

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison Meeting
held in Las Vegas Nevada Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Gregory DeSart, PE called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Committee members present were Board Chairman Robert LaRiviere, PLS; Patty Mamola, PE, Executive Director; and Karen Purcell, PE. Also present was Scott Plummer, GCW Engineering, representing ACEC; Jonathon Tull, Atkins, representing ACEC; Jason Higgins, Wallace Morris Kline Surveying, representing NALS; Craig Smart, future representative for ACEC; Murray Blaney, Compliance Officer; Louisa Kern, Administrative Assistant; Susan Fisher, McDonald Carano, lobbyist for the board.

1. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

2. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves. The following persons representing professional organizations were in attendance:

Scott Plummer – American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
Jason Higgins – Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS)
Craig Smart – American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
Jonathon Tull – National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)

3. Provide update on proposed changes to Nevada Revised Statutes 625 and Nevada Administrative Code 625

Mr DeSart asked that Ms Mamola provide a summary update on the board’s proposed changes. Ms Mamola explained that two public workshops had been held, one each in Northern and Southern resulting in no formal written or verbal objections or comments. She continued to say the proposed changes had been submitted to the LCB along with the required Small Business Impact Statements – with the submission date being April 26, 2018. Ms Mamola said that the LCB typically has 30 days to respond with any suggested changes to the language. Mr Higgins asked if additional public workshops would be held after any language refinement by the LCB. Ms Mamola replied additional public workshops are required. The revised language would be published for public review, with a 15-day advertisement to seek written and oral comments at the workshops. She continued to say that following the public workshops, and acceptance by the full board, the proposed changes would then be forwarded to the LCB for approval. If they are approved by the LCB, the revisions can then be adopted as temporary regulations. Ms Mamola also stated that a special meeting of the board may well be required prior to the scheduled July 12th meeting to give final approval to any language changes before legislature starts their work in July.

3. Provide update on continuing education event

Mr DeSart asked Mr Blaney to provide an update on the planned continuing education event. Mr Blaney explained that all five speakers, including the key speaker, were now under contract. Ms Mamola listed the speakers with a brief description of their focus topics. Mr Blaney described the branding of the event – ReFocus, ReJunevnuate, ReConnect – was designed to differentiate the occasion from typical PDH seminars. He explained that a “save the date” would be sent in July to launch the promotion of the event. Mr LaRiviere inquired about a previous discussion about upsizing the venue to accommodate more attendees. Mr Blaney

replied that it had been considered, but the cost of expanding the venue was more than anticipated. Ms Mamola added that an upsize in venue would have taken the budget beyond the amount approved by the board, and the decision was made to stay with the current plan. She anticipated that the event would be a huge success and create greater demand for an offering in Northern Nevada next year where the venue size could be increased. Mr Higgins asked if the promotional materials would be distributed to the members of PAL. Ms Mamola replied that it would.

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

Mr LaRiviere stated our long serving public board member Bud Cranor had resigned following the March board meeting, and the Governor had appointed a new public member to the board. He continued to say that the new member was Thomas Matter from Granite Construction, and that Mr Matter was the first public member from Northern Nevada.

Mr LaRiviere provided an update on compliance with SB 69, stating that the average turnaround for licensure by comity, after receiving a completed application, was 12 calendar days.

Mr LaRiviere said that several members of the board had attended the NCEES Western Zone meeting April 5 - 7. He continued saying that he would like to see an expansion in delegate funding so the board could send more staff to this meeting in the future. The meeting goes into compliance and enforcement issue in depth and could benefit from having someone from compliance in attendance.

Mr LaRiviere then highlighted areas pertaining to surveying. He stated that there were discussions about creating a national module related to surveying on public lands. He added that topic of national modules for mapping and geoscience was also brought up. Ms Mamola said that there was a desire from NOAA and other federal organizations to also get hydrographic surveying a path to licensure. She added aerial surveying by drones, geospatial mapping and other sciences is also seeing a national demand. Mr Higgins asked if a national taskforce had been created to examine these areas. Mr LaRiviere said that it had, and that Ms Mamola was at the first two meetings in December 2017 and January 2018. She reported that the taskforce is recommending national base modules and would like support from individual state boards. Mr Higgins asked if state specific exams would still then be a requirement. Ms Mamola said that it would need to be evaluated, but suggested that the Nevada exam could possibly move to focusing on the laws and regulations of Nevada. Mr LaRiviere said that more information regarding national modules would be available after the NCEES Annual Meeting in August and that he would report back at the September board meeting in Las Vegas.

Mr LaRiviere said that he and Ms Mamola attended the APEGA Conference in Edmonton, Alberta. He said the event hosted interesting professional development sessions that categorized into four areas: regulatory, innovation and leadership, social good, and technical and risk safety. He also added that APEGA has a job board feature on its website where members can post vacancies and search job openings. Ms Mamola agreed that it was an interesting concept, and it could be something that could be a feature of our future licensee dashboard.

Mr LaRiviere also previewed the UNLV Construction Management Program that is on the board meeting agenda for tomorrow, and said that there was also going to be a presentation by the Nate Mack Elementary School robotics team that had recently won national awards.

Mr DeSart brought up the topic of the Public Outreach Committee, which has as its proactive goal, to get the board out in front of industry people and the public. He offered to the industry members of the PAL Council, board member availability to speak at their organizations' events. He suggested that interested parties should get in contact with Ms Mamola.

5. Professional Association/Industry Activities

Mr DeSart asked that professional association members give an update on their respective organizations

Mr Higgins said NALS now has a very active multi-member legislative committee after many years of a committee of one. He continued to state that legislative committee has voted to hire a lobbyist to support their direction. He said the committee is in support of the NAC changes proposed by the board as they read now and offered a letter of support if it were deemed necessary. The NALS committee is currently working on proposed changes to NRS 327 in response to the NGS launching a new computer system in 2022. They are near circulating draft language within their committee for review, but did not think it would make it to the current session – it was more likely it would appear in 2021. Though, he did mention that with public agency support, and some help from the board, there was an outside possibility the language could be finalized for presentation this summer.

Mr Higgins also stated that NALS was in discussion with IRWA to host joint meetings and networking opportunities, and to bring in speakers of interest to both organizations.

Mr Plummer said ACEC’s issues with quality based selection still exist with RTC and professional services, regarding the wording of RFPs. He said other agencies are close to crossing that line too. Mr Smart added that he didn’t think agencies would change their perspective until someone intervenes. Mr Smart offered ACEC’s continued support and Ms Mamola said the board is open to assist where needed.

Mr Smart added that ACEC was working on refining regulatory language with regard to design build activities, to make the process fair and equitable for engineering firms in the bid process, as it is for contractors.

Mr Tull representing NSPE, said the Southern Nevada chapter was having its fundraiser this coming Friday. He also said that the NSPE National Meeting would be held in Las Vegas in July this year, with some very noteworthy speakers, and he encouraged anyone interested to register and attend. He continued to say that board elections were being held this month, with the new board to be installed by July – with a two-year term. Nationally, he said, the organization continues to monitor laws that erode licensure, and offer active support to individual state boards affected.

6. Open Discussion Topics

Ms Mamola brought up a change to the next PAL Council meeting due to a schedule conflict. It was agreed that the next meeting would be at 8am on Thursday July 12 at the Reno board room.

6. Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

7. Adjourn

Mr DeSart adjourned the meeting at 4:44 pm.

Respectfully,

Patty Mamola
Executive Director