

# BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION

## MINUTES \*\*Virtual Meeting\*\*

The Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation met virtually on Thursday, December 17, 2020.

The following members were present for all or part of the meeting:

Laurence Benenson  
Suzanne Conrad  
Kim Cummings  
Nil Eguz  
H. Scott Johnson  
Joseph Montano  
Martin Mooradian  
Ryan O'Toole

Board member Chika Anyadike was not present for the meeting.

The following agency staff was present for all or part of the meeting:

Mary Broz-Vaughan, Director  
Kathleen (Kate) R. Nosbisch, Executive Director  
Amy Goobic, Executive Assistant  
Matthew McCabe, Program & Special Projects Analyst

There was no representative present from the office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Conrad called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

### Call to Order

Ms. Conrad welcomed and introduced new Board members Kim Cummings and Nil Eguz.

### Welcome New Board Members

Ms. Nosbisch reviewed the procedures for virtual board meetings and public comment.

### Virtual Public Comment Procedures

Mr. Montano moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved via roll call vote by members: Benenson, Conrad, Cummings, Eguz, Johnson, Montano, Mooradian and O'Toole.

### Approval of Agenda

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2020 meeting. Mr. Mooradian seconded the motion which was unanimously approved via roll call vote by members: Benenson, Conrad, Cummings, Eguz, Johnson, Montano, Mooradian and O'Toole.

### Approval of Minutes

**Public Comment**

Robin Bedenbaugh, PWD and representative of the Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals, was present to address the Board regarding his support for continued certification for Wetland Delineators.

Michael Feltenberger, was present to address the Board regarding his support for continued certification for Community Association Managers. Mr. Feltenberger commented that certification of community association managers ensures statutory requirements are met.

Billy Almond, representative of American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), was present to address the Board regarding his support for continued licensure of Landscape Architects.

Elizabeth Hebrum, ASLA Director of State Government Affairs, was present to address the Board regarding her support for continued licensure of Landscape Architects. Ms. Hebrum stated that licensure is essential for the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Zach Druga, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), was present to address the Board regarding CLARB's support for continued licensure of Landscape Architects.

Terry Clements, Landscape Architect professor at Virginia Tech, was present to address the Board regarding her support for continued licensure of Landscape Architects. Ms. Clements commented on how licensure provides professional credentials to advance careers.

Andy Scherzer, LA, was present for the meeting. Mr. Scherzer supports continued licensure for landscape architects, but did not wish to speak.

Rob McGinnis, LA, member of ASLA, was present to address the Board regarding his support for continued licensure of Landscape Architects.

Lauren Earley, American Society of Interior Designers, was present to address the Board regarding her support for continued certification of Interior Designers. Ms. Earley stated that the draft report referenced NCIDQ as an alternative regulatory body, however NCIDQ is not equivalent, and has no investigatory authority.

Thom Banks, CEO of Council of Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ), was present to address the Board regarding his support for continued certification of Interior Designers. Mr. Banks stated that CIDQ develops and administers the exam for interior designers, and would not be a viable alternative to certification and board oversight. Mr. Banks also commented on the economic disruption of eliminating the certification.

Katherine Setser, ASID and Architect/Interior Design professor, was present to address the Board regarding her support for continued certification of Interior Designers. Ms. Setser stated that she is a technical advisor for the National Fire Protection Association, and that there is a high risk to the health, safety and welfare of the public by eliminating the certification.

Jim Bohn, CID, ASID, specializing in health care facilities, was present to address the Board regarding his support for continued certification of Interior Designers. Mr. Bohn stated that certification guarantees well designed environments and technical aspects of interior spaces.

Alison Allred, CID, representing the Virginia/West Virginia chapter of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), was present to address the Board regarding her support for continued certification of Interior Designers. Ms. Allred commented on the economic disruption eliminating certification could cause, and addressed the fact that there are 1,200 certified interior design businesses in Virginia – 83% are women and minority owned.

Lila De La Rosa, fourth year interior design student at Virginia Tech, was present to address the Board regarding her support for continued certification of Interior Designers. As a design student, Ms. De La Rosa commented on how the elimination of certification could affect the university ranking, and that graduates of the VT program may be more likely to stay in Virginia with a professional support system.

Ms. Conrad thanked all of the public commenters.

Mr. O'Toole left the meeting at 11:00 am due to a scheduling conflict.

**Departure of Mr.  
O'Toole**

Ms. Nosbisch provided background information on the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report from October 2018. The report tasked the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation, with providing a study on seven professions and the need for continued licensure or certification. The Board's preliminary report was submitted December 2019. Ms. Nosbisch explained that the public hearings initially scheduled to be held across the state had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. She explained that the public comment forum was open on the Virginia Town Hall website September 1-30, 1,000 comments were received. The final report to be filed by December 31, 2020. Any actions on the report recommendations will be up to the General Assembly.

**Review of JLARC  
Recommendations Study**

Discussion was held on the continued certification of Interior Designers, as NCIDQ would not be an equivalent alternative for state regulation.

Mr. Montano moved to amend the report to reflect continued certification recommended. Ms. Cummings seconded the motion which was unanimously approved via roll call vote by members: Benenson, Conrad, Cummings, Eguz, Johnson, Montano, and Mooradian. Mr. O'Toole was not present for the vote.

Mr. Benenson moved to approve the report as amended, including corrected typo and updated regulant counts. Mr. Montano seconded the motion which was unanimously approved via roll call vote by members: Benenson, Conrad, Cummings, Eguz, Johnson, Montano, and Mooradian. Mr. O'Toole was not present for the vote.

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that Conflict of Interest forms would be sent to them via email, and requested the form be signed and returned.

**Conflict of Interest Forms**

Ms. Nosbisch thanked DPOR staff member Matthew McCabe for his work on the report, and informed the Board that Mr. McCabe was relocating, wishing him good luck and thanked him for his contributions to the Agency.

Nan Gray, PSS, requested to make a public comment as she was not able to speak during the public comment period. Ms. Gray addressed the Board to request continued licensure for professional soil scientists. She recommended the Board make a change to the report.

**Other Business**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

**Adjourn**

  
Suzanne Conrad, Chair

  
Mary Broz-Vaughan, Director

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name: Kim Cummings
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting December 17, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

N/A

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

N/A

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

N/A

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6.  I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Kim Cummings  
Signature

12/18/2020  
Date

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name: NIL EGUIZ  
2. Title: Board Member  
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation  
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting December 17, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

N/A

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

N/A

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

N/A

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6.  I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

  
Signature

12/18/2020  
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Suzanne Conrad  
2. Title: Board Member  
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation  
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting December 17, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

NONE

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

NONE

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

NONE

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6.  I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

  
Signature

Date

12/17/20

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

- 1. Name: Martin Mooradian
- 2. Title: Board Member
- 3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation
- 4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting December 17, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:  
n/a

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

\_\_\_\_\_

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6.  I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Martin Mooradian

12/18/2020 | 03:28:22 PST

Signature

Date



**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Ryan O'Toole
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting December 17, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

\_\_\_\_\_

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6.  I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Ryan O'Toole

Signature

12/16/20

Date

Signature: 

Ryan O'Toole (Dec 17, 2020 16:26 EST)

Email: ryanfotoole@gmail.com

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name: Laurence Benenson  
2. Title: Board Member  
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation  
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting December 17, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

\_\_\_\_\_

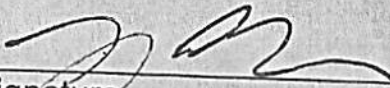
I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6.  I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date

12/17/2020  
\_\_\_\_\_

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name: Joseph Montano  
2. Title: Board Member  
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation  
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting December 17, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

N/A

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

N/A

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

N/A

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

02/24/21  
Signature

Date

