

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**  
**Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**Held virtually, Thursday, November 18, 2021, 8:00 am**

Committee and board members participating were committee chairman, Brent Wright, PE/SE; Robert Fyda, PE; Matthew Gingerich, PLS; Patty Mamola, PE; Executive Director.

Participating from professional associations and public entities were:

Jason Higgins / NALS  
Sara Carey / Sustainability Engineering Group  
Dave Alexander / Construction Management Association of America  
Shane Dyer / ACEC  
Ken Hannifin / ACEC

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

Mr Wright called the virtual meeting to order at 8:00 am.

**2. Public comment period**

There was no public comment.

**3. Introductions**

Those participating in the committee meeting introduced themselves.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Mr Wright explained the purpose of the PAL Committee and that there are several committees appointed by the board to deal with issues of importance. Committees meet between board meetings and provide recommendations to the board for action. And in this meeting, the PAL committee serves as the liaison between the board and professional engineering and land surveying associations. PAL committee meetings create the opportunity to share pertinent information that may impact the board and the professions.

**4. Approval of September 16, 2021, Professional Association Liaison Committee meeting minutes**

PAL-04 A motion was made by Mr Fyda, seconded by Mr Higgins to approve the September 16, 2021 committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms Mamola reported that the board is having a regulation adoption hearing today at 9:15 am. It's the final step of this round of regulation updates related to advisory committees. The board realized that there is some benefit in having advisory committees as an investigative tool. The way the regulations were written previously was that they had to be a public meeting, which exposes the investigation to the public. She said the board is moving to make advisory committees, confidential to preserve due

process rights of the person being investigated, unless the person chooses to have an advisory committee convened as a public meeting. Ms Mamola invites everyone interested to participate in the meeting. The Zoom information is the same as this PAL meeting.

Ms Mamola stated that Greg DeSart continues to participate in the City of Henderson's Quality of Plan Submittal task force and invites anyone interested to participate as well. The task force is making good progress in helping entities and professionals make changes to reduce the number of submittals.

Ms Mamola reported that NCEES administered the last paper and pencil civil exam in October. So now all the PE exams, except for the structural engineering exams, are all computer-based testing. Starting in January 2022, people can register for the civil exam, which will now only be administered as a computer-based exam. Professionals will be able to take it any time of year—not just April or October. The structural engineering exam will continue to be paper and pencil at least for a couple more years. And because there's small numbers of test takers it's going to be a regional exam. She said she did not yet know where the regional exams will be held, but we've asked that Las Vegas be added as a site because of the many COVID restrictions in California.

Ms Mamola announced that a new staff member had been added. Steve Hiner focuses on ethics and we are working with him to create a new ethics presentation. He has been giving presentations to professional organizations, and recently, including SEASN, NALS and UNLV on December 10<sup>th</sup>. He is going to do one for NSPE Southern Nevada in the spring. This will help people fulfill the two hours ethics requirements for continuing education.

Ms Mamola finished her report saying that a new PLS exam will be available after January 1, 2022. We are finishing up the accompanying practice exam and reference document.

Questions:

Mr Gingerich asked if the new PLS exam reference book is a book that's provided by the board.

Ms Mamola said the reference book is provided electronically.

Mr Gingerich asked if the examinee can have any other reference materials.

Ms Mamola said the exam is an online proctored exam. The examinee can only have the board provided electronic reference open on their computer screen during the exam.

Ms Mamola added that the reference material will be available on our website. So, it'll be a great resource for surveyors in Nevada, and/or any practicing land surveyor, it's everything all in one location.

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

Participants gave updates on their activities.

## - NALS (S NV)

Mr Higgins announced that NALS Christmas party for the Southern chapters will be the first Friday in December at Lowry's. He said to reach out to him if you're interested in attending. He said the state conference is a western regional conference with Arizona, Utah, and California. It will be held at the Luxor in Las Vegas in late April or late March/early April. Dwayne Price from the BLM will be discussing survey records at the May NALS chapter meeting. He said he heard that BLM is scanning documents, which may make things a bit easier and could be great help to land surveyors or anyone doing permitting with BLM.

### Questions:

Mr Higgins asked about the status of the board's subcommittee on Land Surveying Standards of Practice.

Mr Gingerich said it's been a few months now since the subcommittee has met, but we are going to reconvene early in 2022. We are working to gather the top 10 issues that entities are having with map submittals and standards of practice for land surveying. Based on that input the committee will revisit the regulations and see how we can craft updated language. We are also reviewing other state's regulations and their standards of practice. He said he was going to send out an email to everybody on the committee to provide an update.

Mr Higgins said he was just wondering where we were. He didn't know if we were continuing to rehash our old stuff and tweak it or scrap it and start with a better model from another state. He said he was looking forward to the continued discussion.

Mr Higgins thanked Ms Mamola for keeping attention on getting the list of old PLS registrants on her radar to be added to the board's website licensee lookup.

Ms Mamola said it is noted to be addressed in our future new database system.

## - ACEC

Mr Dyer announced the ACEC board meeting is on December 10<sup>th</sup>. He said they have an agenda item to support the licensing board with upcoming legislation, with both a letter of support and potentially with some of our personnel. He said they also had their first NDOT liaison committee meeting. They are trying to work closer with NDOT similar to how AGC does it.

Mr Hannifin said that regarding the City of Henderson Quality of Plan Submittal task force working with Ed and everybody, he said he thought they were just still gathering up a bunch of information of what the agencies are seeing as opportunities for improvement. The private sector sent in some stuff too. He said he thought the next meeting was going to have some more discussion, and then come up with some potential solutions. He said it seems like they are making strides in the right direction.

## - Construction Management Association of America

Mr Alexander announced that CMAA has monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 AM. He said they include technical content in their meetings, so engineers who are members can earn professional development credits. He said they do have a combined meeting with ASCE, APWA, and NSPE in December as well.

**7. Open discussion topics**

There was no discussion.

**8. Next meeting date and location**

Ms Mamola said the next meeting date would be January 20th, 8:00 am.

She said the board is planning to meet in Las Vegas for that meeting. So, if participants were inclined, they could join us at 8:00 AM in person in Las Vegas for that meeting. Otherwise, participants are welcome to join by zoom.

**9. Public comment period**

There was no public comment.