

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**  
**Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**Held in Reno, Nevada, March 14, 2019**

Chairman, Gregory DeSart, PE; declaring a quorum present, called the meeting to order at 8:00am, in the 1755 E Plumb Lane Suite 130, Reno, Nevada. Committee members present were Robert LaRiviere, PLS; Patty Mamola, Executive Director; PE. Also present; John Welsh, ACEC; Greg Phillips, NALS; Randal Rice, ASCE; Lonnie Johnson, APWA; and Brian Kalina, NSPE. Others present; Susan Fischer, MacDonald Carano; 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:

John Welsh – American Council of Engineering Companies  
Greg Phillips - Nevada Association of Land Surveyors  
Randal Rice - American Society of Civil Engineers  
Lonnie Johnson - American Public Works Association  
Brian Kalina –National Society of Professional Engineers

**4. Approval of January 17, 2019 Professional Association Liaison Committee Meeting minutes**

PAL 19-2 A motion was made by Mr LaRiviere, seconded by Ms Mamola, to approve the January 17, 2019, meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- a. Clark County bill draft request, Assembly Bill 2, related to NRS 625.530 that proposes increasing public works qualification based selection requirement from \$35,000 to \$100,000**

Ms Mamola reviewed the board's position to oppose the bill as currently written. She said the board has had an initial discussion with the Clark County and is trying to schedule a follow-up meeting. Ms Mamola added that the way the law currently reads public agencies are not required to use a professional engineer or land surveyor for work with a total project cost less than \$35,000. She continued to say that the amendment proposes raising the total project dollar amount to \$100,000, meaning an agency would not have to use a professional for projects less than \$100,000.

Mr DeSart asked for clarification on what the dollar amount represented – whether it was professional fees or the cost of the project including construction costs. Ms Mamola said the language refers to total project cost, which would seem to infer construction costs are included, but that can be open to interpretation and method of calculation.

Ms Mamola said the board opposition relates to the fact that the language as written, irrespective of the stated dollar amount, is an exemption from using a professional for engineering or land surveying services. She added the interpretation had been that the dollar amount was a threshold related to Qualification Based Selection, but the Legislative Council Bureau has a view that it is an exemption from using a licensed professional.

Mr DeSart asked for an indication from those present as to their associations' position. All indicated that the current view was to oppose the bill.

Ms Mamola said that Ms Fischer and Mr MacKenzie, on the board's behalf, would be monitoring the bill progress and working with Mr Rowe (working on behalf of ACEC) to connect with the key players at Clark County.

#### **6. Discussion of March 27, 2019, digital/electronic submittal workshop hosted by NSPE**

Ms Mamola said the NSPE was hosting a larger panel discussion on digital signatures with participation from the key agencies in Southern Nevada including Las Vegas Valley Water District, City of Las Vegas, City of North Las Vegas, Clark County and the City of Henderson. She said it would be beneficial to get the perspective of the agencies and to have a larger discussion on any challenges with electronic submittals/digital signatures with a room full of professionals.

Mr DeSart asked if there were any plans for a similar panel discussion in Northern Nevada. Ms Mamola said that she would like to have a discussion in the north bringing together the local agencies and professionals, but nothing had been scheduled yet. She added, ideally we'd like to partner with an association to get an event organized. Mr Rice said that ASCE would be willing to help facilitate a discussion event in Northern Nevada. Ms Mamola said that she hopes to get an event on the calendar within the next 60 days. (ACTION Item)

#### **7. Discussion of Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) report recommending elimination of the professional engineer licensure exemption for public utility work**

Ms Mamola said that this item was included on the agenda to make the group aware of the NTSB report, and that the agency is looking to eliminate utility company exemptions in state licensing laws across the country. She said the report follows the NTSB investigation of the gas line explosions in Boston last September. Ms Mamola added that NSPE and NCEES are working with the NTSB.

#### **8. Discussion of October 10, 2019, Reconnect, continuing education event in Reno**

Ms Mamola reviewed the proposed speaker list for the ReConnect 2019 event. She said that once the list and event schedule was finalized a preview/early distribution email will be sent out to member associations of the PAL Committee. (ACTION Item)

#### **9. Discussion of possible video conferencing of PAL Committee meetings to increase northern and southern Nevada professional organization participation**

Mr DeSart said that this item is a work in progress and relates to the remodel and tenant improvements in the new Reno office. Once finished, the Reno boardroom will have the ability to video conference the meeting so PAL members who cannot be physically present can participate from their desktop. The function is already available from the Las Vegas board office.

#### **10. Professional Association / Industry Activities (Discussion Only)**

Ms Mamola reported that the board does have a bill draft request in and that it is BDR 609. She added that it hasn't been assigned a senate bill or assembly bill number yet. Ms Mamola said that up until a couple days ago it was sponsored by Senator Julia Ratti, but it is now with Senator Chris Brookes. Ms Mamola reviewed the contents of the BDR 609.

#### **11. Professional Association / Industry Activities (Discussion Only)**

Mr Welsh reported that a lot of ACEC's focus was tracking the bills for the legislature. He said the two main ones are SB175 design build and AB2 for public works, plus there is also another one that could be coming called *Billing Transparency*. Mr Welsh said it was not yet in the form of a bill draft but it was something that should be paid attention to. Ms Mamola said the board was aware of it and were concerned and have concerns about it as an agency we would be subject to the tracking software that is being touted by the company behind the proposal. Mr Welsh said that ACEC had also been tracking RFP's that were in possible conflict with QBS regulations, and thanked Ms Mamola for the responding on behalf of the board to a recent issue that had arisen.

Mr Phillips said that NALS have their annual conference coming up in conjunction with the CLSA. He said the 5 students from Great Basin College are being funded to attend the NSPS Spring Conference in Arlington, VA. The students will compete in the national student competition. Mr Phillips said that NALS has had discussions with the program adviser at Great Basin College who had said the program is maxed out at 100 students. He added that getting support for extra instructors, or at the very least getting a second full-time person to help with the workload, from the Nevada Board of Regents has been difficult and that the program cannot expand until something changes.

Mr Rice said that ASCE was hosting its awards banquet this evening. He said the organization's

monthly lunch meetings continue to be popular, drawing 60-80 attendees. He added that a change of venue made the meetings more accessible and maintaining a quality speaker list kept member's interest. Mr Rice said that ASCE also hosts an event for college juniors and seniors, where participants sign up to visit different engineering offices in Reno to get the experience of what actually working in a consulting firm is like. They get to see the equipment and software used and to get a feel for the working environment of work each office. He said that companies pay a sponsorship fee to host the students and the event is a fundraiser for ASCE.

Mr Johnson said that APWA has been focusing on maintaining and increasing membership and has developed a competition between the north the south with a mini Fremont Cannon (to be painted red or blue) as the trophy for the membership winner. He added that the cannon has been blue for the past two years. Mr Johnson reported that a number of local, regional and national conferences were on the calendar in the coming months. He added that applications are currently being accepted for the APWA scholarship programs.

Mr Kalina said that NSPE in Southern Nevada has been involved in supporting a number of events aimed at introducing elementary and middle school aged children to engineering and he highlighted an event at UNLV which featured a number of different engineering stations to show kids the variety of things that involve engineering. He said scholarships in the amount of \$2400 had been presented to support two UNLV engineering students.

Ms Mamola said related to encouraging careers in engineering, the board pushed out an email late last week about the Global Marathon which is a series of videos created to inspire and motivate women in the STEM fields. It is an event to support woman in engineering, and to help keep them in the profession. She asked that members let their staff know about the ongoing event and to offer support.

Mr DeSart reminded committee members to make use of the Professional Associations Event Calendar on the board website to get the word out about any events and to avoid conflicts on dates for hosting fundraisers, workshops and local conferences. He said that information can be forwarded to Ms Mamola and that she would arrange for posting on the master calendar.

## **12. Open discussion topics (Discussion Only)**

No discussion topics were put forward.

**13. Next meeting date and location**

Mr DeSart said the next PAL Committee would be at 8am on May 9, 2019 at the board's Las Vegas office. Ms Mamola said that with video conference available, she would send out meeting information to members unable to attend in person to join via the Zoom meeting platform.

**14. Public Comment (Discussion Only)**

There was no public comment.

**15. Adjournment**

Gregory DeSart adjourned meeting at 8:59am, March 14, 2019.

Respectfully,  
Patty Mamola – Executive Director