CALL TO ORDER

The October 16, 2026, meeting of the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects (the "Board") was held in the fifth-floor conference room of 215 Centennial Mall S, Lincoln, Nebraska. Chair 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; Dan Thiele, Vice-Chair; Jim Brisnehan, Secretary; Bruce Dvorak; Brett Foley; Trent Reed; Jason Suelter; Absent: Zeb Lund

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

Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

September 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes

NCARB Update – August 2026

NCARB Fast Facts – September 2026

Motion by Thiele, second by Brisenhan, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

B. SUBCOMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

NBEA Subcommittee Reports

FY2026-27 Board Committees

CE Committee September Meeting Summary

The committee is recommending that a guidance document be created rather than listing unacceptable continuing education topics in the rules and regulations. The committee believes that a guidance document grants the Board more control over content than rules and regulations do, as feedback can be received on a topic and the document revised as necessary. Once the document's content is fairly stable, then the Board could consider incorporating the document into the rules.

The committee presented an outline of the guidance document for review. The committee is working on a draft and plans to have it available at the December meeting.

C. OLD BUSINESS

NCEES 2027 Zone Meeting – Local Board Collaboration

ED Wilbeck provided a copy of his response to the collaboration questions received from NCEES for the 2027 Zone Meeting to be held in Omaha, April 22-24, 2027, as discussed at the September board meeting.

Status of Proposed Rules Changes After 2026 NCEES Annual Meeting

ED Wilbeck provided a copy of the proposed rules changes as discussed to date. Staff added an additional revision to Rule 2.8.1 to delete the reference to no-shows and failures. The members agreed with the staff's recommendation. The revision reads as:

With respect to Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-3432.01, each eligible individual who passes the FE examination may be reimbursed up to the amount of the examination fee by the Board of Engineers and Architects. In order to receive reimbursement, proof of graduation must be officially issued by the degree-granting institution and received by the Board within a year of graduation. Payment will be a warrant issued by the State of Nebraska.

After discussion, it was decided to wait until Spring 2027 to begin the promulgation process.

Update on Licensee Database Replacement Project w/NCARB

ED Wilbeck updated the Board on the status of the database replacement project.

D. NEW BUSINESS

Trade Name Request

A trade name request was received from the National Organization of Minority Architects to use the word "architects" in its trade name. The organization is a professional society whose mission is to support and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, professional development, mentorship, education, and professional opportunities for underrepresented architects in the profession.

The organization does not practice or offers to practice architecture in the state.

Motion by Foley, second by Thiele, to approve the trade name request for the organization known as "NOMA Nebraska – A Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects" to use the term "architects" in its trade name. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

NCEES 2026-27 Call for Awards

A copy of NCEES' 2026-07 Call for Awards was provided. Nominations are due to NCEES no later than January 31, 2027.

NCEES Foundation Board of Directors Application

A copy of the announcement that NCEES is seeking two individuals to serve on the NCEES Foundation Board of Directors was provided. Terms are three years and begin October 1, 2027. Individuals interested need to apply no later than December 1, 2026.

NCARB Update – September 2026

A copy of the September 2026 NCARB Update was provided. ED Wilbeck, who serves on the NCARB Experience Committee, informed the members that the committee is looking at alternative ways to evaluate experience. The current model leans heavily on existing architects at the corporate level, which there is not a lot of support for, so the committee is looking at developing a new version of the AXP.

NCARB MBC/MBE Leadership Summit Recap

ED Wilbeck provided a recap of the NCARB Leadership Summit held October 9-10, 2026, in Memphis, TN. The NCARB Board of Directors has approved a new AXP/ARE chart that includes alternative methods for gaining experience without necessarily completing all ARE sections or obtaining an architectural degree. NCARB is not looking at creating a Model Law pathway for the Pathways to Licensure initiative. Rather, it is looking to individual jurisdictions to test and develop it, then will create model language once a supermajority of the boards have adopted it.

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ED Wilbeck was informed by NCARB that Model language already supports Pathways to Licensure, but he does not believe that is the case after reviewing. There has not been much communication regarding the pathways, but he advised the members that if they feel the standard is lower than what is needed in the state, the Board needs to push back. He will reach out to AIA-Nebraska to see what its thoughts are on it.

Discussion was held about asking boards to place more faith in examination and experience, regardless of where the knowledge was obtained. Based on the information provided, it appears an individual could become licensed solely based on an apprenticeship or self-taught experience, with no formal schooling. The members could see educational institutions providing major pushback as jurisdictions start introducing the revised legislation.

Outreach/Marketing Plan Update

PIO Berglund updated the members on upcoming outreach and marketing opportunities. Highlights included:

- Lunch and Learn Webinar – September 21, 2026 – directed toward building officials and local jurisdictions, but was also open to licensees – Approximately 500 people attended
- Lunch and Learn Webinar – October 26, 2026 – covering license renewals, CE requirements, and audits
- PIO Berglund spoke with junior engineering students at Doane University on October 6, 2026
- Monthly Q&A Sessions – October 8th, November 12th, and December 10th
- New Licensee Ceremony – November 6, 2026, Capitol Rotunda
    - Architect Presenter: Lund
    - Engineer Presenter: Thiele, Suelter
    - Professional Engineers Attending – 83
    - Architects Attending – 18

Board Member Travel and Per Diem Requests

Board/Staff Member	Date	Funding	Activity
Bruce Dvorak	October 16, 2026 October 30, 2026 November 13, 2026 November 27, 2026 December 11, 2026	N/A	NCEES Education Committee (Virtual)
Bruce Dvorak	January 25-26, 2027 (travel: Jan 24 and 27)	NCEES	NCEES Education Committee (Ft. Myers, FL)

Motion by Thiele, second by Brisenhan, to approve per diem and travel requests as presented. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

E. APPLICATIONS

Administratively Approved

Licensure of Professional Engineers by NCEES MLE Designation

E-22440 Brent Joseph Amelon, Civil; E-22437 Jonathan Michael Auman, Mechanical; E-22452 Greta Fayette Backman, Civil; E-22444 Madison Ann Broers-Fernandez, Civil; E-22442 Thomas Fred Callison, Civil; E-21281 Jacob Lee Cicero, Mechanical; E-22446 Grady Lee Cooper, Civil; E-22432 Jeremy Scott Duff, Structural; E-22436

Alexander Ryan Eisele, Civil; E-22448 Marcus Charles Emerson, Electrical and Computer; E-22419 Matthew Charles Eversole, Civil; E-22435 Matthew Brian Foley, Mechanical; E-22423 William James Gellner II, Civil; E-22434 Nicholas Alexander Gmitter, Mechanical; E-22433 Nathaniel Martin Haselden, Civil; E-22430 Chester Chih Kuang Huang, Civil; E-22445 Steven Lee Ihnen, Civil; E-22424 Jordan David Jonston, Electrical and Computer; E-22428 Stephen Joel Kamp, Electrical and Computer; E-22443 John Raymond Kendall, Civil; E-22450 Kelly Gene Knowles, Civil; E-22451 Roberto Jose Lebron Laboy, Environmental; E-22438 Nolan Carl Osland, Civil; E-22422 Drew Alexander Rose, Electrical and Computer; E-22449 Scott Douglas Rowland, Civil; E-22441 William Joseph Rusciolelli, Electrical and Computer; E-22427 James Robert Sattem, Electrical and Computer; E-22429 Samuel Marcus Schlecht, Architectural; E-22421 Stacey Renae Thomas, Civil; E-22425 Chloe Celeste Touze, Civil; E-22447 Ryan Patrick Walsh, Mechanical

Licensure of Architects by NCARB Certification

A-5985 Ryan Laxton Hamrick, A-5976 Leah Marie Hurt, A-5984 Keith Roger Nichols, A-5986 Jozef Michal Petrak, A-5983 John Michael Schwartz, A-5982 Ryan Lynn Turner

Temporary Permits - *None*

Engineer Intern Enrollment Certificates

Dwane Roberto Amador Rocha, Ava Makey Imhof, Sophia-Rae Yvonne Mace, Allen Kwesi Sena Minta

Certificates of Authorization

CA5806 Chad Stewart and Associates Inc, CA5807 Schwob Steel Services LLC, CA5808 FSE LLC, CA5809 BetonStructure LLC, CA5810 KJG Architecture Inc, CA5811 Louis G Chiodini Inc, CA5812 GrindWorks Engineering Inc, CA5813 Rinka Inc, CA5814 CCH Engineering Inc, CA5815 Tarkett Sports Design Inc, CA5816 ECS Midwest LLC, CA5817 Renaissance Group Inc, CA5818 Restore Consulting LLC, CA5819 Innovative Engineering Solutions LLC, CA5820 D2 Groups LLC, CA5821 Van Winkle-Schmidt-Palmer Engineering LLC, CA5822 Earth Retention LLC, CA5823 CM Structural Engineering PLLC, CA5824 Design Tree Engineering Inc

Licensure/Examination

Licensure of Professional Engineers by Comity and Initial

Initial Licensure, Staff Recommendation to Approve: Jacob Edward Deschler, Mechanical; Tyler Dean Pester, Civil; Trevor Michael Wald, Civil; Makayla Ann Ward, Architectural

Comity Licensure – None

Licensure of Professional Engineers by Experience - *None*

Licensure of Professional Engineers by Reinstatement

Staff Recommendation to Approve: E-8949 Stephen Lee Carr, Civil

Licensure of Architects by Comity and Initial

Initial Licensure, Staff Recommendation to Approve: Corey Joseph Thiele, Haley Marie Zelenka

Comity Licensure – None

Licensure of Architects by Experience - *None*

Licensure of Architects by Reinstatement - *None*

Special Cases

Licensure of Professional Engineers by Experience

Approved: Jeffrey Upper, Mechanical

Licensure of Architect by Comity and Initial

Initial Licensure – Approved: Stacy Joe Spostanski

Comity Licensure - None

Certificates of Authorization

Approved: Upper Consulting Inc – upon receipt of in arrears fees

Disclosures

Jeff Given – Note file, no action taken

Motion by Thiele, second by Suelter, to approve the staff recommendations on applications except for Stacy Spotanski. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Motion by Thiele, second by Suelter, to approve the applications for Jeffrey Upper. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Motion by Thiele, second by Brisnehan, to approve the application for Stacy Spotanski. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Abstain: Brisnehan; Absent: Lund;

Motion by Thiele, second by Foley, to approve the certificate of authorization application for Upper Consulting, assess in arrears fees. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Other Issues/Information

Charts and statistics regarding the number of applications, certificates of authorization, and other application types were provided.

F. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Reports – September 2026

Financial Summary FY26-27

Budget Status Report

Fund Summary

MTD General Ledger Detail

Motion by Foley, second by Suelter, to approve the financial reports as represented. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Other Financial Matters – *None*

Motion by Thiele, second by Foley, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the compliance investigations and partner-agency processes, which are not a matter of public information, to prevent needless injury to the reputation of those involved. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Executive Session began at 10:11 a.m.

G. COMPLIANCE

Cases 25.19, 25.22, 25.27, 25.28, 25.33, 26.07, 26.09, 26.11, 26.14, 26.15, 26.23, 26.24, 26.25, 26.27, 26.28, 26.29, 26.30, 26.31, 26.32, 26.33, 26.34, 26.36, 26.37, 26.38, 26.39, Project Review 10-1, and Project Review 10-2 were discussed in executive session.

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Other Compliance Issues

Partner Agency Process

Partner agency processes were discussed in executive session.

Motion by Thiele, second by Foley, to close executive session for the purpose of discussing compliance investigations and partner-agency processes, which are not a matter of public information, to prevent needless injury to the reputation of those involved. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Executive session ended at 11:19 a.m.

Motion by Thiele, second by Brisnehan, to approve the settlement agreement in Case 25.19, authorize the Chair to sign and execute, monitor the agreement terms, and close the case. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Motion by Thiele, second by Brisnehan, to dismiss Case 26.28 without disciplinary action based on the successful completion of engineering and architectural remediation. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Motion by Thiele, second by Suelter, to open a complaint against the plan preparer in Case 26.32 for the unlicensed practice of architecture and engineering. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Motion by Thiele, second by Foley, to schedule a hearing in Case 26.33 for December 11, 2026. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Motion by Thiele, second by Brisnehan, to authorize architectural remediation in Case 26.38, request a response within 30 days, and a written remediation plan within 90 days. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Motion by Thiele, second by Brisnehan, to open a case in Project Review 10-1 for further investigation. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

Motion by Thiele, second by Foley, to open a complaint against the project owner in Project Review 10-2 for the unlicensed practice of architecture and engineering, authorize architecture and engineering remediation with a response in 30 days, and a written plan within 90 days. Voting Yes: Reed, Suelter, Thiele, Brisnehan, Dvorak, Foley, Bostelman; Voting No: None; Absent: Lund

H. GENERAL INFORMATION

A schedule of upcoming meetings and national events was provided. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., at 215 Centennial Mall S, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Licensure and Certificate Trends

Numbers as of October 7, 2026

Professional Engineers	10,063
Architects	2,005
Certificates of Authorization	2,558
Temporary Permits	14

Examination Information/Statistics

The October 2026 ARE Open Eligibility reports were provided, along with the August 2026 Pass/Fail report.

The FE and PE pass/fail reports for 2026 Q3 were provided.

Other Information

The FY2026-27 Marketing Plan was provided.

Facebook analytics for September 2026 were provided:

Views:	*5,300*
Viewers:	*1,500*
Content Interactions:	*66*
Link Clicks:	*23*
Visits:	*281*
New Follows:	*7*
Posts:	*20*

The September 2026 Website Analytics report was provided:

Visits	*3,400*
New Users	*2,800*

The Board's approved policies as of March 27, 2026, were provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bostelman adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

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James Brisnehan, Secretary

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