

Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects
Operational Planning Meeting Minutes –May 21, 2026, 9 a.m.
Thiele Geotech Training Center, 13460 Chandler Rd, Omaha, NE, 68138

CALL TO ORDER

The May 21, 2026, Operational Planning meeting of the Board of Engineers and Architects was held at 13460 Chandler Rd, Omaha, Nebraska. Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star and on the Board's website in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Lenora Nelson, Chair; Dan Thiele, Vice Chair; Jim Brisnehan, Secretary; Jan Bostelman; Bruce Dvorak; Brett Foley; Absent: Jason Suelter, Brian Kelly

Staff Present: Jon Wilbeck, Executive Director (ED); Amy Habe, Compliance Officer (CO); Jean Lais, Administrative Programs Officer (APO); Allyson Berglund, Public Information Officer (PIO); Cole Gressley, Administrative Programs Officer (APO); Lilliana Irvine, Compliance Assistant (CA)

NCARB/NCEES Topics

Draft Resolutions to be Acted Upon at the 2026 NCARB Annual Business Meeting

Copies of the proposed resolutions to be acted upon at the 2026 NCARB Annual Business Meeting, June 25-27, 2026, in Minneapolis, MN, were provided.

- **Resolution 2026-01:** Mutual Recognition Agreement with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) - The resolution would replace the existing agreement with the ARB in the United Kingdom (UK). The new agreement would accept pathways outside the standard path to NCARB certification, aligning with the current MRAs with Canada and Australia/New Zealand. The NCARB Board of Directors supported the resolution 15-0, and it requires an absolute majority of the member boards, which is 28 votes.
- **Resolution 2026-02:** Amendment and Restatement of Policies Passed by the Membership – The resolution updates six policies previously passed by the membership to reflect current terminology and practice. It also creates a single membership document containing all policies for clarity, consistency, easier membership access, and easier future review. Additionally, two policies are set for sunset that have been incorporated into other official documents and are duplicative or no longer necessary. The NCARB Board of Directors supported the resolution 15-0, and it requires an absolute majority of the member boards, which is 28 votes.
- **Resolution 2026-03:** *Certification Guidelines* Amendment-Expanding Access to NCARB Certification – The resolution would update the *NCARB Certification Guidelines* to add an alternative to the Examination Requirement for the NCARB Certificate for architects licensed through historic exams. It would allow architects who were licensed through a jurisdiction-specific process to satisfy the NCARB paper-and-pencil exam to seek NCARB certification if they have been in good standing, building on previous guidelines amendments. The Board of Directors supported the resolution 15-0, and it requires an absolute majority of the member boards, which is 28 votes.

Motion by Thiele, second by Foley, to approve Nelson as the voting delegate to the 2026 NCARB Annual Business Meeting, Foley as the alternate, and authorize the voting delegate to vote in favor of the three resolutions and allow the delegates to use discretion based on information received at the meeting. Voting Yes: Bostelman, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Thiele, Nelson; Voting No: None; Absent: Suelter, Kelly

FY27 Candidates for Positions on the NCARB Board of Directors and Regional Leadership

A list of candidates for the FY27 NCARB Board of Directors and Regional Leadership was provided. Confirmation for:

- Syliva Kwan, CA – Vice President
- Shannon Himes, OH – Member Board Executive Director
- Nathan Baker – Region V Director

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- Brian Kelly, NE – Region V Chair
- Katherine Wilson, WY – Region V Vice Chair
- Jared Carda, SD – Region V Secretary/Treasurer

Public Director

- Olivia Davis – KY
- Jean Otto - MN

Motion by Foley, second by Thiele, to authorize the voting delegate to vote for Davis as the Public Director and allow the delegates to use discretion based on information received at the meeting. Voting Yes: Bostelman, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Thiele, Nelson; Voting No: None; Absent: Suelter, Kelly

At-Large Director (Vote for Two)

- Pedro Alfaro, Jr – PR
- Marjorie Brown – OR
- Mark McKenchnie – OR
- Jakiel Sanders – GA
- Bobbi Jo Duneman – IA
- Dmitriy Kazkov – CA
- Emmanuel Moreno – TX
- Greg Wynn – CA

Motion by Foley, second by Bostelman, to authorize the voting delegate to vote for Brown and Wynn, and allow the delegates to use discretion based on information received at the meeting. Voting Yes: Bostelman, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Thiele, Nelson; Voting No: None; Absent: Suelter, Kelly

Region V Officers (Confirmation)

Kelly entered the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

NCARB Region V Student Outreach

In 2025, Region V established a regional Student Outreach Committee to focus outreach efforts on students in professional practice classes. A regional budget of \$6,000/year was established in 2022 to assist boards and schools in holding outreach day programs at each of the state's architectural schools. Kelly has requested the Board discuss what its role may be in such a program at the University of Nebraska's College of Architecture. Example agendas from past programs were provided.

The projected timeline to hold an education symposium in Nebraska is 2 years, with the first year dedicated to planning. It was suggested that fall may be the best time, and it would be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It was also suggested a committee be formed to assist with the planning. Proposed topics included:

- Education focuses only
- Understanding licensure focus/responsibilities between the related organizations
- Testing 101/Exam Theory
- Facetime between students and practitioners
- Current licensing issues

Additional discussion will be held during the regional meeting at the 2026 NCARB Annual Business Meeting, June 25-27, 2026, in Minneapolis.

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Summary of 2025–26 NCEES committee and task force charges with resulting motions

A summary of the 2025-26 NCEES committee and task force charges and resulting motions to be considered at the 2026 Annual Meeting, August 18-21, 2026, in Henderson, NV, was provided. The following resolutions were discussed:

- **Education Charge 3/Motion 2** – The motion would add an ETAC/ABET-accredited degree licensure pathway, which would include an adjustment in the experience requirement.
- **Education Charge 6/Motion 4** – The motion removes specific delivery method requirements, simplifies qualifying activity language, and allows flexibility for evolving education formats (online, hybrid, etc.)
- **Law Enforcement Charge 6/Motion 1** – The motion would expand the definition of *good character*
- **Law Enforcement Charge 8/Motion 2** – The motion would clarify when a licensee is required to report and when not to report a violation to the applicable licensing authority
Foley recommended removing the proposed language, as it should be a board's role to determine whether an instance is material. He also recommended leaving the words *should* and *or regulatory*.
- **Law Enforcement Charge 9** – Review of member boards' sealing requirements and evaluate model rules for adequacy and recommend revisions as necessary.
- **Law Enforcement Charge 10** – Develop guidelines to assist member boards in providing direction for revising drawings originally sealed by a licensee who is no longer in responsible charge of the document and provide recommendations as appropriate.
- **Licensure Charge 2/Motion 3** – The motion amends the Model Law to clarify the definition and purpose of a seal, signature, and electronic or digital signature. It incorporates language moved from the Model Rules.
- **Licensure Charge 2/Motion 4** – The motion removes language related to the definition of electronic and digital sealing and places it in Model Law.
- **Licensure Charge 4/Motion 6-8** – The motions amend several Model Rules subsections related to experience for clarity and amend the Model Rules to prioritize the exam registration process for decoupling.
- **Licensure Charge 4/Motion 9** – The motion amends the Model Rules to prioritize the exam registration process for decoupling.
- **Licensure Charge 5** – Reviews Model Rules to evaluate the feasibility of incorporating a seven-year period for required references and recommend revisions as necessary.
- **Licensure Charge 6/Motion 10** – The motion amends the Model Law to add a modified pathway for engineering applicants with a doctoral degree in engineering that eliminates the requirement to pass the FE exam.
- **Member Board Administrators Charge 2/Motion 1** – The motion adds a non-voting member board administrator position to the Board of Directors with one-year terms, rotation among the Zones, and no back-to-back nominations.
- **Structural Practice Task Force Charge 1/Motions 1-2** – The motions provide a model definition of *significant structures* for incorporation into Model Law.
- **Structural Practice Task Force Charge 3/Motions 4-6** – The motions provide for distinct structural engineering licensure requirements separate from those for initial professional engineering licensure.
- **Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines Charge 11** – Review Model Rules to determine if NCEES should be the only source of foreign degree evaluations and recommend revisions as necessary.

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Enforcement/Regulation

Potential Title 110, Neb. Admin. Code Revisions

A copy of the proposed revisions to Title 110, NAC, was provided. The revisions included additional staff recommendations as follows:

- **Rule 1.6:** Deletion of subsections 1.6.1 through 1.6.3 – Staff does not believe the subsections are needed based on the language in the Rule 1.6.
- **Rule 1.9.4:** Revise to read, "...before the Board which are either intended to, or which might appear to..."
- **Rule 1.15:** - Retitle as *Transcripts* and delete the first sentence related to photographs on applications. Photographs have not been required on applications for quite a while; staff believe the reference to them is no longer necessary.
- **Rule 2.5.2:** Revise for consistency across similar rules.
- **Rule 2.6.1:** Add, "...in accordance with the E&A Act."
- **Rule 2.6.3:** Revise for clarity
- **Rule 2.6.4:** Revise for clarity
- **Rule 3.5.2:** Revise for consistency across similar rules.
- **Rule 4.1.3.1.3:** Revise to clarify that three references are needed, even if professional references are not available along with an explanation as to why the professional references are not available.
- **Rule 4.1.5.2:** Added for consistency across similar rules.
- **Rule 4.1.6.2:** Revise to include all information provided on the permit template and the comity license the permit holder is to use when preparing plans under the permit.
- **Rule 4.2.2.1.3:** Same revision as Rule 4.1.3.1.3.
- **Rule 4.2.4.2:** Same revision as Rule 4.1.6.2.
- **Rule 6.1.5:** Revise to clarify what is required on a plan sheet when two or more licensees perform the work showing.
- **Rule 6.1.6:** Revise to clarify how the licensee's signature and date should appear with the licensee's seal.
- **Rule 6.1.10:** New rule outlining the responsibilities of a successor licensee takes over the work of the licensee in responsible charge who is no longer available to complete the work.
- **Rule 6.2:** Rename to Prototypical Projects
- **Rule 9.2.4:** Revise to delete the requirement that continuing education topics be technical in nature or part of a professional's body of knowledge or as health, safety, and welfare – Move Rule 9.3.3 here.
- **Rule 9.3.3:** Move to Rule 9.2.4.
- **Rule 9.3.4:** Revise to clarify self-guided activities must use the form provided by the Board.
- **Rule 9.5.1.2:** Add the American Institute of Architects to the list of continuing education transcript providers accepted by the Board.

The following additional revisions were discussed:

- The members requested a review and possible revision of the board-reviewed application language in Chapters 2, 3, and 4.
- Adding a definition for the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in Chapter 1
- **Rule 9.3:** Adding language regarding pre-recorded courses and revising the language related to web-based courses – After discussion, it was decided to hold and revisions until after the NCEES annual meeting in August.

Statistical data was provided for additional discussion regarding experience and the time it takes an applicant without an accredited degree to fulfill the experience requirement, as related to Rule 2.3.3 and 2.3.4:

- Engineering experience earned co-current with full-time or part-time graduate study

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- Defensibility of meeting the experience requirement when meeting the NCEES education standards, since accredited degrees undergo a more rigorous review than the NCEES education standards.
- Materials required when submitting international experience, and what the Board's expectations are
- Definition of teaching
- Research limited to faculty

After discussion, no revisions to Rules 2.3.3 or 2.3.4 were suggested.

A discussion was held regarding the reason for the four-year requirement. Foley suggested looking at a standard number of hours. He believes experience should be verified at the staff level, with a minimum of verification of time at the employer. ED Wilbeck will reach out to other boards to learn their processes and obtain the forms they use.

- **Rule 2.3.12:** add "instructor of record responsible for content delivery" to clarify who may use teaching experience to meet the experience requirement.
- **Rule 2.3.13:** add "...and staff" to expand who may use research experience to meet the experience requirement.

Bostelman left the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

[Suitability of office software, CAD and similar topics for CE credit](#)

The Board had requested ED Wilbeck to inquire with other jurisdictions about what they consider acceptable or unacceptable topics for continuing education (CE), such as CAD software training, word processing, spreadsheets, and database software training. The responses received were provided, along with the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) *Professional Engineering Body of Knowledge* and NCARB *Continuing Education Guidelines*.

The purpose of CE is to maintain competency. Discussion was held regarding the professional societies' body of knowledge. Many of the members felt they are too broad. It needs to be narrow-minded to ensure the licensee is still competent to practice. Chair Nelson believes soft skills identified by the employer as lacking should be acceptable, and requiring CE ensures the licensee does something to demonstrate competency.

It was determined that a list of non-acceptable CE topics be included in Chapter 9. These included, but may not be limited to:

- Courses in which the content is below the level of knowledge and skill that reflects the responsibility of the licensee in charge
- Personal self-improvement courses
- Personal, estate, or financial planning
- Real estate courses

It was also suggested that an exam be given as part of the renewal and/or audit process, which could be used for 1 hour of CE credit. A thirty-question multiple-choice exam was suggested, which requires the licensee to also cite the applicable statute or rule. It would not qualify for the ethics hour. Further discussion will be held at a later date on the delivery method.

[Viewing Board webinar recordings for CE credit](#)

Staff requested the Board to confirm its position on granting continuing education credits for viewing recordings of the Board's webinars. Staff recommended granting the credit as self-guided activities, capped at a quarter of the required CE hours. No discussion took place, and the topic was tabled until the May 29, 2026, regular board meeting.

Artificial Intelligence in the Professions

A draft copy of a guidance document related to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) was provided along with NSPE's case review of *Artificial Intelligence in Engineering Practice*. Additionally, information was provided from the NCEES *Manual of Position and Policy Statements*, a policy advisory opinion from the Texas board, and slides from an NCEES presentation.

The Board understands regulatory bodies are using AI to perform plan reviews. The issue is non-licensees stating they are using the same software, so why are they required to pay to have a licensee involved? Questions were raised related to required disclosures on how designs were created, copyright infringement, and responsibility. The members requested ED Wilbeck to reach out to other boards to understand how they are addressing the issue and what actions they have taken.

Online Marketplace/Fraudulent Seals

A copy of the press release issued by the Board regarding the increased use of fraudulent seals was provided along with information from North Carolina, and the NCEES Basecamp message board. Thiele believes NCARB and NCEES should develop a block seal that anyone can use to verify whether a seal is valid. Another way is to allow a reverse lookup on the Board's online lookup by license number. Dvorak suggested asking building officials what information/platform they use to verify a license number.

Compliance Statistics

Statistical data and maps related to compliance cases were provided. The members requested staff start tracking the following:

- Number of plans reviewed, with the number resulting in compliance cases being opened.
- The respondent and project type

Public Information

Future Day Trip Plan

A map was provided showing the planned day trips through the first quarter of 2028. The schedule allows for visits to each area every two years.

Goal-Setting and Prioritizing Marketing & Outreach for FY 2026-27

PIO Berglund provided an outline of the Marketing and Outreach goals and priorities for FY2026-27. Discussion was held on the following new outreach efforts in the fiscal year:

- **Monthly Open Q&A Sessions** – Suggestions were to hold over the lunch hour the Thursday before board meetings.
- **Refocus on Lumberyards** – Suggested they be added to day trip agendas – PIO Berglund is also looking at sending focused communication to all lumberyards registered with the Secretary of State.
- **Education Symposium for NCARB Region V** – Working with the region and supporting with planning as needed.
- **Promoting Engineering Week and Architecture Week** – Using social media to promote each on a more active basis, along with NeSPE's PE Day in August
- **Emphasize the Board's Anniversary** – Through newspaper articles, PureNebraska interview, partnering with the professional societies, UNL-Civil and Environmental Department is celebrating 150 years in 2027

Draft FY2026-27 Marketing Plan

A copy of the draft Marketing Plan was provided.

Budget

Historical Budget Data

ED Wilbeck provided historical budget data in preparation for creating the 2027-2029 biennium budget request. Dvorak suggested looking into different delivery methods for getting the education reimbursement eligibility announcements out.

Goals/Priorities for FY2026-27 and 2027-29 Biennium

A list of suggested goals and priorities for FY2026-27 and the 2027-29 Biennium was provided. The members requested staff look into possibly offering a virtual option for viewing the board meetings. They also requested that staff look into holding hybrid meetings where the public could participate in person or virtually.

FY26/27 Board Committees

Based on discussion, the following committees for FY2026-27 were suggested:

- **Executive** – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary
- **Legislative**
- **Artificial Intelligence** – Brisnehan expressed interest in serving on this committee.
- **Continuing Education** – Dvorak and Foley expressed interest in serving on this committee.

ED Wilbeck and Chair Nelson will work on assigning members to the committees and bring the committee make-up and charges to the May 29, 2026, board meeting.

ADJOURN

Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.


Jim Brisnehan, Secretary