

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison (PAL) Council Meeting
held in Henderson, Nevada, Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Committee Chairman Christopher M. Roper, PE/SE, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Anthem Room, 4th Floor, City of Henderson – City Hall, 240 Water Street, Henderson, Nevada. Committee members Michael G. Kidd, PLS, and Patty Mamola, PE, Executive Director were present. Also present was Kay Smith, Administrative Assistant.

1. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made. The following persons representing professional organizations were in attendance.

Gerald Gunny, PE/SE	Structural Engineers Association of Southern Nevada (SEASN)
Lynnette Russell, PE	American Public Works Association (APWA)
Jason Fackrell, PLS	Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS)
David Alexander, PE	Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)
Scott Plummer, PE	American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
David James, PhD, PE	National Society of Professional Engineers Nevada (NSPE-NV)
Jonathan Tull, PE	National Society of Professional Engineers Nevada (NSPE-NV)

3. Open Discussion Topics/Industry Activities

Mr. Tull referred to AB353, a bill that would deregulate several of the licensed professions in Nevada. He said the bill had appeared to be dead, but a hearing was unexpectedly scheduled. He said that NSPE and other groups opposed the legislation since the bill could affect public safety if passed. Ms. Mamola said that NSPE submitted a letter, and NSPE and ACEC were prepared to testify. She said the bill was pulled at the last minute and she appreciated both organizations' efforts.

Ms. Mamola said that opposition to licensure has come up in other states. She said part of the issue stems from a White House paper from a couple years ago titled "Licensure is a Barrier to Trade". She said she assumed the issue is being discussed in legislative circles nationally.

Chairman Roper said the Board has looked at ways to speed up the licensing process in Nevada. He said the Board has recognized it does not need to be putting up unnecessary licensing hurdles or barriers to trade. Ms. Mamola said the Board has reduced the time for applicants to obtain licensure to about two months.

Ms. Mamola noted that Governor Sandoval's bill, SB69, would allow the governor to direct a licensing board in a critical profession to license applicants within 30 days. She said the Board plans to move ahead on its own to reach this timeframe.

Dr. James said that he and Dr. Don Hayes at UNLV are still interested in opening discussions about creating a surveying minor that could be used to help surveyors complete a four-year degree, or to attract new students to a four-year degree who are not able complete the program at Great Basin College.

Dr. James said the curriculum would be a combination of Great Basin online classes and one or two other survey classes at UNLV. He said UNLV would partner with NALS and have it reviewed to see if it could comprise a four-year

curriculum that would be acceptable to the Board. He said applicants could then move towards taking the fundamentals of land surveying exam and work towards getting licensed. Dr. James said hopefully those licensed surveyors without a degree could enroll to obtain a four-year degree and advance in their careers. He said the first step is to meet with NALS to determine needs and what would the curriculum should be.

Dr. James said discussions should also be held with Great Basin. He said it is not planned to take away from Great Basin's curriculum, only to use it to populate much of the minor degree at UNLV. If someone in Las Vegas wishes to get a degree from UNLV, he or she could get a four-year degree with a land surveying minor. He said UNLV offers a number of degrees with general elective credits that could be paired with the surveying minor.

Dr. James said that UNLV has a local site for people to take Great Basin's online courses, and the college has survey equipment to use for hands-on learning. He said that Jimmy Marlett, PLS, has also been serving as a survey instructor at UNLV for several years.

Mr. Plummer said that ACEC is currently tracking about 12 legislative bills and keeping busy with them. He said ACEC also continues to monitor quality-based selection (QBS) violations concerning requests for proposals, along with negotiations on design-build projects. He said that design-build is a part of QBS and violations may occur.

Mr. Plummer noted an engineer who was part of a team on a large design-build project that quit because he could not negotiate a reasonable fee with the contractor. He said this will occur more frequently as procurement agencies think design-build is the answer for all projects.

Mr. Alexander said that CMAA's current concern is having an avenue for licensure, since some agencies require resident engineers and some of these people only have construction experience.

Ms. Russell said that APWA is looking for opportunities to work with other organizations on advocacy. She said at the national level APWA advocacy is pretty unified, but this is not felt at the state level. Ms. Mamola asked Ms. Russell if APWA wished to be included in such legislative issues as licensure and QBS. Ms. Russell replied that statewide APWA would like to be included.

Mr. Gunny said that a concern of SEASoN is civil engineers who practice outside their area of expertise, especially since construction has been increasing. Also, he said that some state boards are doing away with requiring professional development hours (PDHs) due to a lack of staffing to monitor them. Mr. Gunny said it is imperative for SEASoN engineers to keep up with PDHs, since building codes are becoming more complex.

4. Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyor Activities

a. Strategic Planning Meeting

Chairman Roper said the Board held a strategic planning meeting at the end of March. A key item of discussion was how the Board can effectively connect with members of the public, legislators, schools and its own licensees.

b. Legislative Issues

Mr. Kidd said the Board will be reaching out to organizations for input on some statute changes in NRS 625 that will be addressed in the 2019 legislative session. Ms. Mamola said the Board is also reviewing its regulations in NAC 625 as required by law every 10 years, and changes will be made during the off legislative year.

5. Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting will be held in Reno on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, the day before the Board's regular meeting.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Chairman Roper declared the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

Respectfully,

Patty Mamola, PE
Executive Director

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