



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION (DBR)
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 68-1
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Division of
Design
Professionals

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

MEETING MINUTES

DATE:

09 May 2017

PLACE:

Department of Business Regulation (DBR)
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg 68-1 Conference Room
Cranston, RI 02920

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Michael J. McCormick
Vice-Chair Daniel R. Cotta
Secretary Mark D. Boyer (present from 9:11 a.m.-11:17 a.m.)
Member Amy N. Sonder (present from 9:11 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. and
returned at 10:02 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.)
Member Michael J. Gaston

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jovonna Edwards, Administrative Assistant (present from 9:11 a.m.-10:43
a.m. and returned at 10:53 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.)
Pamela Toro, Esq., Chief of Legal Services (present from 9:11 a.m.-10:00
a.m. and returned at 11:19 a.m. until 11:31 a.m.)
Virginia Porter, PE Board Administrator (present from 9:11 a.m.-
9:58 a.m.)
Dawne Broadfield, PE Assistant to Board Administrator (present
from 9:11 a.m.-9:58 a.m.)

Board of Registration for Professional Engineers:

Chair Wayne D. Moore, PE (present from 9:11 a.m.-9:58 a.m.)
Vice-Chair Paul B. Aldinger, PE (present from 9:11 a.m.-9:58
a.m.)
Secretary Patricia K. Walker, PE (present from 9:11 a.m.-9:58
a.m.)
Member Christopher A. Duhamel, PE, PLS* (present from 9:11
a.m.-9:58 a.m.)
Member Patricia D. Steere, PE (present from 9:11 a.m.-9:58 a.m.)

National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying:

NCEES President Daniel Turner* (present from 9:11 a.m.-10:43
a.m.)

Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

The first order of business was:

**National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) matters-
(Review/Discuss/Take Action):**

The next item of business was:

**NCEES President, Daniel Turner, will be visiting the board along with the Board of
Registration for Professional Engineers on Tuesday, May 9, 2017**

NCEES President Turner joined both the Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors and the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and addressed the following areas:

- Explanation of the organization in how NCEES was founded;
- Governance in how the Annual Meeting conducted and how the Council approves policies amendments to model documents, budget, etc;
- Chain of Command;
- Communications published;
- Meetings conducted to include interim meetings for the Zones, an Annual meeting and a Board Presidents' Assembly;
- Explanation of the resources that NCEES has available for Board use;
- Services that the Council provides to include exam development, Council Records, Credential Evaluation, Outreach tools to promote the value of licensure;
- Committees/Task Forces were discussed to recruit volunteers to become engaged in the Council;
- Relevant Actions from the 2016 Annual meeting taken were to lower price for the Fundamentals of Engineering and Fundamentals of Surveying exams and to move the Model Law Engineer, Model Law Structural Engineer and Model Law Surveying from the Model Law to a newly created policy. Other policies adopted were a position statement on remote sensing technologies and on sustainability.

After NCEES President Turner's presentation, discussion arose involving common issues across all the state boards, as discussed in the forums during the NCEES meetings, in the following areas:

- plan stamping;
- building officials accepting plans improperly stamped;
- Pending legislation with Rhode Island Society of Civil Engineers (RICE).

Chair Moore thanked NCEES President Turner for coming. NCEES President Turner then suggested that the Board members outreach to students. Member Duhamel noted that he teaches a course about licensing. The Fundamentals of Engineering (FS) exam is required to graduate, but is not required to obtain a passing grade. Member Duhamel does not agree with decoupling exam

and education. NCEES President Turner indicated that approximately thirty (30) to thirty-three (33) percent who pass the FE never come back to take the Professional Engineer (PE) exam.

Chair McCormick noted that the study of the future of surveying is “non-existent.” The average age is over 60. Three (3) newly licensing land surveyors are age thirty (30) and above. The Associate’s degree is now required. NCEES did a survey as to whether or not the degree is needed. Further research can be done by NCEES through Committees.

Chair Moore discussed the issue of a technology degree such as received at *New England Technology Institute of Technology* being a struggle versus an accredited bachelor’s degree.

Vice-Chair Aldinger requested a state-to-state comparison of the degree requirement in which NCEES President Turner will provide.

After discussion, it was agreed upon by both Boards to hold a joint forum meeting once or twice a year.

The next order of business was:

Approval of the Open Session Minutes held on 04 April 2017

Upon motion made by Secretary Boyer and duly seconded by Member Gaston, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes.

The next order of business was:

**Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors (RISPLS) matters-
(Review/Discuss/Take Action)**

The next item of business was:

Standard and Law proposed changes-prepared by David Gardner

Upon motion made by Chair McCormick and duly seconded by Member Gaston, it was unanimously

VOTED: To have the Board sit down and go over each proposed change to the law and continue this item to the next Board meeting.

The next order of business was:

Old Business: (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

The next item of business was:

Rules and Regulations

a. RISPLS Recommended Revisions to the Rules and Regulations

Upon motion made by Chair McCormick and duly seconded by Secretary Boyer, it was unanimously

VOTED: To have member Sonder distribute the changes to Administrative Assistant Jovonna Edwards.

2017 Legislation-Status update

This item will be continued to the next Board meeting

The next item of business was:

Any other old business to add to the agenda for the next Board meeting.
None at this time

The next order of business was:

New Business:(Review/Discuss/Take Action)

The next item of business was:

Any new business to add to the agenda for the next Board meeting.
None at this time

The next item of business was:

Comments from the General Public

None at this time

The next order of business was:

NCEES-Annual Meeting-Miami, Florida-August 23-26, 2017

Vice-Chair Daniel R. Cotta, Secretary Mark D. Boyer, and Administrative Assistant Jovonna Edwards will be attending. Member Michael Gaston may possibly attend as well.

The next item of business was:

Comments from David S. Hilbern, RISPLS Liason

None at this time

The next order of business was:

Professional Development Hours (PDH) Course Approval Request (s) from a provider-(Review/Discuss/Take Action)

None at this time

The next order of business was:

Professional Development Hours (PDH) Approval Request(s) from PLS-
(Review/Discuss/Take Action)

The next item of business was:

- (1) John Macolini-This item was continued to the next Board meeting awaiting the response from the letter that was sent.

The next order of business was:

Initial individual application(s)- (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

None at this time

The next order of business was:

Initial Certificate of Authorization (COA) application(s)- (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

1. Alpha Survey Group, LLC

Upon motion made by Chair McCormick and duly seconded by Member Gaston, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the application of Certificate of Authorization

The next order of business was:

Amended Certificate of Authorization (COA) application(s)- (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

1. Allen & Major Associates, Inc.

Upon motion made by Chair McCormick and duly seconded by Member Gaston, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the application of Amended Certificate of Authorization

The next order of business was:

Executive Session

At 10:53 a.m., upon motion made by Chair McCormick and duly seconded by Member Sonder, it was unanimously

VOTED: To go into Executive Session, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(4), for the following matters:

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on 04 April 2017.
2. One (1) matter pertaining to complaint of improper planning.

3. One (1) matter pertaining to complaint of dispute with agreement between the parties.
4. Discussion and drafting of questions to be included on the Professional Land Surveyors' examination.
5. One (1) matter pertaining to complaint of a deficient plan being presented.
6. One (1) matter pertaining to complaint of someone doing Land Surveying work who is not a Land Surveyor.
7. One (1) matter pertaining to an initial application by comity noting disciplinary action in another state and misdemeanor in another state.
8. Two (2) matters pertaining to the State Specific Land Surveyors Exam.
9. Any other new business to be added to the next meeting's Executive Session agenda.
10. Motion to return to Open Session.

At 12:21 p.m., the Board reconvened in Open Session

The next order of business was:

Motion to Seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on 09 May 2017

Upon motion made by Member Sonder and duly seconded by Vice-Chair Cotta, it was unanimously

VOTED: To seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on 05 May 2017 pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 42-46-4 -& 5.

The next order was business was:

Report on activities/votes taken in Executive Session

Upon motion made by Member Sonder and duly seconded by Vice-Chair Cotta, it was unanimously

VOTED: To record the votes taken in executive session in accordance with RI General Laws 42-46-4 as follows:

1. Unanimously approved minutes of the Executive Session held on 04 April 2017.
2. Unanimously moved to continue complaint of improper planning.
3. Unanimously moved to continue complaint of dispute with agreement between the parties and to send copies of emails between the two parties to the person making the complaint.
4. Unanimously moved to continue discussion of drafting of questions to be included on the Professional Land Surveyors' examination.
5. Unanimously moved to continue complaint of a deficient plan being presented and to write a letter stating that the surveyor in question revise the plan and present the revised plan at the next Board meeting.
6. Unanimously moved to continue complaint of someone doing Land Surveying work who is not a Land Surveyor.
7. Unanimously moved to approve initial application by comity noting disciplinary action in another state

8. Unanimously moved to continue matters pertaining to the State Specific Land Surveyors Exam to the Next Board meeting.
9. Any other new business to be added to the next meeting's Executive Session agenda.
10. Motion to return to Open Session.

The next order of business was:

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday 13 June, 2017 1:00 p.m.

The final order of business was:

Adjournment

Upon motion made by Member Sonder and duly seconded by Vice-Chair Cotta, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Boyer, PLS
Secretary

MDB/jme