

Nebraska State Board of Landscape Architects
Board Meeting Notes – January 28, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Seacrest called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on October 15, 2024, and on the Board's website under the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Jennifer Seacrest, Chairperson; Jonathan Hauck, Vice-Chairperson; Bradley Swerczek; Absent: Bradley Miller, Kristina Engler

Staff Present: Jean Lais, Administrative Programs Officer (APO); Cole Gressley, Administrative Programs Officer (APO)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairperson Seacrest and Vice-Chairperson Hauck were re-elected for 2025.

Motion by Swerczek, second by Hauck, to elect Seacrest as Chairperson and Hauck as Vice-Chairperson for 2025.

Voting Yes: Swerczek, Hauck, Seacrest; Voting No: None; Absent: Miller, Engler

PUBLIC COMMENT/APPOINTMENTS

No members of the public were present.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

[October 29, 2024, Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion by Swerczek, second by Hauck, to approve the consent agenda. Voting Yes: Swerczek, Hauck, Seacrest;

Voting No: None; Absent: Miller, Engler

B. MEETING REPORTS

CLARB

[In the Know Webinar Series](#)

A copy of the upcoming *In the Know* webinars was provided.

Other Reports

[Office/Staff](#)

APO Lais introduced APO Gressley to the Board. Gressley started with the Board of Engineers and Architects in the middle of December and will be the Board's primary contact moving forward.

C. OLD BUSINESS

CLARB – None

Legislative

[Statute Revisions to the Professional Landscape Architects Act](#)

The statute revisions to the Professional Landscape Architects Act were introduced on January 22, 2025, as LB696 by Senator Raybould. The bill has been referred to the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee. A hearing has not been scheduled to date. Chairperson Seacrest or Vice-Chairperson Hauck will testify on the Board's behalf.

Other Old Business – None

D. NEW BUSINESS

CLARB – None

Legislative

[Boards and Commissions Survey Submittal](#)

A copy of the *Boards and Commissions Survey* response was provided. The survey is conducted every four years to update the Legislature on the activities of state boards and commissions.

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Platte Institute Correspondence

A copy of correspondence from the Platte Institute outlining its priorities for the 2025 legislative session was provided. One of its priorities is to advocate for increasing public membership on licensing boards and implement sunrise reviews to ensure licensing requirements are necessary and fair.

Introduced Bills of Interest

- **LB29** would revise the mandatory rules and regulations required in the Occupational Board Reform Act from five to three years to be completed by June 30th. The responsible standing committee would be required to submit their report by December 31st.
- **LB190**—Provides duties for the Legislative Performance Audit Committee—The bill would require all agencies to undergo a performance audit every five years.
- **LB221** – Provides a procedure to fill unfilled gubernatorial appointments.
- **LB261** – 2025-27 Biennium Budget Bill – The Governor’s recommendation does not include any of the additional funds requested and retains the appropriations for each year at \$30,214.00. The Board’s Fiscal Analyst met with the Appropriations Committee on January 24, 2025, to discuss the recommendations. APO Lais stressed that when the budget request was prepared, staff looked at both the expended appropriations in the last several fiscal years and also the increase of projected costs for the services being provided. The two largest expenses are the membership dues to the Council of Landscape Architects Registration Boards (CLARB) and the administrative service contract with the Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA). Without the appropriate funds, the Board cannot function and fulfill its mission and duties.

The committee hearing is scheduled for February 19, 2025. The board discussed how it would respond if the committee’s recommendations were the same as the Governor’s. Chairperson Seacrest and Vice-Chairperson Hauck were selected to make the determination on how to proceed once the committee recommendations are published. If it is to give the Board the funds requested, a letter will be drafted and sent to the committee in support in lieu of testifying in person.

- **LB317** – Merges the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environment and Energy to create the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment.
- **LB346** – Provides for the termination of boards, commissions, committees, councils, funds, panels, task forces, and acts, and eliminates funds, and powers and duties of departments and agencies. The State Board of Landscape Architects is not included in the bill.
- **LB472** – Adopts the Regulatory Management Act
- **LB565** – Provides and changes requirements related to agency guidance documents.
- **LB634** – Adopts the Legislative Sunset Review Act. The Act would require a sunset review of agencies every five years.
- **LB664** – Changes the Administrative Procedures Act to require agencies to allow for public comment and submissions on proposed rules and regulations and change the permissible venue for civil actions challenging rules and regulations.

Other New Business

Strategic Plan Review

A copy of the current Strategic Plan was provided. No discussion or action taken.

E. COMPLIANCE – *None*

F. APPLICATIONS

Administratively Approved

Licensure by CLARB Certificate

LA 473 Jared Alan Cunningham, LA 474 Brian Daniel Fridenmaker, LA 475 Angela Marie Hansen, LA 476 Michelle Ye

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Initial Licensure – *None*

Licensure/Examinations

Licensure by Comity – *None*

Licensure by Reinstatement – *None*

LARE Applications without an LAAB/LAAC-accredited degree – *None*

Motion by Hauck, second by Swerczek, to approve the applications as presented. Voting Yes: Swerczek, Hauck, Seacrest; Voting No: None; Absent: Miller, Engler

G. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Reports – October, November, December

Budget Status Report

MTD General Ledger Detail Reports

Fund Summary Reports

FY24-25 Financial Profile

FY24-25 Financial Summary

APO Lais reported that as of the end of December, 51% of the fiscal year's appropriations had been spent, and almost 100% of the projected revenue had been received. The Cash Fund was at \$105,246.41, which was \$8,593 higher than the same time last year.

Motion by Hauck, second by Swerczek, to approve the financial reports as presented. Voting Yes: Swerczek, Hauck, Seacrest; Voting No: None; Absent: Miller, Engler

Other Financial Matters – *None*

H. GENERAL INFORMATION

A schedule of upcoming meetings and events was provided. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE.

A copy of Miller's resignation/notice of not seeking reappointment was provided.

Trends in Licensure

As of January 23, 2025

Professional Landscape Architects	172
In State	62
Out of State	110
Licenses issued to Date in FY2024-25	9

Other Information

The LARE results from December were provided.

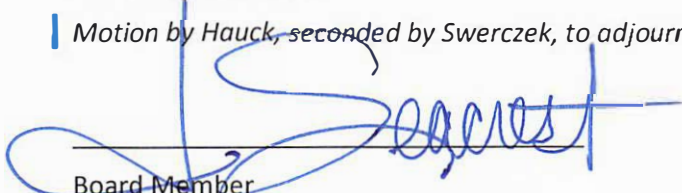
The Website Dashboard analytics show the following number of total visits:

October: 291
November: 372
December: 335

A copy of the Board's approved policies as of January 30, 2024, was provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hauck, seconded by Swerczek, to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m.


Board Member