

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Time: 2:00 Pm

Item 1, Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM.

Board Chair opened the meeting with welcoming remarks, wishing everyone a joyful New Year and expressing gratitude for their participation.

The PEALS Board's mission statement was recited.

Item 2, Roll Call

▪ Board Members Present

Cedric Cruz, Architect Member Board Chairperson  
Zenon Belanger, Engineering Member  
Paul Santos, Surveyor Member  
Vince Arriola, Department of Public Works (DPW) Member  
Catherine Gutierrez, Executive Board Administrator  
Nixon, Board Investigator

▪ Board Members Absent

Maria Elizabeth V. Cristi, PE  
Cathyann C. Gogue, Public Board Member

▪ Guest

Peter Bautista, PE – Guam EPA  
Michelle Lastimososa, Director – Guam EPA  
Connie Afleje, ASO Guam EPA via Zoom  
Brent Wiesel, RA - AIA and Others

Item 3, Approval of November 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Board Members were given time to review meeting minutes from November 6, 2025.

A motion was made by Paul Santos, to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Zenon Belanger.

The motion passed, subject to any corrections being submitted within a week.

Item 4, Executive Board Administrator's Report

Executive Board Administrator (EBA) reported on the vacant administrative assistant position. Board operations continue while efforts to find suitable candidates is ongoing.

Upcoming national meetings were highlighted:

The NCARB 2026 Regional Summit in Oklahoma City, scheduled for March 20-21.

The 2026 NCEES Western Zone Interim Meeting in Bend, Oregon, set for April 30 - May 2.

EBA announced the outcome of PLS Guam Land Matters exam administered in October and November 2026, where two of the three examinees successfully passed.

Item 5, Board Investigator's Report

Nixon reported, currently, there is one case under investigation, with the board awaiting the return of the complainant from Hawaii. Complaint is against a Civil Engineer.

Item 6, Old Business: Review of Laws, Rules, and Regulations

A workshop that was initially planned has been postponed. The board aims to reschedule it for March.

Item 7, New Business: Election of Board Officers

Nominations for officer positions included

Cedric Cruz was nominated for Chair and was unanimously approved.  
Zenon Belanger was nominated for Vice Chair and received unanimous approval.  
Paul Santos was nominated for Secretary and was also approved unanimously.

Item 8, Board Discussion

Peter P. Bautista, PE's Application for Registration via Comity v. Reinstatement

BACKGROUND:

Mr. Bautista originally obtained his Professional Engineer license from the Guam Board in 1998, but that license expired in 1999. He currently holds an active PE license in Washington State and has now submitted an application for licensure in Guam by comity.

The Board has requested a legal opinion to determine whether his comity application may be accepted based on his active Washington license, or whether he must instead pursue reinstatement and pay the applicable penalties of his expired Guam license or submit a new initial application.

After further discussions and comments from the board members, the applicant and public attendees, the board members agreed to invoke their authority based our statutes to consider the matter until such time a response is received for legal counsel.

A motion was made by Paul Santos, to grant Mr. Bautista a one-year temporary license based on the provisions outlined in 22 GCA §32126. Adding that the authority to make this considerations is within the board's powers.

Moved by Vincent P. Arriola seconded by Zenon Belanger.

This motion passed with unanimous consent from the board members.

#### Item, 9 Public Comment

No public comments were received during this segment.

#### Item 10 Review of DPW Permit and DLM Maps

Board members engaged in a review of the lists. Paul Santos inquired about the "Revision of Electrical Sheets" on one of the existing projects on the list. Board staff clarified that this was a revision to pre-existing drawings.

No further discussions under this sections.

#### Notes - Action Items Assigned:

Admin: Continue recruitment process for Administrative Assistant vacancy.  
Admin: Schedule Rules & Regulations workshop (target by March 2026).  
Admin: Issue one-year temporary license and certificate to Peter Bautista (effective date of hire).  
Admin: Re-submit formal legal opinion request to Attorney General regarding comity vs. reinstatement; circulate draft to board and follow up.  
Admin: Contact national boards/peer jurisdictions for precedent on "base license" and reinstatement windows.

Nixon: Continue investigation upon complainant's return and report status.

Paul Santos: Grade remaining PLS "B" exam and confirm scores (by early next week).

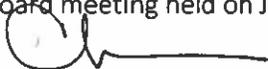
Item 11, Adjournment

A motion to conclude the meeting was made by Paul Santos and seconded by Zenon Belanger.

This motion passed with unanimous consent from the board members. Meeting was adjourned at 3:09 pm

Prepared by:  
Catherine Gutierrez  
Executive Board Administrator  
Date prepared: January 22, 2026

Certification of Minutes  
I hereby certify that these minutes are an accurate and complete record of the proceedings of the PEALS Board meeting held on January 8, 2026.

  
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Cedric Cruz, Chair  
Signature:   
Date: 5/17/26

Paul Santos, Secretary  
Signature:   
Date: 5/17/2026

Board Approval  
These minutes were approved by the PEALS Board on: 03-17-2026