

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison Committee Meeting
Held in Reno, Nevada, July 11, 2019

Chairman, Gregory P DeSart, PE; declaring a quorum present, called the meeting to order at 8:00am in Ed and Mary Alice Pine Boardroom at 1755 East Plumb Lane, Suite 258, Reno, Nevada. Committee members present were Michael Kidd, PLS; Patty Mamola, PE, Executive Director; Tracy Larkin-Thomason, PE; Kent Anderson, PE. Also, present were Murray Blaney, Compliance Officer; Jasmine Bailey, Licensing Specialist; Louisa Kern, Administrative Assistant; Susan Fischer, Lobbyist, McDonald Carano; Mark Shultz, American Public Works Association; Greg Phillips, Nevada Association of Land Surveyors; Mark Casey, Association of Consulting Engineering Companies; Randall Rice, American Society of Civil Engineers. Joining via telephone conference Jonathan Tull, Nevada Society of Professional Engineers; and Brian Kalina, Nevada Society of Professional Engineers.

1. **Meeting conducted by Committee Chair Greg DeSart, call to order and roll call to determine presence of quorum.**

2. **Public comment period**

There was no public comment.

3. **Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves:

Darren Schulz, American Public Works Association
Mark Casey, Association of Consulting Engineering Companies
Randall Rice, American Society of Civil Engineers
Greg Phillips, Nevada Association of Land Surveyors
Jonathan Tull, Nevada Society of Professional Engineers
Brian Kalina, Nevada Society of Professional Engineers

4. **Approval of May 9, 2019, Professional Association Liaison Committee meeting minutes**

PAL 19-04 A motion was made by Ms Mamola, seconded by Ms Larkin-Thomason to approve the May 9, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion of changes to Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code 625 and 329 to update laws and rules**

Ms Mamola reviewed statute amendments to NRS 625 and NRS 329 that were in SB 407. She continued to say that all the original proposed amendment language was approved as written with the exception of the term “privileged” being added to NRS 625.425 in relation to board investigations. Ms Mamola said the bill was signed by Governor Sisolak and the amended statutes went into effect on July 1, 2019.

6. Discussion of October 10, 2019, Reconnect, continuing education event in Reno

Mr DeSart asked that Mr Blaney give an update on the ReConnect 2019 event. Mr Blaney said that all the speakers had been secured and that the first promotional email will be sent out to licensees on Friday July 12. He said the topics include engineering ethics, networking, harmonizing with technology, and the keynote speaker is an internationally renowned futurist – Nikolas Badminton. Mr Blaney added the event would be held from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at The Grove in Reno and the cost would be \$99, including breakfast and lunch, and 8 professional development hours would accrued by those attending.

Mr DeSart asked that those at the meeting get the word out to their association membership.

7. Discussion of board's Strategic Plan goal of Outreach and possible role of Professional Association Liaison committee

Mr DeSart reviewed the board's goals for public outreach as identified in the strategic plan. He said that raising the awareness of the profession, the value of licensure, and to increase the understanding of the public on the importance of professional engineers to Nevada. Mr DeSart added that the board was in the process of selecting and retaining a firm to facilitate the public outreach, and that the planning and implementation of the board's outreach would take place over the next 12 months. Mr DeSart said that public outreach by the board would bring a greater purpose to the PAL participants to share their strategic initiatives to determine how the board and other members can work together to amplify messages that are of interest to the professions and the general public. He said that social media platforms would be an integral part of the outreach and partnerships would be developed with professional associations that already have social media engagement in place to learn from their experiences in what has been successful and what hasn't. He added that physical outreach by the way of speaking to interested groups would be an important part of any communications plan. The board and board staff would be available as a resource or clearinghouse to help arrange presenters for anyone interested. Ms Larkin-Thomason added that the board has access to professionals in the North and the South across all disciplines, that could be of real interest to groups and would definitely broaden the understanding of what engineers can do. Mr Kidd agreed and said that listing of interested and able speakers should be compiled by the board for the purpose of outreach. (ACTION Item)

Ms Mamola said that as part of developing the outreach plan and generating content for messaging, the board would ask that the professional associations share any information about upcoming events relating to the engineering and land surveying – locally, statewide, and nationally.

8. Discussion of professional association support for Nevada STEM Competitions

Ms Mamola said that this item stemmed from a discussion at our board meeting about how the board can support funding Nevada STEM competitors attending national competitions outside of Nevada. There are limitations on what we can do as a board, but we see engaging with the professional societies as a more appropriate avenue to provide financial support or resource support for the STEM competitors.

Mr Kidd said it is a great opportunity for outreach for a young student demographic who are going on to represent Nevada in competitions nationally. He added that those organizations that offer financial support, large or small, get an opportunity for recognition at the events.

Mr Casey said that the support could come from the associations or individual companies. He said his company was involved in direct funding and said it is a great opportunity for outreach and to get in-front of the next generation of engineers and land surveyors. Mr Rice said the ASCE would be interested in helping to fund and Mr Phillips said the NALS would be as well.

Mr Kidd said that it would be beneficial for the board to create a master listing of information about the various STEM associated competitions within the state that may be in need of sponsorship funding. He added that the information could then be shared with the professional associations. (ACTION Item)

Mr Casey suggested that a board email address outreach@boe.state.nv.us be created for both outreach suggestions or requests for information. (ACTION Item)

9. Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors activities

Ms Mamola said that the most noticeable activity since the last meeting was the relocation of the Reno board office. The move was made on June 3 after being 12 months in planning. She said a highlight of the new office was that it allows for full video conferencing of PAL meetings to encourage collaboration between organizations in the North and South.

10. Professional association / industry activities

Mr DeSart asked that those present give an update on their association activities.

Mr Rice said that ASCE, with regard to outreach, has appointed a new chair for outreach programming who has a passion for communications and will infuse some needed energy. He added that ASCE would partner with the board on information about what's happening in our region to reach a broader audience. Mr Rice said that with the City of Reno moving forward with electronic submissions and the planned workshop on digital signatures would be timely. He said ASCE was working in conjunction with APWA to find a date and host location sometime in September.

Mr Schulz said that the APWA fall conference is coming up on September 25-27 in South Lake Tahoe with the focus being on educational topics for members to enhance the value of the conference.

Mr Casey said that ACEC has been focusing on the legislative session over the past eight months. QBS continues to be a hot topic on the radar and issues with agencies seem to appear every few months. Mr DeSart said that the board was aware of the issues and that Ms Mamola could provide support on the board's behalf. Mr Casey said the ACEC would see any outreach partnership with the board as a positive.

Mr Phillips reported that the NALS had a very productive March conference in Reno, co-hosted with CLSA. A conference in March 2020, again with CLSA, will be held in Arizona. He added that a young surveyor's group was starting up in Nevada which was very positive. Mr Phillips said that a working group had started with NDOT regarding record accessibility with a workshop planned later in the month with an administrator from NDOT making a presentation on possible solutions to current issues.

Mr Tull said that an item of interest from NSPE West Region was that the Idaho PE Board was now accepting mentoring hours as accruable for professional development hours (PDHs). The premise was to encourage formalizing mentor relationships. He added that he didn't have the specific details as to the Idaho process, but asked if that would be something that the Nevada board may consider. Mr DeSart said that he would bring the item to the board's attention for a possible discussion. (ACTION Item)

Mr Kalina said that the NSPE Math Counts program had a successful year with over 100 participants. He said that NSPE was hoping to expand its scholarship offerings to UNR and were looking to find the right contact to work with at the university – and if anybody knew of a lead to please contact him (Mr Kalina). (ACTION Item)

11. Open discussion topics

The were no topics put forward.

12. Next meeting date and location

Mr DeSart said that the next meeting date would be Friday September 6 at 9:00am. The meeting will be held by video conference.

13. Public comment period

Ms Fischer said related to STEM programs, the Reno Air Races have drone exhibitions in an area set up for STEM education. They invite educators, school kids and their parents to the various presentations they put on. She said it may be an opportunity for the PLS community to showcase what they are doing with drone technology. Ms Fischer said she would forward information to Ms Mamola to distribute to any organizations interested. (ACTION Item)

14. Adjourn

Mr DeSart adjourned meeting at 08:57a.m.

Respectfully – Patty Mamola
Executive Director