

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison (PAL) Council Meeting
held in Reno, Nevada, Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Committee Chairman Michael Kidd, PLS, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. in the Ed and Mary Alice Pine Board Room 1755 East Plumb Lane, Suite 130, Reno, Nevada, 89502. Committee members Bob LaRiviere, PLS, and Patty Mamola, PE, Executive Director were present. Also present was Sarah Wiley, Secretary.

1. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made. The following persons representing professional organizations were in attendance.

Joy Guinn, President of American Public Works Association (APWA) and Director of Marketing for Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE)
Carl CeDeBaca, PLS, Project Manager at Lumos & Associates

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

a. Review of 2017 legislative session and possible impacts to the professions

Mr Kidd referred to the AB403 bill being vetoed by Legislature and SB69 being passed and became law July 1, 2017. Two changes must be implemented immediately in regards to SB69 being passed.

- All endorsed applicants must be licensed within 60 days from the completed application date.
- Endorsed applicants will possibly need to be fingerprinted and fingerprints submitted to the Nevada Central Repository. The board will work to get clarification on the fingerprinting requirement.

Ms Mamola advised that board staff is currently looking into possible implementing the fingerprint requirements. Ms Mamola also stated that the Executive Director and board Chairman will be meeting on a regular basis between board meetings to review and approve applications for licensure to comply with the required 60 day time frame.

Mr CeDeBaca inquired if the fingerprint requirement would be retroactive. Ms Mamola advised that it would not be retroactive, it would only apply to new applicants through endorsement. Mr Kidd explained that this law is new to the board and will be discussed during the board meeting on July 20, 2017 to further develop the required implementation for both the fingerprint and 60 day time frame requirements. Mr LaRiviere inquired whether the 60 day time frame starts over if the application is not complete and is missing something. Ms Mamola agreed that if there was something within the application that needed additional information that the 60 day time frame would not commence until all required information was provided to board's staff.

Ms Mamola explained that the board is reluctant to take on the responsibility for storing fingerprints received by applicants. The board staff will be inquiring with the Nevada Central Repository on how the applicants are able to submit their fingerprints to them directly and what documentation we would be receiving as proof they were submitted.

b. Mobility of professional engineers – international and regional

Ms Mamola discussed the possible addition of a Public Lands Module to the NCEES PLS exam in lieu of the current state specific closed book exam. Chairman LaRiviere stated that there are 18 states that will send letters to show support of creating the Public Lands Module. NCEES would create the module so when someone takes the national exam they could also take the Public Lands Module and that would negate the need for a Nevada closed book exam. The applicant would most likely be required to complete and pass a state specific take home exam prior to their license being issued. This test is to ensure that the applicant is up to speed on the Nevada laws and regulations.

Wyoming and Nevada are in discussion of a proposal that would allow an endorsement applicant to complete one application and be considered by other states they want to be licensed in, at one time. If the state(s) approve the application, then the applicant would pay the licensing fee at that time to all states. This would save an applicant from going to each state and filling out another application per state. This subject will be discussed at the board meeting on July 20th, 2017.

A number of countries have contacted the board over the last few years inquiring about International Mobility. Many of these countries are a part of the International Engineering Alliance group. This subject will be discussed at the board meeting on July 20th, 2017.

Ms Mamola advised that the board has changed its application process by now requiring an NCEES record as part of the application process. This process benefits the applicant because all states accept and some require an NCEES record for licensure. Some states will license an applicant with an NCEES record within 24 hours. We are trying to make the application process simpler and faster for each applicant moving forward.

Ms Guinn suggested that a board representative come to the APWA Fall Conference to explain the changes to the application process and PDH requirements and responsibilities of the engineers in keeping their PDH/CEU records for renewal. Ms Mamola stated that the board would be happy to do so.

4. Professional Association/Industry Activities

Mr CedeBaca provided a report regarding the land surveyor education at Great Basin College. There were four (4) graduates in May 2017. Of those four (4), three (3) were from Nevada. The previous three semesters there were 80 enrolled students with the outlook of having 90 in the near future. He stated that there has been a formal request for a second professor at the school which will enable Great Basin College to seek ABET accreditation.

Mr CeDeBaca stated that UNLV is still interested in creating a surveying minor that could be used to help surveyors complete the four-year degree that is required for PLS licensure. It would also potentially attract new students to a four-year surveying degree who are not able to complete the program at Great Basin College. The curriculum would be a combination of Great Basin online classes and one or two other survey classes at UNLV.

Mr CeDeBaca advised that he will be the Legislative Chair of the Nevada Chapter of NSPS and is working towards changing the survey datum specified in law. He would like to be prepared to seek the change at the next legislative session and have it become law by 2022. He also stated that he would like to see changes made to NAC 625 to further define the construction staking and land surveying definitions so there will be less confusion. Mr CeDeBaca is seeking support for the elimination of the photogrammetry requirements in NRS 625.040. Ms Mamola advised that the board is looking into updating the NRS and NAC's and would like to discuss this further.

Ms Guinn provided an update on APWA. They are just shy of 600 members in Nevada, northern and southern Nevada, with 21 new members since the beginning of the year. Darrin Shultz; PE, Director of Public Works for Carson City, was named one of the top 10 Public Works Leaders in the United States. Clark County Public Works received a National

Project of the Year Award for the Las Vegas Wash Project. Raquel Spears; EI, was named as a National Member of the Year. APWA Nevada Chapter was recognized for Chapter of Excellence and received the Presidential award.

Ms Guinn said that APWA is looking for opportunities to work with other organizations on educating the public about Public Works and what APWA has to offer in the state of Nevada. Ms Mamola stated that the board is looking into how to educate the public about professional engineers and land surveyors and the value of hiring a licensed engineer or land surveyor. Ms Guinn stated that her organization has been researching different outlets to distribute the information.

Ms Guinn requested information on how professional engineers and land surveyors should be keeping track of their PDH's. Ms Mamola advised that it is the individual licensee's responsibility to maintain records of their PDHs. She also stated that having an NCEES record would benefit the licensees because part of having a record is using NCEES to keep records of PDH's and that information is readily available for boards to access at any time.

Ms Guinn expressed her frustration with DBE firms because of their lack of response and providing quality work and with not being located in Nevada. Ms Mamola advised that the board has found several DBE firms who do not have a licensed surveyor employed and only hire when needed which is a violation of law. Cease and desist letters have been sent to those firms.

5. Open Discussion Topics

Mr CeDeBaca stated that there are issues currently with Qualification Based Selection (QBS) and design build. Ms Mamola advised that the board has and will continue to send a letter to the entity to cease and desist when they are not following the requirements in NRS and NAC. She stated that if the board is aware of those situations, we will do what is needed to ensure the statutes are followed.

6. Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting will be held in Las Vegas at the Clark County Department of Building and Fire Prevention on Wednesday, September 6th, 2017, at 4:00pm.

7. Public Comment Period

Mr CeDeBaca advised that Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS) is updating its by-laws and will present to the membership for a vote. He has suggested that the NALS PAL council representative be a standing person to ensure continuity in participation. Ms Mamola stated that the board has two new board members, Brent Wright, CE/SE, and Tracy Larkin-Thomason, CE. Bob LaRiviere, PLS, was elected Chairman of the board and he has assigned Greg DeSart; PE, to Chair the PAL council and Bob will continue on PALS as a committee member.

7. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Chairman Kidd declared the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, 2017.

Respectfully,

Patty Mamola, PE
Executive Director