

6-22-2021 5:30 p.m.

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



Clint asked Lou Bush to speak about Board of Professional Geologist (BOPG) issues and gave him the floor. Proposed changes include the requirement for CEUs for licensed PGs and having ASBOG exam applicants pay the exam. The BOPG would like the DBPR to include these objectives in its package to the secretary; however, changes could still be made without inclusion in the package but would require more work. An earmark of a true profession is widely considered to include continuing education, as other professions require. The Board has come up with a plan such that CEUs could be obtained through effort, not cost, which would eliminate an additional financial burden to license holders. The BOPG would also like a statutory change so that the Board does not have to continue to subsidize the cost of the ASBOG exam. Applicants would pay the exam cost directly. Lou would like FAPG members to lobby their legislators in support of these proposed changes. Lou said that the entire BOPG is behind these changes and invited anyone interested to come to the next BOPG meeting in Tallahassee on July 14/15 (15th preferred date for visitors).

Natalie Kato said she met with Brian McManus (chief of staff DEO) and brought up the CEU and exam fee proposed changes. McManus did not like the CEU idea, in particular. Natalie recommended that FAPG discuss whether to make these proposed changes an objective for the next legislative session given the State's apparent resistance. Natalie thinks this may not be the best year to pursue given the continued deregulation push. The exam fee may be the more doable of the two changes.

Anne Murray said this discussion is familiar, and that geologists need to break the cycle of relying on trust funds to subsidize the BOPG, which needs to be financially stable.

Lou said that the BOPG had deficits of \$119,000 in 2016, \$161,000 in 2017, \$169,000 in 2018, and \$389,000 in 2020.

Clint said FAPG supports these proposed changes but needs to consider timing. Lou Bush leaves the call.

The group wondered whether the lack of a CEU requirement currently may create reciprocity issues with other states.

Anne Murray is running for AIPG vice president on the current ballot. Voting closes June 30th. If Anne is elected VP and her daughter is elected as the Young Professional, this will be the first time a mother and daughter have served on the same AIPG board.

The newsletter is basically finished, Clint reported. Bill Aley (not on the call) prepared an article on Sam Upchurch with the help of Tom Scott. A field school scholarship will be established in his name.

The FAPG annual retreat will be held July 17th from approximately 9:00-3:30 in the Jacksonville area.

Troy said that FAPG needs to organize in order to campaign for the CEU change, and start soliciting donations ASAP.

Joey agreed that FAPG needs to raise money and have conversations with legislators. He is concerned that FAPG/BOPG may not have the leverage needed for these changes this session. Discussion of this issue should be a top priority at the annual retreat.

Natalie encouraged the group to get the previously discussed PAC up and running. Ideally FAPG should raise \$10-15K prior to January 1, 2022. In order to form the PAC, a name is needed, and a treasurer and a chair. Formation of the PAC will not cost FAPG any additional money.

Legislator of the Year Award: Natalie suggested buying bookends with a plaque and choosing the legislator. She proposed a short list of 3 candidates and said Alex Rizo (previous sponsor of a deregulation bill) may be an unusual but strategic choice. Following the most recent session, he expressed that he did not want to see PGs deregulated.

Adjourned 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Kim Arnold