

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison Committee Meeting
Held in Las Vegas, Nevada, September 12, 2018

Chairman, Gregory P DeSart, PE; called the meeting to order at 4:00pm, in the Holsum Bread Building 241 W Charleston Suite 130, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102. Committee members present were Patty Mamola, PE, Executive Director; PE. Also present were Dave Rowe, representing SEASONS; David Alexander, representing CMAA, and Brain Kalina, representing NSPE; Murray Blaney, Compliance Officer; and Louisa Kern, Administrative Assistant.

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment Period

There was no public comment

3. Introductions

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

Dave Rowe – Structural Engineering Association of Southern Nevada

David Alexander – Construction Management Association of America, Southern Nevada Chapter

Brian Kalina – National Society of Professional Engineers, Southern Nevada Chapter

4. Approval of July 12, 2018, Professional Association Liaison Committee Meeting minutes

PAL 18-2 A motion was made by Ms Mamola, seconded by Mr DeSart to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed.

5. Discussion of changes to Nevada Revised Statutes 329 and 625 and Administrative Codes 625 to update laws and rules (Discussion Only)

Mr DeSart reviewed the proposed changes to NAC 625 and mentioned that a public hearing was being held tomorrow morning to discuss their adoption. Mr Rowe asked for clarification on NAC 625.630. Ms Mamola said that is removing the requirement to have a PE in every office. She added that now if you are going to offer or provide services in Nevada then you have to have a Nevada licensed PE at each office advertising or offering to perform engineering services.

Mr DeSart said he believed most local firms are in support of this. Ms Mamola added that it really supports Nevada local small businesses, including rural firms. Now they would have the opportunity to open an office in Reno and Las Vegas and not have to have a full time PE in each office, which previously would have been a stretch to those with limited personnel resources and funds.

Mr DeSart said the NAC amendment process was quite lengthy and asked Ms Mamola to give the group a sense as to what the next steps are. Ms Mamola said that at tomorrow's public hearing the board will vote whether or not to adopt the regulations. If the board votes aye (yes) then all four regulation changes would then immediately go into effect as temporary regulations. She added that then the temporary regulations would be filed with the LCB; with some additional processes on their end until they become permanent regulations. Mr DeSart asked what date would the regulations become permanent. Ms Mamola said following approval by the LCB. She added that there are no time limits on the LCB to complete the process, so it could range from several months to a year due to the upcoming legislative session.

6. Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Activities (Discussion Only)

Mr DeSart outlined the ReConnect 2018 being hosted by the board on October 11, 2018. He asked that those present share information about the event with members of their professional associations, and mentioned that it is open to the wider engineering and land surveying community, not just licensed professionals.

Mr DeSart asked the group to bring to the attention of the board any proposals from their organizations to amend current NAC or NRS. He continued to say the process of change is quite involved and that getting an early start in the review and vetting process is important.

Ms Mamola stated that the board has been under a couple of audit reviews recently. She continued to say that one was by the Governor's Finance Office and the other by a Legislative Sunset Sub-Committee. Both are ongoing with phase two information just being completed and forwarded to the GFO. She also mentioned that it is not just NVBPELS being reviewed, 26 boards and commissions in Nevada are under scrutiny. Mr Kalina asked if the information asked for and provided was public information, to which Ms Mamola replied yes and that she would share the board's response with NSPE Nevada (ACTION Item).

Mr Rowe asked if the review of licensing boards was unique to Nevada or was it happening elsewhere. Ms Mamola said it is happening nationwide. She said the catalyst seems to be a movement toward a less restrictive regulatory environment. She continued saying that a number of board's in other states do have some cumbersome policies and procedures that unnecessarily impact the licensing process – in particular with comity licensure. She said this has come into the spotlight in that it has impacted the ability of military personnel and their families to get licensed with an undue time burden when moving from state to state. The time it is taking for these folks to get licensed in one state when they are already licensed in other is taking too long. Mr DeSart said the NVBPELS has reduced the time for comity licensure approval down to 10-11 days, and the time it is taking other states to do the same is unreasonable. Mr DeSart continued to say part of the board's public outreach is to connect with Nevada legislators and help them understand what the board does, and how it functions efficiently with the best interest of the state in mind.

7. Professional Association / Industry Activities (Discussion Only)

Mr Kalina said the recent highlight was the national NSPE conference held here in Las Vegas at the Caesars Palace. He said they had really good attendance and it was upward of 300 registered. Mr Kalina added that a lot of focus was on the threats to PE licensure and what the national society is doing to help states have a unified approach to resist these challenges. Mr Kalina said the national office is providing services to the state chapters in terms of web development so that they have a consistent look for NSPE and there is also back office support related to newsletters, pulling key articles and reports effecting the engineering profession, and helping to promote the local NSPE website.

Mr Kalina said another topic that is prominent is the declining trend in membership in the younger generation. He said overall membership is somewhat stable but they would like to see growth and are trying to bring more value to the members. Ms Mamola asked how many NSPE members there are in Nevada, and Mr Kalina replied that he thought the number was 200+, with the most being active in Southern Nevada. He said there was a Northern Nevada membership contingent, but they were not active at this time. He added that NSPE was looking at creating virtual chapters that required less of a time commitment but still kept the membership informed on current issues.

Mr Mamola asked if NSPE could get feedback from any new licensees about the Nevada licensing process. She added that any outside input is valuable. She also asked that if the local chapter had any concerns regarding laws and regulations that they bring it to the board's attention, citing digital signatures as an example. Mr Kalina said it might be a good idea if board members could occasionally attend luncheons and be part of panel to answer questions from members (ACTION Item).

Mr Kalina said that NSPE was involved with UNLV and their career advising center. He added that they have a position on their advisory board and they have people involved with the senior projects and lately they have been reaching out for companies to sponsor senior projects. He asked the group to let him know of anybody or any companies who can help sponsor those senior projects as there is a big demand right now. Ms Mamola said that Dr James and Dr Hayes had invited the board to observe the senior projects, and the members were very impressed with the work being done.

Mr Rowe provided an overview of the SEASONS event and luncheon schedule, and mentioned that it was often difficult to get good attendance.

Mr DeSart said that it is getting near the point where there are too many individual association luncheons or dinners, and attendance is definitely waning. He added that it might be time for organizations to combine and create joint events that provide speakers or topics that are of more interest and will spur attendance. Mr Kalina added that the relevance of topic is the key to getting people to turn out. Mr DeSart asked the group to take that thought back to their individual groups for consideration in pooling resources and suggesting speakers that are relevant across the profession. Ms Mamola suggested digital signatures as a topic that would appeal to the various associations.

Mr Alexander said that CMAA would be having their national conference here in Las Vegas October 14-16. He added that they have meetings every month on the fourth Thursday. He continued to say there are always questions on construction management licensure and qualifications. Ms Mamola said that the board has adopted an education policy that basically says that it needs to be a degree approved by the board. And that the UNLV program is considered an approved educational program. She added

that other programs could also be considered. The policy states non-ABET accredited construction management degree, so the board would look at what was put forward and if it didn't meet a standard equivalent to UNLV's program then it would probably not be approved. Mr Alexander asked if he could get a copy of the board minutes related to that policy to share with CMAA (ACTION Item).

8. Open discussion topics (Discussion Only)

Mr Kalina asked for help and suggestions in restarting a Northern Nevada NSPE Chapter.

9. Next meeting date and location

Mr DeSart said that the next committee meeting would be at 8:00am on Thursday November 8th at the Reno board office.

10. Public Comment (Discussion Only)

No public comments

11. Adjournment

Mr DeSart adjourned meeting at 4:52 PM, September 12, 2018.