

5-19-2021 5:30 p.m.

Clint Noble
Kim Arnold
Anne Murray
Joey McKinnon
Natalie Kato
Troy Bernier
Lou Bush (chair, Board of Professional Geologists)
Rick Morrison (DBPR, Board of Professional Geologists)



Clint introduced Natalie Kato, FAPG lobbyist, and gave her the floor.

Natalie said both the regular session and special session on gambling have concluded and were fairly quiet. The approved budget included \$125 million for the Petroleum Restoration Program, thanks to efforts of the coalition of professional groups in support of it.

The professional licensure review bills received one hearing in the senate and none in the House. The senate hearing resulted in amendment language that may appear again next year. The language calls for a review and recommendations for regulated professions, but does not include automatic deregulation if the legislature fails to take action. Natalie believes this may represent good compromise language and might afford the opportunity to ask for continuing education requirements and other modifications to the PG licensure requirements. Natalie met with Rizzo (HB sponsor), and he was opposed to the automatic deregulation provision and seemed willing to work with geologists.

Lou Bush said he has served on both the professional surveyor and geologist boards (consumer member) and was a proponent of the GIT program. Surveyors had previously looked at what defines a “profession”: a 4-year degree and continuing education requirements. Geologists need to have continuing education as part of licensure requirements but the governor does not want increased cost for license holders. The Board of Professional Geologists has been looking into having attendance at Board meetings, conferences, etc. count toward CEUs, and is currently putting together a package and would like FAPG support. Natalie requested to see the draft language by June so she can work on finding a sponsor in the legislature.

Mr. Bush said the ASBOG exam is going digital and all states must transition over to the digital format by March 2023. The current cost for the Board to administer the paper exam is \$200 per test and approximately 100 exams are administered each year (50 in March and 50 in October). This costs the Board approximately \$20,000/year. The Board would like to see Statute 492.104 revised (which specifies a monetary amount the Board must pay) to put the exam cost on the applicant. Clint said FAPG would support this amendment.

Natalie spoke about formation of a PAC for FAPG and suggested “Rock PAC” as a name. She would not charge additional for administration of a PAC, and the PAC would allow FAPG to raise money for legislators supportive of the profession. The FAPG PAC could do something like a legislative preview in August and solicit sponsorships from firms and donations. The PAC would have a separate bank account, which could be opened when the first donation check is received. Joey’s opinion was solicited, and he is in favor. Natalie revisited the Legislator of the Year idea and suggested a unique award format, like the landscape

architects have. Such an award could include geode bookends with a plaque, or maybe a fulgurite. The recipient could be selected at the June meeting and the award presented in July or August.

Natalie said she would discuss with Noah Valenstein how PGs are not considered “professionals” by the FDEP environmental cleanup bill language because there is no longer a Geology Business license. Natalie leaves call.

Clint: the FAPG annual meeting will be June 26th in Jacksonville. A call-in option will be available.

Clint plans to attend the national AIPG meeting in Sacramento in the fall. Anne said FAPG has paid for attendance expenses in the past.

Clint said the AIPG scholarship presentation for the University of Florida recipients went well and there will be a write-up with photos in The Professional Geologist (TPG) newsletter from AIPG. FAPG will also include a write-up in its newsletter.

Clint reported that all of FAPG’s tax info and financial had been submitted to AIPG and looked good. Christina would like to transition out of the treasurer role. A volunteer replacement was solicited. Clint said he will work with Christina to learn the duties as she transitions out.

AIPG had requested student chapter reports for Florida but none have been received. No active student chapters may exist in Florida currently. Kim talked about the recent GEOPATH program and career roundtable at FGCU where PG licensure and the GIT program were discussed and encouraged.

Mr. Bush said the GIT program has been successful in improving the PG passing rate by 25% (Rick Morrison with stats) and that all Board meetings have an open-door policy. The meeting location moves around the State. Mr. Bush leaves call.

Troy said that he would generate a report on the money coming into the FAPG Paypal account, which was not reflected on the financial statement provided to the call attendees in advance of the meeting.

Adjourned 6:30 p.m.

Documents distributed prior to call:

FL Section American Institute Spending Report—Year End Report

Kato Law 2021 End of Session Report Florida Association of Professional Geologists