

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison (PAL) Council
held in Las Vegas, Nevada, September 6, 2017

Gregory P. DeSart, PE, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1116, Clark County Department of Building & Fire Prevention, 4701 W. Russell Road, Las Vegas, Nevada. Committee members present were Board Chairman Robert O. LaRiviere, PLS; and Patty Mamola, PE, Executive Director. Also present was Kay Smith, Administrative Assistant.

1. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

2. Introductions

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

Scott Plummer, PE – American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
Gerald Gunny, PE/SE – Structural Engineers Association of Nevada (SEASoN)
Carla Palma – Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

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

a. Possible Changes to Nevada Revised Statutes 625 and Nevada Administrative Code 625

i. Stamping Regulation

Ms. Mamola said the current stamping regulation concerning electronic stamps and signatures does not match actual practice. The regulation requires encryption for submittals and this does not work in conjunction with the building departments.

ii. International Applicants

Mr. DeSart said the Board is exploring ways to facilitate international licensing mobility. Chairman LaRiviere said the Board has a mutual recognition agreement in place between Canada and Nevada for comity and is currently working with New Zealand to have the same.

Chairman LaRiviere said the Board also signed a mobility agreement with Wyoming for comity licensure. Ms. Mamola said there are four other states that are interested in signing on. She explained that a person can apply to one of the states and request licensure in one or more of the other states using only one application. Application fees must be paid to each state.

iii. Engineer or Land Surveyor in Each Nevada Office That Offers or Provides Services

Ms. Mamola said the Board is considering removing this law so that an engineer can be anywhere working on a project in Nevada. Mr. DeSart said this makes sense in light of the work going on at Tesla. Chairman LaRiviere noted that an engineer would still need to be licensed in Nevada and have his firm registered with the Board. Ms. Mamola added that an engineer could have an office in Reno and operate another office in Las Vegas without having an

engineer in that office. Mr. DeSart said this change would also be consistent with the Board not being a barrier to trade in Nevada. Mr. Plummer said that ACEC would probably have some input regarding having a physical presence in an office versus an absence in an office.

Ms. Mamola said the Board's Legislative Committee will work on drafting regulatory language for approval at the November 9, 2017 Board meeting. She said the language could be reviewed at the PAL Council meeting the day before for input. She said that two public workshops must also be held so licensees and members of the public can give their comments.

iv. Possible Land Surveying Changes to be Proposed by the Nevada Association of Land Surveyors

Ms. Mamola said that Board member Michael Kidd, PLS, is looking at making changes to Chapter 329, which applies to corner records. She said the proposed changes will be discussed with NALS.

v. Other Possible Changes to be Suggested by Professional Associations

Ms. Mamola said the Board previously removed the requirement to have both civil and structural engineering licenses to practice as a structural engineer. She said now the thinking is perhaps this was a mistake, since structural is a mastery skill and civil licensure should come first. Ms. Mamola said she would like SEASoN's input.

Ms. Mamola said that language in NAC 625 regarding height limitations for civil engineers working on structures needs to be clarified. She said there has been confusion over the 45-foot height limit using the bottom most footing as the point of reference.

Ms. Mamola noted that limits on bridge heights are not included in the regulation and perhaps there should also be a 45-foot height limit for civil engineers. Mr. Gunny suggested the Board get input from bridge engineers. Ms. Mamola said the Nevada Department of Transportation should be engaged in this discussion.

Ms. Mamola said that the State Contractors' Board has a recovery fund for the public's damages incurred. She questioned whether the Board should require error and omissions insurance from firms and sole proprietors. Mr. Plummer said it is not that uncommon for uninformed members of the public to hire an engineer and not ask about errors and omissions insurance. Mr. DeSart said he supported requiring the insurance because it evens the playing field and protects the public.

Mr. Plummer said that ACEC plans to better define what constitutes a design-build request for proposal (RFP), and when it should or should not be used.

Mr. Gunny said that SEASoN would be happy to review some of the structural engineering license requirements. He said the group is also happy that structural engineer, Brent Wright, was appointed to the Board.

4. Professional Association / Industry Activities

Mr. Plummer said that ACEC appreciated the Board's assistance on a quality-based selection (QBS) issue that recently arose. He said that most of the agencies are settled on the issue. Ms. Mamola said that procurement departments usually question whether a report or study involves engineering. She said that a proactive outreach to the agencies before issues arise would be beneficial.

Mr. DeSart suggested the Board conduct workshops in the north and south to discuss QBS issues with the agencies. He said the Board could review the law concerning QBS and explain what engineering is and how this relates to the public's safety. Ms. Mamola and Mr. Plummer agreed.

Mr. Plummer said that ACEC is also working with the City of Las Vegas on the City's design and implementation of an electronic Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) that will be implemented next year. In addition, he said that ACEC is working with the American Institute of Architects on lien laws for the upcoming legislative session.

Mr. Gunny said that SEASoN provides continuing education for its members during monthly meetings in order to keep them abreast of current design issues. The group also encourages networking among its membership.

Ms. Palma said that the goal of SWE is to promote women engineers in the construction fields and to incentivize young women who are about to choose a career. She said the Las Vegas SWE group hosts a summer camp to promote science, computers and mechanics to young girls aged eight to 13 years.

Ms. Palma said SWE wants to increase the number of camps to two or three a year. As such, she said that monthly fundraiser lunches are held to raise money for the camps. Mr. DeSart suggested the Board have a PAL Council Corner in its newsletter to explain what the PAL Council is and to provide a list of organizations that participate, and highlight one organization in each newsletter. Ms. Mamola agreed to include an article about SWE's activities in a new PAL Council Corner of the next newsletter.

5. **Discuss Creating and Distributing a PAL Committee Meeting Calendar**

6. **Discuss the Possibility of Utilizing the PAL Committee as a Resource to Create Master Calendar of Statewide Professional Association Events**

Mr. DeSart suggested having a master calendar on the Board's web site that lists meetings and activities of the professional societies. Mr. Plummer said this could be a big task since there are so many activities. Ms. Mamola said that only regularly scheduled meetings could be listed along with conferences. Mr. Gunny said a link to a group's web site could be provided to obtain more information. Ms. Mamola said she will consider the feasibility and determine if there is a simple way to set up the calendar.

7. **Open Discussion Topics**

Ms. Palma asked how the Board feels about the use of hemp fiber in concrete within the engineering field. Ms. Mamola said the use of hemp is not illegal. Mr. DeSart said the Board does not have a position on this issue.

8. **Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next PAL Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board's Reno office.

9. **Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion. Mr. DeSart adjourned the meeting on Thursday, September 6, 2017, at 5:25 p.m.

Sincerely,

Patty Mamola, PE
Executive Director