

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO BOARD OF
LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS held at 9:00 a.m.,
Wednesday, December 14, 2016,
Main Conference Room, Souder Miller & Associates,
3451 Candelaria Rd., NE, Ste. D, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Members Present- Ron Bohannon, PE, Board Chair
Augusta Meyers, Public Member
Karl Tonander, PE
Julie Samora, PE
Glen Thurow, PS
Cliff Spirock, PS

Members Absent- Dr. Nadir Yilmaz, PE
Joshua Skarsgard, Public Member

Others Present- Perry Valdez, BLPEPS, Executive Director
Annette Thompson-Martinez, BLPEPS, Deputy Director
Kara Szkotak, Legal Counsel
Chris Pappas, NMPS
James Rivera, NMPS
Walter Gerstle, NMSPE
Shawna Casebier, Legislative Bill Drafter, via phone

1. **Convene, Roll Call and Introduction of Audience**

Mr. Bohannon convened the meeting at 9:22 am. Roll call was taken and a quorum noted, at this time audience introductions were made.

2. **Meeting Notification**

Mr. Valdez informed the Board that the meeting was noticed in the Albuquerque Journal as well as the Board's website.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION by Mr. Tonander to approve the amended agenda, striking item 6. "Action on Items discussed during Executive Session". **SECOND** by Mr. Thurow, **PASSED** unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

a. **Minutes of November 4, 2016**

MOTION by Mr. Tonander to approve the minutes of November 4, 2016 as presented, **SECOND** by Mr. Thurow, **PASSED** unanimously.

5. **Old Business**

a. **Staff Space Update**

Mr. Valdez informed the Board of the proposed floor plan the contract vendor supplied. The floor plan would include splitting 2 offices into 4. Mr. Valdez stated the original quote which was received included an office from CID and modifications the Board of Architects were proposing to their office space. As of yet a revised quote had not been supplied. Mr. Valdez stated that he will be meeting with Mr. McMurray, Executive Director of CID. Mr. McMurray stated he received information from the vendor regarding the changes. Mr. Valdez received information stating RLD wants BLPEPS to vacate as soon as possible. Mr. Valdez responded that at this time the move will be made once the space is set upon and habitable. Mr. Thurow inquired about information previously received stating that RLD had \$500,000 for remodeling. Mrs. Thompson-Martinez responded that in the beginning it had been planned that a portion of that money would be used to renovate the space used for hearings for Board staff. Mrs. Thompson-Martinez stated that she is unsure of where that money has gone. Mr. Cooper asked about the legality of sharing office space, it is his understanding that each employee should be allocated a certain amount of square footage. Mr. Valdez responded stating that GSD does have space requirements that varies for each position, fitting 2 people into one cubicle does violate the space requirement. Mr. Thurow asked if it is RLD's obligation to provide sufficient space for Board Staff. Mr. Valdez informed the Board, yes, sufficient space should be provided to the Board. Mr. Valdez stated that if forced into the situation where staff would be split up between the third and second floor he would place the licensing managers and the team leader on the second floor and the other positions on the third floor. Mr. Bohannon asked Mr. Valdez to raise the issue about the state statute requirements and reference the MOU and the requirements to have adequate space.

b. **NMSU Surveying Program Status**

Mr. Thurow deferred to Mr. Pappas. Mr. Pappas informed the Board that NMSU will re-define the program and change the name to geomatics, a 2+2 program, there will be 2 professors and will start in January hopefully. New students are being accepted. Mr. Thurow clarified the old program is not being terminated and instead it is being redesigned. Mr. Pappas stated the NMPS has agreed to help fund raise for the NMSU program \$100,000 for the next 3 years or until they have enough student enrollment to offset the cost. Mrs. Samora asked if anything is being done to encourage students to enroll. Mr. Pappas stated that with the re-

design they are hoping to teach classes outside of the traditional surveying class structure and getting other departments more involved with the geomatics curriculum. Mr. Thurow asked if there would be students, such as civil engineering students, enrolled in the classes that would supplement the number of students in the surveying program. Mr. Pappas stated that he does not believe that students in that category would be counted towards the program's student total. Mr. Spirock asked if the program will be open by spring of 2017. Mr. Spirock asked for a definitive letter from NMSU prior to the January 2017 meeting containing the course program, the timeliness of implementation and accreditation due to their upcoming accreditation visit. Mr. Pappas stated that a letter has been formulated on how NMSU is going to redefine the program including the amount of professors and how they are going to maintain their accreditation. Mr. Bohannon asked if Mr. Pappas could send that to the Board and directed staff to place that information on the website. Mr. Bohannon asked if an e-mail blast could be sent out to the licensees once the course curriculum is reviewed by the PSC and program is verified. Mr. Cooper is concerned the amount of students is problematic and believes the low amount of students might be a detriment to the program due to lack of funds.

Ms. Meyers entered the meeting at 9:50 am

c. Meeting with Governor's Office Report

Mr. Bohannon informed the Board that he will reach out to meet with Trevor Crombie and expects that meeting to happen before the next Board meeting in January.

d. Proposed Bill of Changes to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act

Mr. Bohannon asked for Ms. Szkotak to affirm that these changes can be made without the need for a public hearing. Mr. Bohannon stated that this is a draft legislation that will go before the Legislature for enactment. These are recommendations to the Legislature, during consideration the Legislature can modify and make any changes that they'd like. Mrs. Szkotak stated this is unlike a rule change and the Board is permitted to suggest these changes to the Legislature, these may or may not be enacted by the legislators. On the phone is Shawna Casebier, the legislative drafter of the bill changes.

61-23-2 - No issues with changes

61-23-3 - Definitions- Shawna, remove engineer from definitions to alleviate confusion. Mr. Bohannon requested to leave the definition of engineer in under the definition of 'Professional Engineer'. The same shall be reflected for the Surveyors.

61-23-14.1. B (1) (a) - to replace "has been" to "Or a program that fulfills..." by the Board to fulfill the required content of the engineering standard' to clarify the point that the individual must have a bachelor's degree.

61-23-14.1 B (1) - to cooperate with the legislative writing style remove the 'or' after each subsection except for in the last subsection.

In section 1, on line 17 of the draft bill and add in "at least one of the following" this would be helpful to clarify that not all are needed.

B. (1) (c) Inserting "Or program that fulfills the required content" striking "has been found to fulfill".

61-23-21. (D) Addition of a paragraph requesting that a business entity shall complete an affidavit of whom is the authorized company officer, and that any changes of these individuals should be revised and resubmitted to the Board. Mrs. Samora asked if approved is there a plan to advise current licensees and business of the changes, Mr. Bohannon replied that yes a plan is in place.

61-23-26 is now adjusted to reflect the Engineers as 61-23-27.13

61-23-28.2 striking "except in the instance of remuneration" and "within sixty calendar days of the completion of the survey" to remove it from law and will be directed to the minimum standards.

MOTION by Mr. Spirock to recommend the bill as amended, **SECOND** by Mr. Tonander, **PASSED** unanimously.

6. **Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** January 27, 2017 – Santa Fe, NM

7. **Adjourn**

Mr. Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 12:00

Submitted by:

Approved by:

s/ Sami Romero

s/ Ron Bohannon

Ms. Sami Romero, Executive Assistant

Mr. Ron Bohannon, Committee Chair

January 27, 2017 Approved Date