

**STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
AND LAND SURVEYORS  
Minutes of May 6, 2005  
Public Session**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was called to order by President James Valenti at 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Chelsea Avenue & The Boardwalk, Atlantic City, New Jersey. All parties were duly notified of the time, date and place, with all pertinent material being provided.

**SUNSHINE LAW ANNOUNCEMENT**

President Valenti read the statement required by Chapter 231, Laws of 1975 known as the Open Public Meetings Act, and announced that notice of this meeting was prepared in the office of the Board and mailed to the Secretary of State, the Star Ledger, the Camden Press, and the Courier Post.

Present:

James Valenti  
Richard Frantz  
Edward Vernick  
Lawrence Koo  
James Kelly  
Louis Raimondi  
Michael Angeline

Absent: James Cleary Robert Marshall Patel

Others: Michelle Albertson, Deputy Attorney General, Joseph Grabowy, Assistant to the Executive Director, staff member Robert Welsh, and several members of the public including but not limited to: Mark A Conover, PLS, George T. Lucas, II, PLS, H. George Pierson, PLS, Lewis H. Conley, Jr., PLS, Jay F. Pierson, PLS, James K. Walz, PLS, Frank Lenik, PLS, Charles Adamson, PLS, William E. Beardslee, PLS, PE, James P. Cowan, PLS, Joseph B. Priestner, PE, PLS, Thomas J. Frawley, Jr., PLS, Thomas C. Finnegan, PLS, and Bruce R. McKenna, PLS, PE.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Board President Valenti outlined and spoke about his goals for the 2005-2006 session which included the following:

- Maintain a path to excellence. Enhance the profession and offer an increased level of consumer protection.
- Foster better communications with the public through its newsletter and website
- Improve the processes for the review of complaints and applications by becoming more timely and responsive to consumers
- Improve the quality and clarity of the Board's regulations during the sunset
- Reorganize Board member assignments onto the various sub-committees to promote better consumer responsiveness. VP Vernick will continue on the legislation sub-committee. BM Kelly will continue on the regulations sub- committee. While BP Valenti and BM Patel will continue to serve on the Joint Committee,

VP Vernick will serve as the alternate. The education sub- committee will continue with BM Frantz as its Chairman.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Legislation

No report

Regulations

BM Kelly indicated that Devon Graf, the Board's regulatory analyst, will appear at the Board's meeting on May 19, 2005 to discuss the sunset of its regulations.

Joint Committee

No report.

Education

No report.

Finance

No report.

Newsletter

Joseph Grabowy, Assistant to the Executive Director, stated that the newsletter continues to be reviewed by personnel of the print production unit.

Website

Robert Welsh informed the Board that the website continues to be updated.

Licensure Promotion Committee

VP Vernick stated that the meeting with Rowan University to discuss licensure promotion was productive. As a result, Dr. Chin of Rowan requested that the Board consider moving its due date for applications, which would permit students an additional month to submit their Engineer-In-Training application. The Board will look into this request.

NCEES Liaison

BM Raimondi, as President Elect of the North East Zone of NCEES, spoke about several issues currently before the Council. He stated that a task force was nominated to address the issue of comity for continuing education credits. Further, the question of who can vote at its annual meeting was presented. He stated that typically it is a board member that casts a vote, not the board administrator or alternate.

Surveyor Continuing Education

Joseph Grabowy stated that responses have been received from the continuing education sponsors which are awaiting board member review.

Disciplinary Action Committee

No report. This sub-committee will be discontinued.

#### Examination

Joseph Grabowy informed the Board that the Spring examinations were conducted on April 15 and 16, 2005. Executive Director Arthur Russo attended the Runnemeade location. BM Marshall visited the West Trenton location and Messrs. Grabowy and Welsh visited the NJIT site.

#### Administration

No report.

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

#### General Report

In the absence of Executive Director Arthur Russo, Joseph Grabowy presented the 2006 Board Meeting calendar. The Board will review the proposed meeting dates and discuss it at the next meeting.

He stated that due to the annual homecoming weekend in October at Rowan University, the professional examinations will need to be held at an alternative campus site, in lieu of the main ballroom.

Mr Grabowy stated that the April 2005 certificate award ceremony held at the Holiday Inn in Jamesburg, NJ, proceed flawlessly and that numerous family and friends attended the event.

### **DISCUSSION AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### Electronic Signatures

The Board discussed this issue and reiterated its current position that electronic signatures are not permitted. Further, all plans, drawings, etc., must be sealed with an impression type seal with the original drawings manually signed by the preparer. Copies of the signature are permissible. However, all copies must be manually sealed. The Board will revisit this issue.

BM Raimondi recommended that the Board bring in an expert on this subject to speak to the Board. He will recommend the name of an expert at a future meeting.

BMs Kelly and Angeline suggested waiting until the outcome of the Summer NCEES meeting before proceeding on this subject.

#### Telecommunications Exemption

The Board discussed this issue and suggested that a regulation interpreting the statute may be helpful.

Experience credit for academic research for professors seeking licensure (discussion from the October 2004 meeting with Princeton University)

The Board discussed this issue and determined that experience must be handled on a case-by-case basis.

"Accrediting Group Seeks New Perspectives" by Danielle Boykin/Staff Writer - Engineering Times: National Society of Professional Engineers

There were no comments on this article.

#### Additional Statistics

Numerous public members spoke about the declining number of licensed land surveyors.

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION APPROVAL**

The Board, on a motion by VP Vernick, second by BM Kelly, unanimously approved the following continuing education courses:

### **SPONSOR COURSE PDH**

RBA Group Microstation V8 9

New Jersey Society of PLS Ramapo Tract 1

New Jersey Society of PLS Utility Survey of PA of NY & NJ 1

Geomatics Workshops FEMA for Land Surveyor & Engineers 8

Lorman Business Center Inc. Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development Law 7

PDH Online.org, Inc./PDH Center Basic Public Lands 4

PDH Online.org, Inc./PDH Center Land Surveying Safety Guide 2

PDH Online.org, Inc./PDH Center Minimum Standards for Land Title Surveys 2

PDH Online.org., Inc./PDH Center GPS Surveying 12

PDH Online.org, Inc./PDH Center A Surveyor's Guide to the FEMA NFIP Elevation 3

PDH Online.org, Inc./PDH Center Land Boundary Surveys I 6

PDH Online.org, Inc./PDH Center Land Boundary Surveys II 2

PDH Online.org, Inc./PDH Center GPS:Theory , Practice and Applications 3

PDH Online.org, Inc./PDH Center Coordinates 8

PDH Online.org. Inc./PDH Center GPS Modernization 2

PDH Online.org, Inc./PDH Center Construction Layout 15

PDH Online.org., Inc./PDH Center Vertical Curves 4

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Adverse Possession 2

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Easements 1

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Riparian Rights 1

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Survey Markers and Monumentation 6

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Professional Liability 3

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Flood Plain Studies 1

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Every Word Counts!Contract Mechanisms 2 and Their Review - Module 1

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Quality Assurance 3

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Copyright Protection 1

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center The Land Surveyor as Expert Witness 1

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Motivating Employees 1

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Managing Employees for Success 4

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Ethics for Surveyors 1

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Standards of Professional Conduct 1

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Technical Report Writing 6

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Alternate Dispute Resolution 4

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Contracts for Professionals 1

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Intellectual Property Issues for Architects Engineers & Surveyors 2

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Base Flood Elevations by Approximate Methods 4

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Project Management for Managers/Executives 4

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Basic Project Management 6

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Project Cost Management 8

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Construction Contract Basics 2

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Risk Assessment/Management 2

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Managing Project Cost, Revenue and Profit 3

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Management of Engineering Projects (The People) 2

PDH Online, org., Inc./PDH Center Fundamentals of Starting and Operating a Business 4

Land Surveyors Workshops Adverse Possession 2

Land Surveyors Workshops Unwritten Rights and Other Goblins of the Night 4

Land Surveyors Workshops Understanding Error Theory in Surveying 4

Land Surveyors Workshops Design of Vertical Curves 4

Land Surveyors Workshops Earthwork Computations for Surveyors 4

Land Surveyors Workshops Surveyors Responsibilities and Land Litigation 2

Land Surveyors Workshops Water Law & Riparian Rights 2

Land Surveyors Workshops Survey Report Preparation 4

Land Surveyors Workshops So you Want to be an Expert Witness: The Role of the Surveyor in Court Testimony 4

Land Surveyors Workshops The Surveyors Role in the Transfer of Real Property 4

Land Surveyors Workshops Legal Research for Land Surveyors 4

Land Surveyors Workshops Just How Good Is My Survey 4

Land Surveyors Workshops Survive and Thrive in a Sea of Low Ballers 4

Land Surveyors Workshops C&G Survey Training 16

Land Surveyors Workshops Using the Internet as a Business Tool 4

Land Surveyors Workshops Insurance Needs of the Surveyor 4

Land Surveyors Workshops Promoting Your Surveying Business: Marketing PR & Advertising 4

Geomatics Workshops Wetland for Land Surveyors & Engineers 1

Geomatics Workshops Subdivision Design for Land Surveyors & Engineers 2

New Jersey Society of PLS Institute for Professional Leadership 24

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Josh Greenfield, PLS, head of the land surveying program at NJIT, stated that NJIT offers a 4 year land surveying degree. In addition, he stated that financial scholarships are available from the professional societies for eligible students.

Some public members noted that there is a lack of certified survey technicians available to hire and primarily attributed this situation to a perception problem with the land surveying industry.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by BM Frantz, seconded by BM Vernick, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm.

## **APPROVED BY:**

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James K. Valenti, PE  
President

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Joseph Grabow  
Assistant to the Executive Director