

The Guam Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects, and Land Surveyors

**PEALS Board Regular Meeting**

Thursday, January 09, 2025 GEDA Board Room Suite 511, Tamuning Guam 2:02 PM–3:37 PM

**Members Present:**

Cedric Q.T. Cruz RA, Board Chair	Zenon E. Belanger PE, Vice Chair
Paul L. Santos PLS, Sec. & Treas. (Virtually via Zoom – Portland, Oregon)	
Vincent P. Arriola, DPW Director	Maria Elizabeth V. Cristi, PE
Nixon Isaac, Board Investigator	Catherine S. Gutierrez, Exec. Board Admin.
Marie Villanueva, Admin. Asst.	

**Excused Absence:**

Cathyan C. Gogue, Public Member      AAG, Atty. Tom Keeler

**Also Present:** See [Appendix A. Guest List Sign-In Sheet]

**Item 1, Call to Order**

BC Cruz called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., announced the board's mission statement, and took a roll call of the Board members and attendees. There being a quorum, the meeting proceeded according to the agenda.

**Item 2, Certificate Presentation & Administration of Oath**

- a. Henry Del Rosario Abasta, PE – PE 2270 (Electrical)
- b. Itzieh Clenuar Trujillo – EIT #365
- c. Julio Adalberto Valdivieso – EIT #364

**Item 3, Review / Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Review Draft PEALS Regular Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2024

BM Cristi moved to approve the minutes pending proposed amendments. Any additional comments are to be submitted to EBA Gutierrez for revision. The motion was seconded by VC Belanger, and unanimously carried.

All in Favor: 5/5      Not In Favor: 0      Abstained: 0

**Item 4, Executive Board Administrator's Report**

a. Financial Report: *This was discussed out of sequence, see below item b.*

b. Efficient Board Application Management System - Update

EBA Gutierrez presented the necessity for a more efficient and cost-effective system for the review and management of board applications. She evaluated the option of implementing electronic modules; however, due to budgetary constraints, she considered alternatives such as Google Drive, Dropbox, and Box.

EBA Gutierrez recommended a six-month trial period for Google Drive, which is already utilized by the Government of Guam, aiming to expedite the review process and enhance security measures. The Board collectively agreed to adopt the new system, beginning in February 2025, with the contingency of reverting to the previous method should it not yield satisfactory results.

a. Financial Report:

EBA Gutierrez has formally requested a Bank of Hawaii debit card to facilitate payments for online services, such as subscriptions to QuickBooks. Currently, these services are being paid for using a personal credit card belonging to PEALS personnel, with subsequent reimbursements conducted via check from the Bank of Hawaii account. She is seeking to revise this procedure for improved efficiency.

EBA Gutierrez emphasized the importance of cost-saving measures regarding advertising. She proposed utilizing radio broadcasting for public notices; however, after discussions regarding the various media format and their respective public reach, the Board opted to maintain the current practice of printed advertisements.

**NCARB Summit**

EBA Gutierrez provided an overview of several upcoming events that require Board's attention:

1. **\*\*NCARB Regional Summit\*\***: This event will take place in Philadelphia from February 28th to March 1st. The registration deadline is January 31st. EBA Gutierrez emphasized the necessity for two board members to attend. If any board member is interested in participating, please reach out to her before the cutoff date.

2. **\*\*NCEES Joint Interim Meeting\*\***: Scheduled for May 15th to 17th in New Mexico, this meeting will bring together representatives from the Central and Western Zones. The registration deadline is in February. VC Belanger and Sec. & Treas. Santos have confirmed their attendance, leaving one slot available for an additional board member. Interested parties are encouraged to contact EBA Gutierrez as soon as possible.
3. **\*\*NCEES MBA Committee Meeting\*\***: EBA Gutierrez will represent our board at this meeting in Greenville, South Carolina, scheduled from January 13th to 17th.
4. **\*\*NCEES Examinations for Professional Surveyors (EPS) Committee Meeting\*\***: This meeting for Professional Surveyors will also take place in Greenville, South Carolina, with Sec. & Treas. Santos attending on January 23rd.

In concluding the EBA Report, EBA Gutierrez presented a review of PEALS' monthly revenues, along with the BOH account statements and details regarding bank reconciliations for the Board's consideration. Any questions or concerns were welcomed; however, none were raised.

#### Item 5, Board Investigator's Report

**a. PB2023-06 – Complainant: Krista Perez vs. [Respondent: Eddy N. Sy PE CE1249]**  
Accusation: Alleged Faulty Design Leaching Field Septic Tank System Determination: Pending – Still Under Investigation

BI Isaac announced that the PEALS Board had received the aforementioned case as a new matter, following the retraction of the original case PB2023-06 by Ms. Perez. This retraction was initiated due to the Contractor's attempt at negotiations. Ultimately, the quality of the contractor's workmanship was still considered unacceptable by the owner, prompting Ms. Perez to request the PEALS Board to reopen her original complaint. BI Isaac indicated that this case is now under investigation.

#### Item 6, Old Business

##### **A. Law, Rules, and Regulations Review**

The review of laws, rules, and regulations is ongoing. EBA Gutierrez is awaiting the completion of this review from the Board to proceed with the adjudication process. Additionally, newly elected

38<sup>th</sup> legislative senators have designated Vice Speaker, Senator V. Anthony Ada, as the Legislative Committee Chair for the PEALS Board.

#### Item 7, Board Discussion

Sec. & Treas. Santos, presented the proposal for the introduction of a new NCEES exam module specifically focused on mapping sciences, which he supports. In response, the Board reached a consensus to submit a letter endorsing this initiative for consideration at the upcoming NCEES annual meeting.

<sup>1</sup>BM Cristi moved to approve Sec. & Treas. Santos's request for the Board's written endorsement of this examination. The motion was seconded by VC Belanger and was unanimously carried by the board.

All in Favor: 5/5      Not In Favor: 0      Abstained: 0

##### a. COA Application MAR DCMI, Inc – Responsible Managing Employee (RME)

The Board thoroughly reviewed the potential conflict of interest in providing engineering services to the public with a commitment to serving clients as an independent fiduciary, with a practice that operates free from any public, commercial, or product affiliations that could suggest a conflict of interest. Maintaining a strong awareness of public and legal responsibilities and ensuring they are fully equipped to fulfill these obligations while employed with NAVFAC Marianas.

After an in-depth examination of the documentation submitted with the application, the board has decided to send a letter to the primary Responsible Managing Employee (RME) of MAR DCMI, Inc., requesting a response to the identified concern. Upon receipt of the reply, the board will proceed to evaluate the information for acceptance.

##### b. Reinstatement Application Fees – Peck III, Jordon Brown & Matthews, Jared C

Jordan Peck and Jared Matthews have submitted requests for the reinstatement of their expired registrations. Unfortunately, they are currently facing significant back payment penalties of \$8,920 for Mr. Peck and \$1,500 for Mr. Matthews. In light of the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, they are seeking relief of these penalties.

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<sup>1</sup> The motion to approve the letter of endorsement to NCEES was passed, but deemed moot due to inadequate identification in today's meeting agenda, as required by 5 GCA Government Operations, Chapter 8 Open Government Law. EBA Gutierrez will ensure its inclusion in the next agenda for legal compliance.

Sec. & Treas. Santos, has recommended that their reinstatements be approved, with the penalties applied, unless there is clear evidence of egregious misconduct on their part. It is important to note that the Board has a longstanding policy of not granting waivers or discounts on back payment penalties and will continue to uphold this policy in the future.

VC Belanger moved to assess the fines for both parties and approve their license renewal. The motion was seconded by BM Cristi, and unanimously carried.

All in Favor: 5/5      Not In Favor: 0      Abstained: 0

c. COA Application – R.B. Cortez & Associates CE, CM

The Board engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the potential conflict of interest involving the firm's officers and responsible managing employee. After a thorough review of the documentation submitted with the application, the Board concluded that no conflict of interest exists, in accordance with PEALS Law.

In light of time constraints, BC Cruz requested that agenda item 10 be prioritized for discussion. The Board agreed to this adjustment.

Item 10, Election of Board Officers – FY 2025

BM Santos moved to have Cedric Q.T. Cruz, RA continue as Board Chair. This was seconded by BM Cristi.

BM Santos moved to have Zenon E. Belanger, PE continue as Board Vice- Chair. This was seconded by BM Cristi.

BM Cristi moved to have Paul L. Santos, PLS continue as Board Secretary & Treasurer. This was seconded by BM Belanger.

The current board officers were nominated and accepted to continue in their respective positions. These nominations received unanimous approval from the board members.

All in Favor: 5/5      Not In Favor: 0      Abstained: 0

FY 2025 PEALS BOARD

Cedric Q.T. Cruz, RA – BOARD CHAIR

Zenon E. Belanger PE – VICE CHAIR

Paul L. Santos PLS - SECRETARY & TREASURER

*BC Cruz returned to meeting agenda as written.*

Item 8, Public Comment

EBA Gutierrez communicated a notification from the University of Guam School of Engineering concerning the introduction of NCEES-recognized honor cords for graduating seniors. This initiative honors those who successfully pass the FE exam during the commencement exercises.

Item 9, DPW Permit and DLM Map Review – Tabled

- a. Department of Land Management – Office of the Chief of Cadastre Report of Maps Submitted
- b. PEALS Building Permit Clearances

Item 10, Election of Board Officers – *proceed to page 5 for Board discussion.*

Item 11, Adjournment

With no additional business to address, BM Cristi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by VC Belanger. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM.

All in Favor: 5/5

Not In Favor: 0

Abstained: 0

Taken and recorded by:

  
Marie Villanueva  
Administrative Assistant

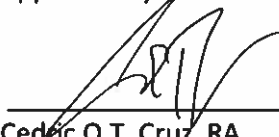

Reviewed and Approved by:



Catherine S. Gutierrez  
Executive Board Administrator

BOARD APPROVED:

Approved by:

	<u>3/12/25</u>		<u>3/12/2025</u>
Cedric Q.T. Cruz, RA	Date	Paul L. Santos, PLS	Date
Board Chair		Board Secretary & Treasurer	

March 6, 2025

☐ Minutes approved as is

☐ Minutes approved with changes

Meeting Minutes reported today are a summary of discussion. Complete Audio file of today's meeting can be located at the Office of Accountability, Boards and Commissions website per **Public Law 31-233 added Section 8113.1, Reporting Requirements for Boards and Commissions, to Chapter 8 of Title 5 GCA. Section 8113.1.** And PEALS Website via Zoom Link. Government Meetings

[Appendix A. Guest List Sign-In Sheet]

PEALS BOARD REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 09, 2025 - 2:00 PM  
GEDA Board Room, Suite 515, South Marine Corps Drive  
Tamuning

GUEST(S) LIST

	<u>NAME (in Print)</u>	<u>BUSINESS or AFFILIATION</u>
1.	HENRY ABASTA ✓	Self
2.	Glenda Abasta	Self
3.	Jana Macias	Self
4.	Isabel Miron	Self
5.	Juanita Abasta	Self
6.	ITZIEH TRUTILLO	Self
7.	Julio Valdeson ✓	Self
8.	Glenn Abasta	Self
9.	M. RUTH	PUBLIC
10.		