

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison (PAL) Council Meeting
held in Reno, Nevada, Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Committee Chairman Christopher M. Roper, PE/SE, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Ed and Mary Alice Pine Boardroom, Suite 130, 1755 E. Plumb Lane, Reno, Nevada. Committee member Patty Mamola, PE, Executive Director was present, along with Kay Smith, Administrative Assistant.

1. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

2. Introductions

Those present were Don Pawlowski, PE, representing the American Public Works Association (APWA); Ruedy Edgington, PE, representing the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC); and Carl C. deBaca, PLS, representing the Nevada Association of Land Surveyors.

3. Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Activities

Chairman Roper said this was the second meeting of the PAL Council, the first being held in Las Vegas before the January 12, 2017 Board meeting. He said the Board wished to reinvigorate the PAL Council and keep dialogue open between the Board and the professional organizations.

a. Review of Regulations and Administrative Code

Chairman Roper said the Board plans to conduct a review of NC 625. He said that some of the language needs revision, such as electronic stamping.

b. Mobility for Professional Engineers – Canada and Regional

Chairman Roper said the Board and Canada has a new Memorandum of Understanding for licensing mobility between the entities. He said the Board is also looking at regional licensing agreements with other western states, initially with Wyoming and Idaho.

Ms. Mamola said the hurdle with land surveying mobility lies with the Nevada PLS surveying exam. She said she would like to see development of a regional surveying exam shared with other western states. Mr. C. deBaca agreed, stating the surveying laws are basically the same in other western states, except for the coastal states of California, Oregon and Washington.

4. Professional Association / Industry Activities

Mr. Pawlowski explained that the main goal of the APWA is to promote public works and the professionals in it. He said that out of about 400 members, 90% are associated with the Reno and Las Vegas areas. There are some Elko members. The Nevada chapter plans to promote the development of younger professionals under 35 years of age and provide leadership opportunities. The chapter is starting a membership drive to grow the membership.

Mr. Pawlowski said APWA hosts two conferences a year in northern and southern Nevada. He said the conferences focus on training for professionals and professional development hours are given. The chapter has monthly luncheons and the Las Vegas area is very active in them.

Mr. Pawlowski said that most engineers in APWA typically work in the transportation area. He said the Nevada Department of Transportation plays a big part in the organization, along with the regional transportation commissions. He said APWA plans to branch out from this sector.

Mr. Pawlowski said APWA will sponsor National Public Works Week in May, and have Governor Sandoval sign a proclamation.

Mr. Edgington said that ACEC exists to safeguard the engineering industry. He said the organization spends about 75% of its time looking at legislative issues with its lobbyist. ACEC is concerned about having fair practice within the agencies and insuring that requests for proposals do not ask for prices. He said the problem lies mainly with purchasing departments. Mr. Edgington said the City of Henderson is looking at new design-build language and ACEC is reviewing it.

Mr. C. deBaca said that NALS has had a good increase in membership. The organization is offering webinars for continuing education credits. NALS plans to revamp its by-laws this year.

Mr. C. deBaca said NALS has partnered with Great Basin College's surveying program over the last five or six years. Persons can now obtain a four-year degree and online classes are offered. He said there are 80 people taking classes this semester, with about 20 people enrolled in the surveying program. Mr. C. deBaca said this compares with Fresno State and the Oregon Institute of Technology.

Mr. C. deBaca said there is a bill to provide monies for Great Basin to hire a second professor for the surveying program. He said that NALS plans to assist by having its foundation donate monies.

Mr. C. deBaca said that next week is National Surveying Week and NALS will hold its annual conference in April. He said that NALS decided to part ways with its lobbyist due to costs. He said the organization will sign up with a legislative bill service.

6. Next Meeting Date and Location

Chairman Roper said the next meeting in Reno will be the day before the November 9, 2017 Board meeting.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chairman Roper declared the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

Respectfully,

Patty Mamola, PE
Executive Director