

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
ILLINOIS STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING BOARD MINUTES

**Open Minutes**

Structural Engineering Board

Date: May 29, 2024  
Convened: 10:05 am  
Adjourned: 12:50 pm  
Location: Springfield/Chicago/WEBEX

Members Present: Chad Hodel, Chair  
Salvatore Di Bernardo, Member  
John Huff, Public Member  
Dan Lutz, Member  
Alicia Kamischke, Member  
Eric Wheeler, Member

Member(s) Absent: Christine Freisinger, Vice-Chair

Staff Present: Kyle Lazell, Acting Administrator Professional Services Sec.  
Ron Almiron, IDFPR General Counsel  
Roy Cepero, IDFPR Investigator

Guests Present: Stephanie Crain, SEAIO  
John McLean, SEAIO  
Jan Block, SEAIO  
Helen Torres, SEAIO  
Gregor Cattro, British Embassy - Senior Trade Policy Advisor

Open Session: The Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.  
Roll Call: The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

**1. Board Member comments**

Mr. Hodel welcomed everyone for attending and asked if any member had any comment to share.

Mr. Di Bernardo shared that this would be his last meeting as a member and thanked the Board and the Department for the privilege of serving on the Board for 10 years. He noted he has seen several improvements to the profession and the licensing process during that time.

The Board thanked him for his service and wished him well.

**2. Guest comments**

Ms. Crain shared that SEAIO is nearing the end of their fiscal year and mentioned that Eric Wheeler was awarded the Excellence in Engagement Award.

### **3. Licensing Manager Report**

#### **A. Legislative Update**

##### **1. HB 5608**

HB 5608

Mr. Lazell shared that this bill stalled in committee and no further action will happen this legislative session.

##### **2. SB 3767**

SB 3767

Mr. Lazell shared that the bill has been passed in both the House and Senate and will be sent to the Governor for signature. The effective date is January 1, 2025, and he will work on drafting Rule changes based on these changes.

#### **B. Rules Update**

Mr. Lazell shared that he is waiting to receive confirmation from the Director on how to proceed with fee increases prior to submitting the final version of the draft Rules to the associations for comment.

### **4. Review of Open Minutes**

The Board reviewed the open minutes of the March 27, 2024, meeting. Motion was made, seconded (Lutz/Kamischke) to approve the open minutes of the meeting as presented. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

### **5. Ongoing Business**

#### **A. Continued discussion of approved coursework**

Christine Freisinger said the subcommittee will continue working on compiling a list of approved courses and hopes to have a report at the next meeting.

### **6. Report from Subcommittees**

#### **A. Complaint Review Committee/Subcommittee**

Mr. Di Bernardo shared the Complaint Statistics based on recommendations from the March 2024 meetings for each profession:

Architect: Opened 2, Closed 10, Referred to prosecutions 1  
SE: Opened 5, Closed 5, Referred to prosecutions 0  
PE: Opened 10, Closed 17, Referred to prosecutions 0  
LS: Opened 5, Closed 2, Referred to prosecutions 0

Complaints currently under investigation:

Architect – 16  
SE – 10

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PE – 26  
LS – 9

Cases currently being prosecuted:

Architect - 28  
Land Surveyor - 4  
Professional Engineer - 18  
Structural Engineer - 6

He also shared that Meghan Pipolo is the new prosecuting attorney for the design professions at IDFP.

## 7. New Business

### A. NCEES UK MRA

Mr. Lazell presented the board with an overview of the NCEES UK Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) program for discussion on participating in the MRA.

Mr. Cattro introduced himself and provided further details on how structural engineers are chartered (licensed) in the UK.

Mr. Lazell stated that his research indicates that the agreement would be substantially similar to a non-approved applicant applying for a license and there is insignificant risk to the public in participating in the MRA for the structural profession.

The Board discussed and several members were inclined to have the SE profession participate; however, further discussion at the next meeting was requested.

### B. NCEES Central Zone meeting – report

Mr. Hodel shared that NCEES reported exam volumes were up since 2020 and there was discussion of the UK MRA and encouragement of licensure within each jurisdiction by developing programs to waive fees.

Mr. Wheeler commented there was discussion about the new process/format for SE examinations.

Ms. Crain stated that SEAIOI has fielded several questions about the difficulties encountered and wondered if NCEES conducts surveys of the exam by examinees.

**Motion to move into  
Closed Session:**

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**8. Closed Session:** Motion was made, seconded (Huff/Di Bernardo) to move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2c (4) & (15) of the Open Meetings Act at 11:47 am. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

A. Review of Closed Minutes

The Board reviewed the closed minutes of the March 27, 2024, meeting.

B. Application Review/discussion

The Board reviewed two applications pursuant to Sections 1480.140, 1480.170 and 1480.185 of the Rules for the Administration of the Illinois Structural Engineering Practice Act of 1989.

**Moved back into Open Session:**

Board Chair adjourned the Closed Session and moved the meeting back into Open Session at 12:46 pm.

**9. Motions, Reminders, and Signatures:**

Accept recommendations:

Motion was made, seconded (Huff/Di Bernardo) to accept the recommendations made in closed session. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

Review closed minutes and keep closed minutes closed:

Motion was made, seconded (Lutz/Huff) to approve the closed minutes as presented and keep them closed. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

Reminders

Action Sheets

Mr. Lazell reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2024.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair signed action sheets 24-0231 and 24-0232.

**10. Adjournment**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:50 pm.