State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers August 28, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mark V. Smeltzer Sr., Chairman, Professional Member William T. Stoerrle Jr., Vice Chairman, Professional Member Chandra Mast. Secretary, Professional Member

Chandra Mast, Secretary, Professional Member John Ausherman, Professional Member Jonathan B. Schuck, Professional Member Martha H. Brown, Esquire - Secretary of the

Commonwealth Designee
Laura Pittini, Consumer Protection Agent, Office of
Attorney General Designee

Paul H. Wentzel Jr., Senior Legislative Director,
Department of Banking and Securities Designee

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel
Ray J. Michalowski, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
and Prosecution Liaison

Shana Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel for the Prosecution

Ashley P. Murphy, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Timothy Fritsch, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Kristel Hennessy Hemler, Board Administrator Miranda Murphy, Board Administrator

Jessica Zukoski, Senior Legal Analyst, Department of State

ALSO PRESENT:

Scott Dibiasio, Director of Government Affairs, The Appraisal Institute (ASC)

Francesca Tracy, Compliance Analyst, The CE Shop Tracy Matroni, Chapter Executive Director, Keystone Chapter of the Appraisal Institute

Shannon Hiss, State Harmonization Task Force Bruce Witt, Chief Appraiser for County of Bucks, Representing the Assessors Association of Pennsylvania

Grace Reiter, Applicant

Emme Reiser, Political Programs Manager, Pennsylvania
Association of Realtors

Allison Walker, Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.

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2 State Board of Certified 3 Real Estate Appraisers 4

August 28, 2025

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6 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, 7 at 9:00 a.m., the Board entered into Executive Session with Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, to have attorney-client consultations and for the 10 purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations. 11 The Board returned to open session at 10:30 a.m.]

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[Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, informed everyone that the meeting of the State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers was being held in a hybrid format, in person and by livestream teleconference, pursuant to Act 100 of 2021, which requires boards to use a virtual platform to conduct business when a public meeting is held.

Mr. Rouse noted the meeting was being recorded and voluntary participation constituted consent to be recorded.

Mr. Rouse also noted the Board entered into Executive Session with Board Counsel to have attorney-client consultations and for the purpose of

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   conducting quasi-judicial deliberations.]
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        The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
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   Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers was held on
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   Thursday, August 28, 2025. Mark Smeltzer, Chairman,
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   Professional Member, officially called the meeting to
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   order at 10:30 a.m.
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   Roll Call
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   [Mark V. Smeltzer Sr., Chairman, Professional Member,
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   requested a roll call of Board members. A quorum was
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   present.]
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                              * * *
14
   Introduction of Attendees
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   [Kristel Hennessy Hemler, Board Administrator,
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   provided an introduction of attendees.]
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   Approval of Minutes - July 17, 2025
   CHAIR SMELTZER:
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20
                  Someone make a motion for us to approve
21
                  the minutes.
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   MR. AUSHERMAN:
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                  So moved.
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   MS. MAST:
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                  I second.
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Mark Smeltzer, aye; William Stoerrle, abstain; Chandra Mast, aye; John Ausherman, aye; Jonathan Schuck, aye; Laura Pattini, abstain; Paul Wentzel, aye; Martha Brown, abstain.

7 [The motion carried. Mr. Stoerrle, Ms. Pattini and 8 Ms. Brown abstained from voting on the motion.]

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10 Report of Prosecutorial Division - No Report

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12 Report of Board Counsel - Motion to Deem Facts

13 Admitted

14 MR. ROUSE:

After discussion in Executive Session,

I believe that the Chair would

entertain a motion to Deny the Motion

to Deem Facts Admitted and to direct

Board counsel to draft an order

delegating this matter to a hearing

examiner to conduct a formal hearing and issue a proposed adjudication and order

for review by the Board.

24 CHAIR SMELTZER:

Chair would entertain such a motion.

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   MR. STOERRIE:
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                  I'd make that motion.
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   MS. AUSHERMAN:
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                  I second.
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                  Mark Smeltzer, aye; William Stoerrle,
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                  aye; Chandra Mast, aye; John Ausherman,
                  aye; Jonathan Schuck, aye; Laura
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                  Pattini, abstain; Paul Wentzel, aye;
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                  Martha Brown, aye.
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   [The motion passed. Ms. Pattini abstained from
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   voting on the motion. The case for the Motion to
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   Deem Facts Admitted is BPOA versus Jose V. Costa,
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   Case No: 23-70-008917.]
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   Report of Board Counsel - Matters for Discussion -
   The Appraisal Foundation's State Harmonization Task
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   Force
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   [Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, stated this
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   matter had been on the last two Board agendas. He
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   stated, at the last Board meeting in July, the Board
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   discussed a number of questions concerning how
23
   assessors could transition into the certified real
24
   estate appraisal profession. The Board had questions
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   regarding the current education and experience
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criteria as required by the Appraisal Foundation and how the criteria would be applied to assessors.

Mr. Rouse noted this matter was on the agenda for this meeting to determine if there were further questions that needed to be brought to the attention of the AQB.

Ms. Mast directed questions to current appraisers in order to gain feedback on the subject. She also explained that Montana and Colorado have models of this method already and there appeared to be a lot of support behind this, the reason being that this particular method provides accountability of supervisors, accountability of experience, and how it would be translated. She stated other states do currently have certified Pennsylvania evaluators.

Ms. Hennessy Hemler stated many states want to practice this method but do not have a license type for assessors or evaluators. The regulation states that potential appraisers would need to have a supervisor looking over their work. Ms. Hennessy Hemler's concern related to having a supervisory appraiser oversee the work and how that might equate with an evaluator's mass appraisals.

Chair Smeltzer believed that discussion would commence regarding the issue of individuals wanting

to become certified in general and the criteria to be met, including having to have 50% of experience with interior and exterior inspection. He noted the requirement for 75% of their experience to be with an interior inspection. The requirement could be changed, but he did know how to change it for people who are assessors that do not have to meet the same requirements as someone going through the traditional requirements.

Chair Smeltzer stated it was important to have a certain special evaluation program that other states do not have.

Ms. Hennessy Hemler commented that the PAREA program would only count towards 50% of the experience for a general appraiser, generally the residential side. The requirement would still be to have 1500 hours of commercial, nonresidential experience and under the supervision of a supervisory appraiser. She was uncertain that the Board's own regulations (which would require an application and review of experience, appraisal reports and experience logs) would be considered. 50% of an interior/ exterior inspection experience would still be required.

Chair Smeltzer then suggested to get through mass

appraising, the Board would still have that overriding rule of having to be under the supervision of a certified general appraiser.

Ms. Hennessy Hemler agreed. She suggested the Board could create a pathway for those to get their general appraiser certification in a non-traditional way. She stated this was the whole discussion for this harmonization task force.

Chair Smeltzer stated there were two harmonization issues to be resolved, this being one of them. He clarified the first regulation the Board needed to discuss was their requirement for either 50% or 75% of the required hours to include an interior and an exterior inspection.

Chair Smeltzer continued by introducing other considerations to the regulations, such as appraising gas rights, mineral rights or other rights in real estate. He stated this needed to be resolved.

Although the interior inspection solution remained a priority, both might be done together. He suggested a potential task force to research all and to hear from the public about this.

Bruce Witt, Chief Appraiser, along with Shannon Hiss of the State Harmonization Task Force, joined the discussion. Mr. Witt stated there were about 17

other states now allowing mass appraisal credit to be applied towards this.

Ms. Hiss then informed the Board that most states have some form and version of the CPE that requires state specific education, such as property tax laws, general fundamental appraisals, etc.

Ms. Hiss also informed the Board that in Colorado, as mentioned earlier, the Colorado Board oversees both sides of the appraisal world there. She advised Colorado's Board had some interesting statutes that could be seen in terms of guidance for this Board on incorporating the acceptance of mass appraisal, validation, and verification of experience.

Chair Smeltzer questioned whether there was a representative at the meeting for the Assessors Association of Pennsylvania (AAP). Mr. Witt responded that he was a representative for the AAP.

Chair Smeltzer asked Mr. Witt if there was much interest from Mr. Witt's member group with regards to people seeking to transition this way into the real estate appraisal profession.

Mr. Witt replied there are members who were both appraisers and held CPEs. He stated the general rule that many counties enforced is the no conflicts of

interest rule within that county. For example, assessors working in one county cannot work as an appraiser in the same county.

Chair Smeltzer asked if any of their assessors were under the supervision of a certified appraiser or did this need to be changed as well. He stated their rules as currently written included reciprocity. He spoke about the fact that those in Colorado could apply for and be given reciprocity in Pennsylvania. However, the same could not be said for someone already living in Pennsylvania.

Chair Smeltzer discussed his concern over the existing regulation in Pennsylvania by stating, because of the regulation, it was a complicated issue. He asked Mr. Witt if he would be available to answer questions if a task force was formed.

Mr. Rouse commented to Chair Smeltzer that another issue was the difference between the educational requirements for assessors versus what was required of a certified residential or certified general appraiser to comply with the AQB criteria.

Ms. Hiss responded that she was uncertain if any education offered by the AAP for the CPE designation was approved by the AQB. A lot of the education that is offered by IAAO is AQB Qualifying and Continuing

education approved. She further informed the Board that their education is focused on those mass appraisal courses. 75% of what we offer is approved by the AQB.

Mr. Rouse stated information was needed to determine the transition for assessors into appraisers. He discussed specific standards of education required for general appraisers, assessors, residential appraisers or assessors, etc. It was also noted that different levels of education and/or experience may or may not be approved by the AQB.

Mr. Rouse questioned if there would be allowances for the education requirement to get people from assessor to appraiser.

Mr. Witt stated none of the AAP courses were AQB certified. He did confirm that some of the IAAO classes were AQB approved. The Board continued discussion regarding the similarities and the differences between the requirements for becoming an assessor verses an appraiser, as well as the various ways in which these requirements, such as degrees of education, levels of experience, experience hours and working under supervisory conditions, could be met.

Chair Smeltzer suggested it would be interesting to learn the practices of other states. He asked Ms.

- Mast to send out appropriate questions to those
 states. Ms. Hiss informed Ms. Mast that she would
 put her in touch with some people at different states
 since that is what the Harmonization Task Force is
 working on with the Foundation.
 - Mr. Rouse asked if anybody else would be on the Pennsylvania Task Force besides Ms. Mast. Mr. Witt offered to help as he was somewhat familiar with a number of the different regulations. It was confirmed this would be a committee of the Board.
- Mr. Schuck respectfully declined to be on the committee due to his workload.]
- 13
- 14 Report of Regulatory Counsel Regulations/Statute
- 15 and 16A-7032: CE for Certified Pennsylvania
- 16 Evaluators

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- 17 [Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, discussed working with Jacqueline Wolfgang, Regulatory Counsel,
- 19 on General Revision Regulation (16A-7026).
- 20 Mr. Rouse stated the Schedule of Fees regulation
- 21 (16A-1725) was still on hold. The Bureau of Finance
- 22 and Procurement will go back before the Board
- 23 | concerning that regulation.
- Mr. Rouse discussed 16A-7032, which is the
- 25 regulation concerning continuing education. He

questioned whether the Board wanted to continue to require certified Pennsylvania evaluators to have the evaluation bias and fair housing laws and regulations, as a requirement for certification. Не stated there is a requirement now under Section 6 of the Assessor Certification Act that candidates for basic studies as an assessor must include instruction on the judicial interpretation of the uniformity clause of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Rouse questioned the Board whether assessors should be required each biennial renewal period to have the valuation bias and fair housing laws and regulations course. Or could it just be that the valuation bias and fair housing laws and regulations course can be an acceptable subject under Section 36.262.

Ms. Brown clarified by stating that if she understood Mr. Rouse correctly, keeping it under 262 was an option. Ms. Mast also inquired if, after the first required taking, it would always be optional.

Mr. Rouse explained, under Section 36.261, it would be a continuing education requirement, except as provided in subsection b. Or the Board could strike the language concerning the valuation bias and fair housing courser requirement which appears in the

in section 36.261(a) after the deleted language, "Effective with renewal of certification 2007-2009".

Chair Smeltzer pointed out that the requirement is for certified general and certified residential to complete the course every two years. He questioned why it would not be the same requirement for evaluators.

He also spoke to the fact that areas were going to be affected by the same forces and drawing those lines. Evaluators needed to be aware of this, just like a residential or general appraiser needed to be aware of this. He stated the Board could not let any personal biases affect what it was doing. He could see where it was really different, and he suggested it just be consistent.

Mr. Rouse questioned the necessity of having each biennial renewal period for assessors; it is required federally for appraisers.

Mr. Schuck wanted to acknowledge Chairman
Smeltzer's concern, which was valid relative to
consistency between the designations that are
overseen by the state board. He informed the Board
that, either at its own discretion or based on court
orders, counties revalue all property at a given
point in time. The base model used to value

improvements, he confirmed, was the CAMA system,
therefore there was a very limited opportunity for
bias to come in.

Mr. Schuck additionally reminded the Board that most, if not all, counties are paying for CPE continuing education as they are required to do so. However, those counties will not generally fund additional classwork or CPE recertification.

Chair Smeltzer suggested that redrawing market areas on a regular basis gives the Board a good reason to say it was going to do this differently. He believed this was definitely something it could consider doing.

Chair Smeltzer, after hearing about Franklin

County and Bucks County having not been reassessed in

many years, declared that those counties were not

having neighborhood lines redrawn because of lack of

reassessments.

It was suggested, if the Board got into a situation where it would be going to cyclical reassessments every five years, there would be more frequent redrawing and reconsideration of those neighborhood boundaries.

Mr. Witt advised that a current bill, introduced to the Senate, now has Senator Fontana proposing

cyclical reassessments on a five-year basis. He also 1 2 added that another state senator was proposing to do 3 away with property taxes and shift it over to another 4 area as well. A Commonwealth Court case was also 5 filed in July 2025 based on a challenge regarding the 6 present system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 7 uniformity and the state constitution is being 8 broken. Mr. Witt, repeating comments on potential bias made by Dr. Kent, stated it may not be anything 10 the assessor is doing, but could be due to past 11 government regulations and neighborhoods created 12 because of regulations and because of bias. Mr. Witt 13 informed the Board that he and Dr. Kent were working 14 with the City of Philadelphia in the office of 15 Property Assessment on this particular subject. 16 Witt suggested that consideration be given to a 7hour valuation bias course. 17 18 Mr. Stoerrle stated those appraisers under their

Mr. Stoerrle stated those appraisers under their umbrella were required to take the courses. He reiterated that the courses had to be taken or he could see a problem down the road.

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Mr. Rouse asked if the Board wanted him to continue with the annex. He stated a motion would be needed if the Board wanted to do something different, because the Board had already adopted the current

annex and preamble.

The current annex calls for a 7-hour national USPAP continuing education course as taught by an AQB-certified USPAP instructor, and there will be a requirement for the valuation bias and AQB-compliant continuing education course for valuation bias and fair housing. The first time that it was taken would be the seven hour course, and then every two years thereafter, it would be the four hours.

Chair Smeltzer asked Ms. Mast why the Pennsylvania evaluators were not required to submit proof of continuing education. Mr. Rouse replied that those people that were initially qualified on January 1st or June 30th were not required to submit proof of CE as a condition of biannual renewal certification.

Chair Smeltzer asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to change the annex or preamble. Hearing none, and because the current annex and preamble had already been adopted, no motion was needed.]

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22 [Paul H. Wentzel, Jr., exited the meeting at 11:25 a.m.]

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25 Report of Regulatory Counsel - Update on SP 907 of

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1 2025 Home Inspectors
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- 2 [Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, provided an
- 3 update on SB 609 of 2025. He stated the Bill was
- 4 introduced in the State Senate on July 8th of 2025
- 5 and now in the State Senate's Consumer Protection and
- 6 | Professional Licensure.]
- 7
- 8 Report of Board Chairman
- 9 [Chair Smeltzer briefly reminded the Board about the
- 10 necessity of providing accurate information for those
- 11 | calling about state regulations, CE classes,
- 12 certification and other topics that would affect
- 13 their occupations as assessors, appraisers, etc.]
- 14
- 15 Report of Board Administrator 2025 CE Adults -
- 16 Update
- 17 | [Kristel Hennessy Hemler, Board Administrator,
- 18 updated the Board on the CE for Adults.
- 19 She stated, for the 2025 continuing education
- 20 audit, they had a fail rate of 3.3%, which was very
- 21 good. She also informed the Board that the remedial
- 22 | education licensees were also included. Those were
- 23 to complete the terms of consent agreements or the
- 24 | final adjudications that required the licensee to do
- 25 remedial education. Only one licensed appraiser

trainee, one broker appraiser, two residential, and five certified general failed.

Chair Smeltzer questioned whether there was any type of trend for the individuals failing. Ms.

Hennessy Hemler replied that the provider was not an approved Pennsylvania provider. She added some appraisers submitted their CE certificates that had been approved by the real estate commission but not by an appraiser board. Therefore, Pennsylvania could not accept them.

Chair Smeltzer congratulated the audit results.

He asked the Board to remind people to make sure that that both the provider and the course were approved in Pennsylvania before moving forward.

Ms. Hennessy Hemler commented, when the Board was ready for the 2027 renewals, it would break out the valuation bias and fair housing course question. This would be another reminder for the appraiser, going into the renewal, or evaluator if that gets through in time. She added it was just another way to get them to remember to do all of the required courses.

Mr. Michalowski mentioned that it would take some time off the review of those courses cases, which for this board is critical.

Ms. Hennessy Hemler spoke to the proposition that if somebody applied in 2025, and they were approved to sit for the exam, they fall under the 2025 rule. If they did not pass that exam and needed to put in a new application, they would be under the new regulations and requirements as with the licensed appraiser trainees. So that would be a question for the licensed appraiser trainees.

Mr. Rouse stated the information would be on the Board's website as far as the terms of the qualifying education and continuing education for the valuation and fair housing laws and regulation course.]

Report of Board Administrator - Valuation Bias and Fair Housing Laws and Regulations
[Kristel Hennessy Hemler, Board Administrator, reiterated Mr. Rouse's stated location of the Board's Department of State Website, which is dos.pa.gov, the homepage with the Board laws and regulations. On the Board website, under valuation bias and fair housing laws and regulations, there would be an announcement stating the qualifying education requirements. She asserted that it would increase the number of qualifying education hours for the licensed appraiser trainee from 79 to 87 given the addition of the

eight-hour valuation bias and fair housing laws and regulation course. She explained the AQB will only approve a qualifying education course for 15 hours except for the valuation bias course, which is eight-hours. There will be a 15-hour appraisal subject matter elective. She added the general real estate appraiser hours will stay the same.

Mr. Ausherman asked whether there was a current list of providers. Ms. Hennessy Hemler stated there was a list of providers that were offering the eighthour and the seven-hour course, and more providers were coming in.

Mr. Rouse spoke to the fact that the AQB criteria for January 1, 2026, as originally printed, listed that 12-hours of appraisal subject matter electives was needed, resulting in qualifying education totaling 200 hours, when in fact it should be 15-hours of appraisal subject matter electives.

Therefore, individuals applying to become certified residential real estate appraisers need a total of 203 hours of qualifying education. He commented that anyone applying for certification needed to know the total hours of qualifying education was going to be 203 hours and not the 200 hours. He also confirmed that the Board's regulations would not have to be

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2.3
   changed, because the regulations state that the AQB
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   criteria needs to be followed.]
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   Conference Reports - Conference Report after AARO
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   Meeting
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   [Chairman Smeltzer suggested the Board have two
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   people or actually three people going to the AARO
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   conference. 1
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   Report of Committees - No Report
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   Applications for Review
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   MR. ROUSE:
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                  I believe the Chair would entertain a
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                  motion to approve the experience of
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                  Grace Reiter at Item No.9 for Certified
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                  Real Estate Appraiser.
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   MS. BROWN:
                  I would entertain a motion.
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   MR. AUSHERMAN:
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                  I second.
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                  Mark Smeltzer, aye; William Stoerrle,
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                  aye; Chandra Mast, aye; John Ausherman,
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1
                  aye; Jonathan Schuck, aye; Laura
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                  Pattini, abstain; Martha Brown, aye.
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    [The motion carried. Ms. Pattini abstained from
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   voting on the motion.]
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   MR. ROUSE:
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7
                  I believe the Chair would entertain a
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                  motion to provisionally deny the
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                  licensed appraiser trainee
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                  application of Justin Davis.
   MR. STOERRLE:
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                  I would entertain a motion.
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   MR. AUSHERMAN:
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                  I second.
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16
                  Mark Smeltzer, aye; William Stoerrle,
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                  aye; Chandra Mast, aye; John Ausherman,
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                  aye; Jonathan Schuck, aye; Laura
19
                  Pattini, abstain; Martha Brown, aye.
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   [The motion passed. Ms. Pattini abstained from
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   voting on the motion.]
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   Review of Requests - No Report
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   Miscellaneous - No Report
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   Public Comments/Discussion - None
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   Hearings - None
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   Adjournment
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   CHAIR SMELTZER:
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                   I would entertain a motion to adjourn
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                   if there's nothing else.
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   MS. BROWN:
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                   So moved.
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   MR. AUSHERMAN:
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                   Second.
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                                * * *
15
    [There being no further business, the State Board of
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   Certified Real Estate Appraisers Meeting adjourned at
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   12:07 p.m.]
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers meeting.

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Allison Walker,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.

			27
1 2 3 4 5 6 7		STATE BOARD OF CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS REFERENCE INDEX	
5		August 28, 2025	
8	TIME	AGENDA	
9 10 11	9:00 10:30	Executive Session Return to Open Session	
12 13	10:30	Official Call to Order	
14 15	10:31	Roll Call	
16 17	10:33	Approval of Minutes	
18 19 20	10:34	Appointment - Shana Walker	
21 22	10:37	Report of Board Counsel	
23 24	11:11	Regulations/Statute	
25 26	11:43	Report of Board Chairman	
27 28	11:45	Report of Board Administrator	
29 30	11:55	Applications for Review	
31 32	12:07	Adjournment	
33 34			
35 36			
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