

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**  
**Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**Held virtually, Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 4:00pm**

The meeting was held virtually, was chaired by Matthew Gingerich, PLS. Participating from professional associations and public entities were:

*Greg DeSart, NAQTC*  
*Mark Casey, ACEC*  
*Dr David James, NSPE & UNLV*  
*Jason Higgins, NALS*  
*Dave Rowe, SEASoN*  
*Topher Barnes, City of Henderson*  
*Robert Carrington, NALS*  
*Frank Wittie, City of North Las Vegas*  
*William Brown, NALS*  
*Brian Coombs, City of Henderson*  
*Craig Cisco, NSPE*  
*Andrew Hansen, ASCE*  
*David Alexander, CMA*  
*Jonathan Toll, NSPE*  
*Jamie Fitzgerald, City of Henderson*

Also participating were Patty Mamola, Executive Director; Murray Blaney, Operations and Compliance; and Louisa Kern, Administrative Assistant.

**1. Meeting conducted by Matt Gingerich, call to order and roll call to determine presence of quorum.**

Mr Gingerich called the virtual meeting to order at 4:00pm.

**2. Public comment period**

There was no public comment.

**3. Introductions**

Those participating introduced themselves.

**4. Approval of December 8, 2020, Professional Association Liaison Committee meeting minutes**

PAL-01 A motion was made by Mr DeSart, seconded by Mr Higgins to approve the December 8, 2020 committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Discussion regarding quality of engineering and land surveying documents submitted to public agencies (follow-up to March 4, 2020, May 14, 2020, July 15, 2020, September 28, 2020, and December 8, 2020 PAL Committee meeting discussions)**

Ms Mamola said for the board, we had two follow-up items from the last meeting. One was to highlight the quality of engineering and land surveying documents in more depth in a newsletter. An introductory article was included in the board's October 2020 newsletter, and a second article that has been prepared for the newsletter due for release on February 23, 2021, to capture the perspective of both the industry submitting and agencies reviewing. Ms Mamola said the second follow-up item was to bring the topic to the attention of the board's public outreach and legislative committees – which has been done. She added that she would report back on progress.

Mr Fitzgerald said the City of Henderson hasn't made distinct progress yet but conversations have happened around public outreach and setting up workshops and round tables. He said their internal discussions will continue and he would report back when something more definitive is known.

Mr Gingerich said the topic would remain as a standing agenda item to keep a forum open between the board, agencies and the associations, and professionals.

**6. Discussion of changes to Nevada Revised Statutes 625 and 327 and Nevada Administrative Code 625, 327, and 329 to update laws and rules.**

Mr Gingerich reported that at the December 14, 2020, Regulation Adoption Hearing a number of regulations that were revised were adopted and are now in effect. The adopted regulations related to applications, licensing, contact information, and firm registration (R 137-20); continuing education requirements (R138-20); and code of conduct (R139-20). The revised regulations are available for viewing on the board's website. Mr Gingerich said the board has a BDR that is moving through the process relating to NRS 625.095 and removing the exemption for gas utilities, and decoupling the PLS exam.

Ms Mamola said a newsletter article due out on February 23, 2021, would highlight the new regulations and remind licensees that they are in effect and have the full force of the law. She added graphics and links would be included so the revisions can easily be viewed at [nvbpels.org/statutes-regulations](http://nvbpels.org/statutes-regulations), and that licensees would be encouraged to use that as their primary reference as the LCB Law Library has significant delays in updating regulations.

**7. Discuss board's updated Strategic Plan—goals and strategies related to PAL Committee and discuss possible tactics/action items.**

Mr Gingerich said this item relates to the board's strategic plan update and the refreshed strategies identified in the September 2020 planning session. He said the strategies outlined in the document have been assigned to the Professional Association Liaison Committee – where the committee is to consider tactics associated with each strategy. Mr Gingerich said he would review the strategies under the board's four established goals for input from the committee members.

Ms Mamola added that following identification of tactics by the committee, staff will develop action

items.

→ **Goal 1: Outreach**

**The general public, prospective licensees and other key stakeholders have a greater understanding that engineering and surveying licensure are essential to safeguarding public health, safety and welfare.**

*Strategy 2*

**- Increase visibility of the Board**

Ms Mamola said although no tactics are assigned to that strategy, the formation and interaction of this committee helps increase our visibility within the industry and we rely on members to invite the board to speak at association meetings so we can remain connected and informed, and visible.

Mr Gingerich agreed and said he and Mr Kidd have been invited to speak and to the NALS regional conference on behalf of the board and would encourage other associations to connect with Ms Mamola when opportunities for engagement arise.

→ **Goal 2: Licensure**

**The demonstrated value of licensure results in continued growth in the number, quality and diversity of licensed engineers and surveyors practicing in Nevada**

*Strategy 3*

**- Increase kids' knowledge of what engineers/land surveyors do**

*Tactics*

- a) *Participate in career days*
- b) *Work with professional groups*
- c) *Inform school districts of our willingness to share about engineering/land surveying*

Mr Gingerich reviewed the current tactics listed but said the board's direct involvement tends to focus more on the college-aged group about licensure and the opportunity that affords. He said addressing the younger age groups to generate an interest in engineering and land surveying is generally done by professional and industry associations. He added *Tactic b)* is where the board can support those efforts.

Mr Casey said reaching students in high school and even middle school is important. By the time kids are in college it is often too late as their pathway has already been decided. Associations do some work, but individual companies are fully vested in reaching younger age groups.

Dr James said NSPE has been going to UNLV freshman engineering to cover professional practice and

licensure each semester for several years, and that it has partnered with NALS to provide information on land surveying as well.

Ms Mamola said presentations have been made at UNR to capstone classes in civil and mining, and efforts are being made to get in front of other disciplines as well. She added contacts were being reestablished to gain access again to freshmen classes in the other engineering disciplines.

#### *Strategy 5*

##### ***- Provide options to meet land surveyor educational requirements***

Ms Mamola said this item came from a concern when the law went into effect to require a four-year degree for land surveyors on how that was going to be met when the only program in the state really was Great Basin College. Mr Kidd was working with Dr James about a bridging program through UNLV so that they (UNLV) could offer a minor in surveying in conjunction with Great Basin.

Dr James said an outside champion may be needed to restart momentum since the topic was last broached in 2016. He said the Dean of Engineering would need to be approached by the engineering and land surveying community in the region stating that it has their support and is a priority. With the Dean's support getting a program going is a little easier. Dr James said it could be a college-wide minor where students in computer science, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering as well as construction and civil, with maybe a half dozen courses could at least get to the point where they could take the fundamentals of land survey exam and be on the pathway for land surveying licensure.

Ms Mamola suggested a committee be formed to connect with the Dean of Engineering at UNLV. **(ACTION Item)**. She added if progress can be made in the south, consideration could be put into looking at starting a similar minor at UNR in the north.

Mr Gingerich said he would work with Ms Mamola to form a committee. He added that Great Basin College has made great progress with their program, and the situation may not be as dire as when the issue was originally brought up in 2016.

#### **8. Discussion of Digital Signature/Electronic Submittal Working Group**

Ms Mamola said there was no update from the committee other than she wanted to remind everybody we do have the electronic submittal digital signature guide up on our website. It's a useful tool – and please give feedback as it is a living work-in-progress document.

#### **9. Discussion of Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors public outreach efforts**

Ms Mamola reported the board's public outreach committee met last month and the board approved just staying the course with what we're doing related to our social media. She reminded committee members how they and their associations can engage and follow NVBPELS on our social media platforms on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

## **10. Discussion of Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors strategic plan update**

Mr Gingerich said this topic has been addressed in the discussion for agenda item 7.

## **11. Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors activities**

Mr Gingerich said that board and PAL committee member Tracy Larkin-Thomason is retiring from NDOT and is moving out of state. She is resigning from the board, so there is a vacancy, and we hope to have that filled relatively quickly.

## **12. Professional association / industry activities**

Mr Higgins said NALS, in place of live chapter meetings, had been holding monthly statewide virtual meetings instead of chapter meetings monthly with a good line-up of speakers. He said the Western Regional Conference, with Alaska, Arizona, California, Montana, New Mexico, Washington and Nevada, participating virtually will held March 27-30, 2021.

Mr Casey said ACEC at the state level has been focused on preparing for the legislative session and have been in discussion with Senator Gansert relating to that. Nationally, we are working on the issue with PPP loans and potential forgiveness, and the apparent problem created if you have done any DOT or DOD work during that time whereby the amount to be paid can possibly be more the loan originally received. Mr Casey added we are working with the powers that be and trying to get it fixed, but there hasn't been much movement so far.

Mr Rowe said SEASoNs is continuing with monthly chapter and board meetings over zoom, and we have Ms Mamola speaking on behalf of the board tomorrow. Our typical spring seminar half/full day is going to be pushed until the fall because of the current situation.

Mr DeSart said NAQTC's written and performance exams are still happening and are being hosted in both Las Vegas and Reno. Options are available so people should be able to stay current with their certifications.

Dr James said NSPE's main emphasis this spring is the E-Week banquet, a virtual banquet that's going to be held on February 25, 2021, and registration is now open. We are also doing an Order of the Engineer virtual ceremony, and the NSPE state board and foundation are continuing to meet quarterly virtually. Dr James added they are also working internally on a state strategic plan at the request of the national organization, to create a better alignment between the two.

Mr Hanson said ASCE is doing its best to maintain engagement without in-person meetings, but it has been a struggle. Board meetings are happening virtually, but virtual chapter events are not getting the numbers hoped for. Hopefully in a few months we can resume normal activities again.

### **13. Open discussion topics**

Dr James said that the ASCE Southern Nevada Young Member Forum is hosting a virtual PE exam review in the spring. He said the group hosts these events twice a year and typically 20-25 people participate in preparing for the PE exams, and that is mainly recent graduates. Dr James added the event does have a fee to cover costs and information can be found via the following link:

<https://www.lasvegasympf.org/pe-course.html>

### **14. Next meeting date and location**

Mr Gingerich set the next virtual meeting date as Wednesday May 19, 2021, at 11am.

Ms Mamola said a calendar invite reminder would be sent to all participants. (ACTION Item)

### **15. Public comment period**

There was no public comment.

### **16. Adjourn**

Mr Gingerich adjourned the meeting at 4:45pm and thanked all for their participation.

Respectfully,

Patty Mamola  
Executive Director