

General Session Minutes
State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers
January 14, 2026

The West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers met at their office in Charleston on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. Those present for all or part of the meeting were:

Garth E. Thomas	President
Larry C. Nottingham	Vice-President
L.A. Gates	Secretary
Carol A. Stevens	Member
Rodney D. Holbert	Member
Lesley L. Rosier-Tabor	Executive Director
Angela K. Chestnut	Licensing Analyst / Asst. Bd. Investigator
Anthony D. Eates II	Board Counsel / Deputy Attorney General

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am. Board meeting minutes for the November 19, 2025 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Holbert, seconded by Mr. Gates. Motion carried.

The Board budget summaries for November and December 2025 were received and reviewed, as well as the P-Card transactions for the same months. Ms. Rosier reported a \$1.835M balance at the end of December 2025, with the major surge in revenue attributed to the launch of the firm Certificate of Authorization (COA) renewal season in late November.

Ms. Rosier presented the Executive Director's report and addressed all Board questions and comments regarding the following:

- CY2025 summary of WV FE and PE exam statistics obtained from NCEES
- Marshall University's Society of Women Engineers Meeting and Order of the Engineer Ceremony
- 2026 WV State Auditor's P-Card Coordinator Conference and required training
- Upcoming Board activity and meeting participation schedule, which includes NCEES Committee Meeting travel, National Engineers Week presentations, ACEC Luncheon speaking engagement, WV EXPO activities, WV Code Officials Meeting presentation, and the 2026 NCEES Northeast Zone meeting
- On-going staff activities / projects prior to the March 2026 Board meeting

A motion to approve the budget, current expenditures, purchasing card transactions, and travel was made by Mrs. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Holbert. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosier shared that Deputy Attorney General Anthony Eates was in a scheduled hearing and would be unable to join the meeting until after lunch. For this reason, she requested to take the Executive Session out of order and re-arrange the agenda to

accommodate Mr. Estes's later arrival. The board agreed by consensus and moved on to the General Session Discussion Items, beginning with NCEES Issues.

Ms. Rosier provided an update on the 2026 NCEES Joint Central/Northeast Zone meeting, scheduled to be held May 14-16, 2026 in Columbus, Ohio. The NCEES zone interim meetings are held each spring and the primary purpose of the meeting is for licensing board representatives to hear and discuss reports from the NCEES Board of Directors, the CEO, standing committees, and task forces as their work results in motions to be presented for Council vote at the Annual Meeting in August 2026. Board members to serve as the 2026 NCEES funded delegates include President Thomas, Carol Stevens and Rodney Holbert. Each will be receiving emails in the next few weeks to register and book travel.

Ms. Rosier shared the NCEES State of the Council meeting dates for 2026. Each virtual event features timely announcements and updates on Council activities, including meetings and headquarters updates. All members, member board administrators, associate members, emeritus members, and past presidents of NCEES are encouraged to participate in the live Zoom broadcasts, with the first one for 2026 being February 25th.

Both President Thomas and Ms. Rosier provided an update on their 2025-2026 NCEES Committee work to date. President Thomas has returned to serving on the Exam Policies and Procedures (EPP) committee, and will be attending an in-person meeting in Atlanta, GA in February 2026. Ms. Rosier has returned to serving on the Member Board Administrators Committee (MBA), and will be attending an in-person meeting in San Diego, CA in January 2026. Both Committees have been working remotely on their charges assigned by NCEES President Elizabeth Beckett Johnston.

Ms. Rosier provided the Board with the most recent update from NCEES and Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) regarding the 2026 national legislative landscape. Many state legislatures throughout the country continue to consider proposals that weaken or eliminate state licensing requirements for professional engineers. NCEES is actively providing advocacy resources to assist member licensing boards in their efforts to monitor, track, and respond to proposed legislation in each state. In addition, NCEES continues to track AI enacted and proposed legislation that could impact the industry.

Ms. Rosier also shared the results of the recent Interprofessional Council on Registration (ICOR) webinar and release of the ICOR Practice Overlap Guidance document, developed to help clarify where professional competencies across the five disciplines overlap and where they are distinct. In addition, the document responds to confusion and inconsistency surrounding "incidental practice" and areas of shared responsibility with a goal of promoting regulatory clarity and public protection. It is hoped that this document will be used as a reference for evaluating practice complaints, disciplinary actions, or scope-related questions and promotes a clearer, more consistent understanding of who is qualified to perform specific tasks.

The Board reviewed the content of the most recent NCEES Licensure Exchange publication and had active discussion regarding the NCEES Foundation and first funding cycle results. In addition, it was noted that the 2026 funding cycle is now underway, which

means the Foundation is accepting donations and letters of inquiry from interested parties, requiring funding applicants to submit a letter of inquiry (LOI) by February 1, 2026. Ms. Rosier presented the Board with the updated draft FOIA request to be sent to all NCEES licensing boards to obtain copies of their most up-to-date enforcement reporting records. The intent of the request is to promote transparency and support the shared goal of ensuring proper reporting of disciplinary actions to NCEES in order to uphold our responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens, and to evaluate our applicants in a fair, uniform and accurate manner. The correspondence will be finalized and mailed to each NCEES Member Board in mid-February.

Ms. Rosier shared feedback from NCEES CEO Davy McDowell and NCEES President Elizabeth Beckett Johnston regarding the Board's written request for NCEES leadership to direct attention and resources to the ongoing fraudulent use of seal matters licensing boards are experiencing throughout the country. With continued increases in cases involving fraudulent engineering seals, identity theft of licensed professionals, and offering of unlicensed engineering services on online marketplace platforms, coupled with the growth of artificial intelligence tools, many Boards need assistance. Both McDowell and Johnston acknowledged receipt and indicated this item has been added to the NCEES Board of Directors meeting agenda for February 2026.

Ms. Rosier presented CY2025 WV FE and PE exam statistics obtained from NCEES. President Thomas provided a summary of his review and evaluation of exam results, noting that those disciplines with large enough exam candidate pools to draw a good analysis appear to be in line with national pass rates. Ms. Rosier also reminded the Board that this was a comprehensive list of all results for those sitting for the FE and PE exam at the two WV exam sites and that several of the examinees were not WV residents and/or did not graduate from in-state engineering or engineering technology programs.

At 12:25pm, the Board recessed the General Session for lunch and resumed the General Session at 1:04pm.

Ms. Rosier provided the Board with the 2026 WV Legislative calendar and shared that the Chapter 30 Licensing Board Association leadership recently submitted the second quarter results for the universal licensure approvals of all boards as of October 1st in order to provide the first required quarterly report to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Senate and House. The WV PE Board continues to have only 1 candidate that has applied under the conditions of §30-1-27.

Ms. Rosier shared a recent request for information from the Governor's Office sent to all Chapter 30 Board asking to provide a step-by-step overview of a normal application process, turnaround times to issue licenses, numbers of applications processed per month, statute/code/rule references for application requirements, etc. The Board reviewed the agency's draft response and commended staff for the thoroughness, offering no additions or changes. Ms. Rosier indicated she would finalize and respond by email before the requested deadline.

Ms. Rosier reported that there have been no updates on 2025 Board appointments (reappointments). Currently Secretary L.A. Gates is the only member serving on an

expired term, but is eligible for and expressed interest in being reappointed if the Governor requests such.

Ms. Rosier reminded all Board members that they must file their annual Financial Disclosure Statements (“FDS”) with the Ethics Commission no later than February 2, 2026.

Ms. Rosier reported on the successful launch of the online 2026-2027 COA firm licensure renewal system, with over 3300 COAs renewed to date. The online renewal link was activated immediately following their November 19, 2025 Board meeting. Ms. Rosier dropped the large mass mailing of required COA renewal notices to USPS on Friday, November 28, 2025. Ms. Rosier reported the Board’s Fall 2025 InterChange newsletters were mailed out to all active PEs, Retired PEs and COA holders. The newsletters sent to engineering firms with active COAs were accompanied by their biennial 2026-2027 WV COA renewal notifications. Board staff are continuing to process COA renewals submitted during the one-month grace period, ending Saturday, January 31, 2026 at midnight EST. Multiple courtesy email reminders have been sent throughout December 2025 and January 2026 to those yet to renew. Official Lapsed COA notifications are scheduled to be mailed during the first week of February 2026.

Ms. Rosier shared an update on the Board’s plans for the 2026 WV Construction and Design Exposition (EXPO) to be held at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center on March 25-26, 2026. Ms. Rosier also reported on her follow-up meeting with WVSPE President Chris Butler, co-host of the Board’s annual 2-hour continuing education seminar free to all participants. Mr. Butler and Ms. Rosier are finalizing the speakers and panelists who will present on industry impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In addition, the Board plans to discuss how AI is being used in a growing number of instances involving fraudulent seals, unlicensed practice and identity theft throughout the country.

At 1:40pm, and after Mr. Eates arrived, the Board returned to the Executive Session agenda item, which was postponed earlier. Dr. Nottingham made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss confidential investigations, special case files and personnel matters, seconded by Mr. Holbert. Motion carried.

At 3:08pm, Mr. Holbert made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Stevens, to move into General Session. Motion carried, and the Board took the following actions:

- Mrs. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nottingham, to move I2026-04 to Complaint. Motion carried. Furthermore, Mrs. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nottingham to “Receive and File” Complaint C2026-06. Motion carried.
- Mrs. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gates, to move I2026-05 to Complaint. Motion carried. Furthermore, Mrs. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gates to “Receive and File” Complaint C2026-07. Motion carried.
- Mr. Holbert made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nottingham, to move I2026-07 to Complaint. Motion carried. Furthermore, Mr. Holbert made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nottingham to “Receive and File” Complaint C2026-08. Motion carried.

- Dr. Nottingham made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Stevens, to move I2026-08 to Complaint. Motion carried. Furthermore, Dr. Nottingham made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Stevens to “Receive and File” Complaint C2026-09. Motion carried.
- Mrs. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nottingham, to move I2026-09 to Complaint. Motion carried. Furthermore, Mrs. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nottingham to “Receive and File” Complaint C2026-10. Motion carried.
- Dr. Nottingham made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Stevens, to move I2026-10 to Complaint. Motion carried. Furthermore, Dr. Nottingham made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Stevens to “Receive and File” Complaint C2026-11. Motion carried.
- Mr. Holbert made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nottingham, to approve the PE comity application for Colin D. Parker. Motion carried.
- Mrs. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nottingham, to deny the Business Entity - DBA Waiver application of Recaptis LLC. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosier presented draft correspondence to be disseminated to the WV Code Officials Association membership, along with similar documents for WV Contractors and the WV Fire Marshal’s Office. This correspondence provides an overview of the current problems we are finding with the fraudulent use of seals and work-for-hire marketplace platforms that can unintentionally facilitate forgery and fraud as well as the unlicensed practice of engineering. The correspondence also provides helpful information including red flags to watch for, how to verify licensure for engineering firms and individuals, where to report suspected violations, and how we can support each of these industries in combatting wrong doing.

The Board was presented with the most recent issue of the Professional Licensing Report (PLR) and there were no questions or comments. Board members were encouraged to review the publication details as time permits.

The Board reviewed the upcoming 2026 Calendar of Events and Ms. Rosier requested members to notify her with any anticipated conflicts.

Upon motion by Mr. Holbert, seconded by Dr. Nottingham, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:14pm. The next Board meeting will be March 24, 2026, in Charleston. The Board members will be compensated one day per diem plus travel expenses.

Garth E. Thomas, Jr., P.E.
Board President

L.A. Gates, P.E.
Board Secretary