

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison Committee Meeting
Held in Reno, Nevada, Thursday, July 12, 2018

Chairman, Gregory DeSart, PE; declaring a quorum present, called the meeting to order at 8:00am, in the Ed and Mary Alice Pine Board Room 1755 East Plumb Lane Suite 133, Reno, Nevada 89502. Committee members present were; Chairman Robert LaRiviere, PLS; Patty Mamola, PE, Executive Director; Michael G Kidd, PLS; and Angelo Spata, PE. Also present Murray Blaney, Compliance Officer; Louisa Kern, Administrative Assistant; Susan Fischer, Lobbyist, MacDonald Carano; John Welsh, Stantech, representing ACEC; Greg Phillips, Lumos & Associates, representing NALS; Lynette Russell, NDOT, representing APWA; Kevin Altimeter, Wood Rogers, representing NALS; Lonnie Johnson, CFA, representing APWA; and Michael Wilhelm, CFA, president of ASCE Nevada section.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DeSart

2. Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

3. Introductions

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

John Welsh - American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
Greg Phillips – Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS)
Lynette Russell – American Public Works Association (APWA)
Kevin Altimeter - Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS)
Michael Wilhelm - American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
Lonnie Johnson - American Public Works Association (APWA)

4. Approval of May 9, 2018, Professional Association Liaison Committee Meeting minutes

PAL 18-1 A motion was made by Mr LaRiviere, seconded by Mr DeSart, to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms Mamola provided an update on proposed changes to NAC 625 and said the NRS amendments were still being made and were subject to review and recommendation by the Legislative Sub-Committee of the board. She continued to say that strategies on how to move forward with the NRS changes will also be discussed at the next Legislative Sub-Committee meeting.

6. Discussion of possible changes to Nevada Revised Statutes 625 and Nevada Administrative Codes 625 to update land surveying to allow mapping sciences, and hydrographic practice (Discussion Only)

Ms Mamola said that this is just a discussion item at this point. More information will come following the NCEES annual meeting in August where states will vote on whether to continue on this path to create modules or divisions of the professional exam for land surveying. Ms Mamola added that she believed there was support for modulating the PLS exam so that there would be a PLS system exam, a mapping and science exam, hydrographic exam, and meets and bounds for the colonial states. She continued to say if that happens, then the board would have a discussion about the need to make any changes to Nevada law to allow mapping sciences capability with a surveying license.

Ms Mamola said the land surveyor experience worksheet used by the board in evaluating applicants has historically been heavily weighted on boundary survey experience, but added that it is not in our law. She continued to say that a review will begin on the current experience worksheet to see if we are going to continue its use. Ms Mamola also said the board would consider allowing mapping and science or hydrographic within the definition of professional land surveying, and asked for feedback from the professional associations. Mr Kidd added that the board would likely form a committee to review any changes and would be seeking participation from industry professionals.

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

Mr LaRiviere reviewed the current activities of the board. He said a new board member had been appointed, Mr Angelo Spata who is with Atkins, replaces board member Amy Cheng. He continued to say that Ms Karen Purcell and Mr Kent Anderson were reappointed by the Governor.

Mr LaRiviere also stated the number of comity applications being processed by the board and that the average time to take to license was only 11 days. He continued with the details of the October 11, 2018, PDH event being held in Las Vegas, also stating a similar event would be held in northern Nevada next year.

8. Professional Association / Industry Activities (Discussion Only)

Mr DeSart asked those in attendance to report on events or issues related to their associations. He added that it is as much as informing everybody as it is asking if you need any help.

Mr Johnson reported that the northern APWA branch has its monthly membership at the Atlantis on July 19, with the state chapter executive meeting prior. He also said the annual northern fall conference will be in Lake Tahoe September 26th - 28th with a great panel of speakers focusing on managing growth in Nevada with an emphasis on infrastructure needs. Mr Johnson also said the national conference called PWX will be in Kansas City starting August 26.

Mr Welsh of ACEC said participation in the north had been declining and they were hoping to work with the industry to address. He said in the south, ACEC is continuing to work with RTC southern Nevada on their QBS, and the RFP's they have been issuing. Mr DeSart asked if ACEC had been able to

schedule a meeting with RTC. Mr Welsh said that a meeting was coming up in the next two weeks. Mr Welsh also said that the ACEC national convention would be in Las Vegas this year.

Mr Philips reported on the NALS activities. He said one of the key issues they were hoping to address was the need to support Great Basin surveying program and the professor that leads it. He continued to say that there was close to 100 students and the workload on the single professor was sizeable, and NALS was hoping to lobby the Board of Regents for a second professor.

Mr Phillips also said that there were reports that the Washoe County Surveyor position may not be replaced when the current surveyor retires, and that the role would be outsourced, and possibly outsourced to a Californian. He said NALS was currently drafting a letter of opposition. Mr Alimeter said the loss of the position, and an advocate who understands the local, would be a blow to the local surveying community. Mr LaRiviere suggested that NALS seek a meeting with the Washoe County Manager, John Slaughter, to put forward their position.

Mr DeSart asked if there had been any progress with a bridging program related to the Great Basin surveying program and the UNLV and UNR civil engineering programs. Mr Kidd responded saying that it was currently stalled with the Board of Regents, but that he would follow-up on it. Mr DeSart added industry support to get some surveying into civil engineering programs would be important, and he urged NALS to stay engaged on the issue.

Mr Altimeter spoke briefly about the Northern Nevada VRS network now being maintained by the Utah Department of Transportation. He added that NALS will be hosting the person who will be managing the program to talk to the association about the transition.

Mr Wilhelm said that ASCE state level elections were to be held in August with the new officers installed in September. He continued to say that ASCE has an infrastructure date on the calendar with the legislature, February 28, 2019. He added that the Northern branch has a number of events scheduled over the remainder of the summer.

9. Open discussion topics (Discussion Only)

There were no topics discussed.

10. Next meeting date and location

Mr DeSart said the next meeting will be September 12th at 4:00pm in Las Vegas.

11. Public Comment (Discussion Only)

No public comments

12. Adjournment

Chairman DeSart adjourned meeting at 8:35AM, July 12, 2018.