interim Meeting Voting Delegate Notification

As the Zone Interim Meeting will be held virtually this year, NCEES provided the recommended equipment requirements for the voting delegate. Notification of the voting delegate must be received by NCEES no later than March 29, 2021.

Dvorak was chosen as the voting delegate. Dvorak, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Bostelman, and ED Wilbeck were authorized to attend the meeting.

Motion by Johnson, second by Bostelman to appoint Dvorak as the Voting Delegate to the 2021 NCEES Central Zone Interim Meeting and authorize per diem for Dvorak, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Bostelman and Ed Wilbeck. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Johnson, Foley; Voting No: None.

NCEES Central Zone Secretary/Treasurer Call for Nominations

A call for nominations for the position of Central Zone secretary/treasurer was provided. As no nominations have been received, nomination will take place at the meeting in accordance to the NCEES *Zone meeting and Continuity Guidelines*.

Emeritus Board Members Designation and Term Renewals

A list of former Board members eligible for Emeritus Board Member status renewal was provided.

Motion by Kelly, second by Suelter to renew the Emeritus Board member status of Mark Champion, Fred Choobineh, Michael Conzett, Roger Helgoth, Krista Kester, Jennifer Klein, Lori Krejci, and Thomas Laging. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

Board member travel and per diem requests

The following per diem requests were approved by the Board. All meetings are currently scheduled to be held virtually.

- Isom March 17, 2021 NCARB Diversity Task Force
- Isom April 14, 2021 NCARB Policy Advisory Committee and Regional Committee Meetings
- Suelter April 2021 NCEES Structural Engineering exam development committee (2 days Dates will be provided once finalized)
- Bostelman July 2021 NCEES Nuclear Engineering Exam Committee observer (2 days Dates will be provided once finalized)

Motion by Bostelman, second by Isom to approve the travel and per diem requests. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

E. COMPLIANCE

Summary of Open Cases

Executive Session began at 10:45 a.m.

Motion by Thiele, second by Bostelman to enter into executive session for the discussion of compliance investigations and partner-agency processes not a matter of public information to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of those involved. The limitation of the executive session was restated by Chair Foley. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

Active Cases: Summary & Documentation

Cases 19.05, 20.02, 20.14, 20.22, 20.27, 20.30, 20.34, 20.36, 20.37, 21.01, 21.05, 21.08, 21.09, 21.10, 21.11, 21.12, 21.13, 21.14, 21.15, 21.17, 21.18. 21.19, and 21.20 were discussed in executive session.

Other Compliance Issues

Partner agency processes were reviewed in executive session.

Motion by Isom, second by Bostelman to close executive session for the discussion of compliance investigations and partner-agency processes not a matter of public information to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of those involved. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

Executive Session ended at 11:50 a.m.

Motion by Kelly, second by Isom to notice a hearing for May 13, 2021, in Case 20.22. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

Motion by Kelly, second by Isom to dismiss Case 20.36 without disciplinary action based on the successful complete of architectural remediation. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

Motion by Kelly, second by Bostelman to dismiss Case 21.08 without disciplinary action based on the successful complete of architectural and engineering remediation. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

Motion by Kelly, second by Bostelman to dismiss Case 21.14 without prejudice. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

Motion by Kelly, second by Isom to dismiss Case 21.15 after sending a Letter of Caution. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

Motion by Kelly, second by Bostelman to authorize architectural and MEP engineering remediation due to the immediacy of risk to the health, safety, and welfare of the occupants who cannot self-preserve in Case 21.20 and request a response within 15 days and a remediation plan within 45 days. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

F. APPLICATIONS

Administratively Approved

Licensure of Professional Engineers by NCEES MLE Designation

Approved: E-18606 Austin Tanner Becker, Civil; E-18609 Jomaa Ben Hassine, Civil; E-18632 Joseph William Blackwell, Architectural; E-18610 Beth Ann Brock, Mechanical; E-18629 John Baylis Butt, Civil; E-18631 James Brian Carroll, Civil; E-18620 Jorge Luis Castillo, Civil; E-18628 Jason Pal Cerbin, Mechanical; E-18611 Jesse Mark Chase, Structural; E-18607 Jason Donald Davis, Civil; E-18621 Christopher John DeRosa, Electrical and Computer, E-18616 Paull Jared Eggers, Civil; E-18617 Alicia Marie Elkenberry, Civil; E-18622 John Thomas Gaito, Mechanical; E-18635 David Wayne Harrison, Mechanical; E-18608 Steve Eric Herron, Mechanical; E-18612 Nicole Kristine Kozmin, Electrical and Computer; E-18613 Matthew William Lee, Civil; E-18633 Andrew Dale Leonard, Mechanical; E-18612 Matthew William McKee, Structural; E-18624 Austin Allen Meier, Civil; E-18626 Kenneth James Mueller, Civil; E-18637 Brent Matthew Saba, Metallurgical; E-18614 Jennifer Lynn Schenkman, Civil; E-18630 Jamie Elizabeth Bell Schwegmann, Environmental; E-18636 Elizabeth Nicole Sowers, Civil; E-18623 Joshua Ryan Sparks, Chemical; E-18625 Ronald Edward Walsh, Electrical; E-18627 John Louis Weiland, Civil; E-18634 Aaron Joseph Wolf, Structural

Licensure of Architects by NCARB Certification

Approved: A-5257 Kevin Egan Conley, A-5252 Ranjit Balakrishan Gupta, A-5262 Jenniver Diane Hannon, A-5258 Bobby Shane Lyle, A-5259 Jorge Andres Mendez, A-5253 Loren Sylvester Morschen, A-5261 Edward Alan Ottesen, A-5263 John Francis Pohling, A-5264 Nathaniel William Shea, A-5254 Best Anne Valdivia

Temporary Permits

Approved: T-627 Joseph Anthony Ricotta, Engineering

Engineer Intern Enrollments

Approved: Oluwaseni Karen Korede Adkunle, Joshua Glenn Bailey, Gabriel Christian Najera

Certificates of Authorization

Approved: CA4513 S&M Engineering PA, CA4514 Mid America Consultants Inc, CA4515 River Street Architecture LLC, CA4516 Saber Power Services LLC, CA4517 McCloud & Associates LLC, CA4518 HE Consulting Inc, CA4519 Cotta Controls LLC, CA4520 LT Leon Associates Inc, CA4521 Thybar Corporation, CA4522 Linner Morschen Architects LLC, CA4523 CTE Wind USA Inc, CA4524 MC Squared Inc, CA4525 Old Sorrell Engineering PLLC, CA4526 Cornerstone Group Architects LLP, CA4527 Solum Lang Architecs LLC, CA4528 The Consulting Engineers Group LLC, CA4529 Erie Architectural Products USA Inc, CA4530 Haila Architecture Structure Planning Ltd, CA5432 Coolsys Energy Design LLC

Licensure/Examination

Initial Licensure of Professional Engineers (None)

Licensure of Professional Engineers by Comity

Approved: Adel Abdel-Rahman Al-Wazeer, Civil; Amir Irhayyim, Civil; David Andrew Jessep, Structural; Chang Hwan Moon, Electrical and Computer; Salah Al-Deen Yousek, Civil; Paul Bernard Donovan, Environmental

Licensure of Professional Engineers by Experience

Approved: Paul Bernard Donovan, Environmental; Michael Paul Johnson, Civil

Initial Licensure of Architects (None)

Licensure of Architects by Comity (None)

Licensure of Architects by Experience (None)

Licensure of Professional Engineers by Reinstatement (None)

Licensure of Architects by Reinstatement (None)

PE/SE Exam Approvals

Approved: Devin Joseph Flemming, Mechanical; Drew Elliot Fleming Gay, Electrical and Computer; George William Giese, III, Civil; Ryan Joseph Hempel, Mechanical; William James Kallhoff, Civil; Riley James Vanek, Environmental

Special Cases

Licensure of Professional Engineers by Comity

Approved: Amol Vasantrao Sawant, Civil – Board removed the general education deficiency in accordance to Board Rule 2.2.5.4

Motion by Thiele, second by Isom to accept the staff recommendations on the applications. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

Completed Application Statistics

ED Wilbeck provided charts and statistics regarding the number of applications, certificates of authorizations, and other applications by type.

G. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Reports

FY 2020-21 Financial Profile, February 2021

MTD General Ledger Detail Report, February 2021

Fund Summary Report, February 2021

Budget Status Report, February 2021

ED Wilbeck reviewed the financial reports with the members.

Motion by Bostelman, second by Thiele to approve the financial reports as presented. Voting Yes: Johnson, Kelly, Suelter, Thiele, Dvorak, Isom, Bostelman, Foley; Voting No: None.

H. GENERAL INFORMATION

A schedule of upcoming meetings and events was provided. The next board meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in the fifth floor conference room, 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska.

September meeting changed to the 16th.

Licensure and Certificate Trends Numbers as of March 4, 2021

Professional Engineers	8,392
Architects	1,856
Certificates of Authorization	2,198
Temporary Permits	15

Examination Information/Results

There were 116 ARE candidates with open eligibilities as of March 1, 2021.

Other Information

The Facebook Analytics Report shows 154 individuals were reached from February 4 to March 3, 2021.

The Website Dashboard Report indicated the Board's website had 5,003 total visits in February.

Board policies as of January 22, 2021 were provided.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Thiele, second by Suelter to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Brian M. Kelly, Secretary