

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

Open Minutes	Structural Engineering Board
Date:	November 18, 2025
Convened:	10:03 am
Adjourned:	11:59 am
Location:	Springfield/Chicago/WEBEX
Members Present:	Chad Hodel, Chair Christine Freisinger, Vice-Chair Jerilyn Hassard, Member John Huff, Public Member Dan Lutz, Member Eric Wheeler, Member
Member(s) Absent:	Alicia Kamischke, Member
Staff Present:	Kyle Lazell, Design Licensing Manager Ron Almiron, IDFPR General Counsel Roy Cepero, IDFPR Investigator
Guests Present:	Jan Block & John McLean, SEAOL Melissa Cannata, AMBER Books
Open Session:	The Meeting was called to order at 10:03 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. <i>No comments shared.</i>
2. Guest comments	On behalf of SEAOL, Mr. Lazell shared they are hosting a webinar on for navigating the 2025 Rule changes on December 8, 2025. He noted that he will be presenting the webinar and will be joined by Ms. Freisinger to address questions of a practice nature or are board member related.

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3. Licensing Manager Report	<i>Nothing to report.</i>
4. Review of Open Minutes	The Board reviewed the open minutes of the September 23, 2025 meeting. Motion was made, seconded (Lutz/Hassard) to approve the open minutes of the meeting as amended. Motion passed with a quorum of members.
5. Ongoing Business A. Discussion of NCEES PE Structural exam issues	Mr. Hodel shared that NCEES recently presented a webinar regarding the PE Structural exam. A few items of note: - NCEES indicated they now understand that the Dept portion is statistically difficult to complete in the current time allotted. - NCEES is offering two re-take credits for examinees who failed the Depth portion in 2024. - They are working with the reference material vendors to improve the digital interface and functionality in the exam environment. A link to the webinar recording is here: https://ncees.org/ncees-pe-structural-exam-webinar/
6. Report from Ad Hoc Groups A. Complaint Review Group	Ms. Hassard shared the Complaint Statistics based on recommendations from the September 2025 meetings for each profession: Architect: Opened 9, Closed 4, Referred to prosecutions 1 SE: Opened 1, Closed 1, Referred to prosecutions 0 PE: Opened 8, Closed 4, Referred to prosecutions 2 LS: Opened 1, Closed 0, Referred to prosecutions 1 Complaints currently under investigation:

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	<p>Architect – 20 SE – 8 PE – 33 LS – 6</p> <p>Cases currently being prosecuted: Architect - 31 Land Surveyor - 6 Professional Engineer - 21 Structural Engineer - 10</p>
B. Digital Seal/Signature Group	<p>Mr. Lazell shared feedback received from the other Illinois design profession boards. The consensus being agreement that an issue exists; however, how to address it and by what means differs from board to board. Some were concerned about the added cost for companies.</p> <p>Mr. Hodel shared information from the Nevada board about options from two widely used platforms.</p> <p>Mr. Blok commented that he is licensed in Florida which has specific requirements for seal security.</p> <p>The Board discussed the topic and asked Mr. Lazell to continue to provide feedback from the other boards.</p> <p>Mr. Lazell said he would contact his counterpart in Florida to request information on their requirements for seal security.</p>
7. New Business	
A. Election of Officers	<p>Mr. Lazell shared the Statutory Board officer term and duty requirements.</p> <p>Mr. Lutz inquired if the current Chair and Vice-Chair are willing to serve another term. Mr. Hodel and Ms. Freisinger indicated they were willing.</p> <p>Motion was made, seconded (Lutz/Huff) to re-elect the current Chair and Vice-Chair for another year. The Board members present constituted a quorum of the Board.</p> <p>Mr. Hodel was re-elected as Board Chair for 2026. Ms. Freisinger was re-elected as Board Vice-Chair for 2026.</p>

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Motion to move into Closed Session:	Motion was made, seconded (Hassard/Lutz) to move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2c (4) & (15) of the Open Meetings Act at 11:19 am. Motion passed with a quorum of members voting yes via roll call.
8. Closed Session:	<p>A. Review of Closed Minutes The Board reviewed the closed minutes of the September 23, 2025, meeting.</p> <p>B. Application Review/discussion Three applications were reviewed by the Board, 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.</p>
Moved back into Open Session:	Board Chair adjourned the Closed Session and moved the meeting back into Open Session at 11:54 am.
9. Motions and Reminders	<p>Review closed minutes and keep closed minutes closed:</p> <p>Motion was made, seconded (Lutz/Huff) to approve the closed minutes as presented and keep them closed. Motion passed with a quorum of members.</p>
Accept Recommendations:	Motion was made, seconded (Hassard/Wheeler) to accept the recommendations made in closed session. Motion passed with a quorum of members. 1) Joseph Augesten: Exam waiver request deferred. 2) Andrew Derrick: Exam waiver request approved. 3) Mark Holter: Exam waiver request deferred.
Reminders	Mr. Lazell reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2026 and to submit travel vouchers for reimbursement.
10. Adjournment	Motion was made, seconded (Freisinger/Hassard) to accept the recommendations made in closed session. Motion passed with a quorum of members. Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.