

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO BOARD OF  
LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS held at 9:00 a.m.,  
Friday, January 15, 2016, Training Room 2,  
NM Department of Transportation, General Office  
1120 Cerrillos Rd., Santa Fe, NM

**Members Present-** Glen Thurow, PS, Board Chair  
Karl Tonander, PE  
Julie Samora, PE  
Paul Brasher, PE  
David Cooper, PS  
Ronald Bohannon, PE

**Members Absent-** Dr. Rola Idriss, PE  
Joshua Skarsgard, Public Member  
Augusta Meyers, Public Member  
Clifford Spirock, PS

**Others Present-** Perry Valdez, BLPEPS Executive Director  
Annette Thompson-Martinez, BLPEPS Deputy Director  
Sami Romero, BLPEPS Executive Assistant

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

The meeting was convened at 9:06 am, roll call was taken and a quorum noted.

**2. Meeting Notification**

The meeting was noticed in the Albuquerque Journal as well as the Board's website.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

MOTION by Mr. Bohannon to approve the agenda as is, **SECOND** by Mr. Cooper,  
**PASSED** unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. Minutes of November 6, 2015

**MOTION** by Mr. Bohannon to approve the minutes of November 6, 2015 as is, **SECOND** by Mr. Cooper, **PASSED** unanimously.

5. **Public Comment/Correspondence**

- a. **R. Cunningham – License Renewals**

Mr. Valdez informs the board that Mr. Cunningham will not be present at this meeting, but has submitted correspondence for the Board’s review concerning problems with the online renewal system.

6. **Director’s Report**

- a. **Introduction of the new Deputy Director**

Mr. Valdez introduces the new BLPEPS Deputy Director Mrs. Annette Thompson-Martinez. Mrs. Thompson-Martinez informs the Board that she has 20 years of experience with Boards and Commissions, and prior was a budget liaison. She looks forward to learning about engineering and surveying and looks forward to working with everyone.

- b. **Licensing Status/ 2015 License Renewals**

Mr. Valdez informs the Board that as of November 3, 2015, 4,504 license renewals were generated, 3,100 licenses have been renewed. As of January 7, 2015 there are 1,382 pending renewals; this number does not include inactive or retired status requests. Mr. Valdez informs the Board that this is a good number, last year the number was over 2,000.

**Mr. Brasher arrived at 9:15 am**

- c. **Status Reports**

**1) Corrected Rules - Parts 2 and 5**

Mr. Valdez informs the Board that those rules went into effect as of January 1, 2016; a new booklet was handed out during yesterday’s meetings.

**2) Website**

Mr. Valdez informs the Board that the website is going live on or around February 1, 2016, a training with Real-Time Solutions still needs to be set.

Mr. Bohannan asks to have the Board members review the website before informing the public of its availability.

**d. Financial Report(s)**

**1) HAFC Budget Hearing Report**

Mr. Valdez informs the Board that he, Mrs. Thompson-Martinez, Mr. Thurow, Mr. Bohannan, and Ms. Meyers were present for the budget hearing. Mr. Bohannan gave the fee schedule reduction presentation in reference to the fund balance. Mr. Bohannan also states that he believes having Board members present made a huge impact concerning the outcome. Mr. Thurow and Mr. Valdez agree that there should be minimal to no vacant positions when they go for next year's budget hearing.

**7. Old Business**

**a. Review of Fees**

Mr. Thurow states that Representative Zimmerman went to each board asking about their fund balance, will have a projected 3.4 million in the fund balance. Mr. Thurow feels that Mr. Bohannan's fee reeducation presentation was beneficial showing that there is a plan in place for this. Mr. Bohannan states that he feels that we should adopt the fee changes as soon as possible. Mr. Tonander feels that it would be best to enact the fee reduction beginning with the new fiscal year because there are other fees that were changed other than renewals. Mr. Bohannan asks that this item be placed on the agenda for the April 2016 meeting so action can be taken. Mr. Bohannan suggests that the Board utilize staff to complete this.

**b. PDH Ethic Course – report and future offerings.**

Mr. Valdez informs the Board that this item was placed on the agenda to allow Mr. Tonander to report the public's/licensee's response to the ethics seminars that he did. Mr. Valdez states that he would like to offer them throughout the year. Mr. Tonander states that he feels if the classes are spread too early throughout the year then there is a possibility of fewer attendees. Mr. Tonander feels that starting the classes around September or October and spreading the classes around geographically is best. The Board members are extremely pleased with Mr. Tonander's presentation and appreciate the opportunity and advancement that he's provided to the Board as well as our licensees. Mr. Tonander feels that if we want to hold classes in the spring to approach the colleges for available venues.

## 8. New Business

### a. **PDH Providers – K. Tonander**

Mr. Valdez informs the Board that Mr. Tonander requested this topic be discussed. Mr. Tonander states that this is actually an item that came up through NCEES, there are several providers that state that their classes are accepted by many states, sometimes stating that they are pre-approved for New Mexico. NMBLPEPS does not pre approve any PDHs for renewal. Mr. Brasher feels that it would be in our best interest to contact these vendors and inform them that NMBLPEPS does not pre-approve any courses, and kindly ask for them to remove New Mexico as a pre-approved listing. Mrs. Samora states that she feels that it would be a good public relations item and should be mentioned in the newsletter. Mr. Bohannon asks how we would be able to monitor the PDHs that are being received. Mr. Tonander states that he wasn't speaking about an inclusionary listing but more so an exclusionary list. Mr. Bohannon states that the Board would need to inform the compliance officer on how the PDHs should be measured or place a measuring standard that she would be able to compare courses too. Mr. Cooper feels that it would be unnecessary to have an approved listing of PDHs. Mr. Cooper and Mrs. Samora feel that it would be best to address this and provide guidance to the licensees through the newsletter.

## 9. Committee Reports

### a. **PS Committee**

Mr. Cooper states that there were 2 cases that were closed. A payment plan was accepted. Mrs. Meyers presented a hearing officer's report. The committee issued 2 NCAs, there will be a rule hearing for the PSC on March 22, 2016 in Albuquerque, a location has not yet been determined. Mr. Cooper states that there was new business, beginning dialog with NMPS on new surveying classes since geographically the classes are limited to Las Cruces. There were 3 applications by exam that were approved, 6 applications by endorsement that there were approved, 2 were not approved due to the education requirements. Mr. Thurow does not want to decouple the education requirements for the ability to take the exam; he also informs the Board that the education requirements were actually addressed in the Legislature. Mr. Bohannon states that the Engineering Committee is actually reviewing this information for the Sunset coming up, he feels that this is something that the Surveying Committee should review as well to possibly change and it could possibly increase licensure for the surveyors. Mr. Thurow

would like it to be noted that he does not feel that lowering the standard to allow licensure would be the best plan of action. However, he appreciates the idea and looks forward to this and further proposals.

**b. PE Committee**

Mr. Tonander informs the Board that some items were tabled for later discussion due to a loss of quorum. He states that several other issues were discussed, the violations table was an item that was addressed. Mr. Bohannon believes that placing the violations table in the newsletter would be beneficial. Mr. Valdez would like to have noted that this is not a set table but to be used as an item of guidance for administrative tool. Mrs. Samora does not feel that it would be good to send this information out to our licensees, it is best kept as an internal document. Mr. Tonander states that there were several other items that were brought up and will be evaluated for further discussion. Mr. Tonander states that furthering licensure was an item that was brought up and will be discussed further. The Committee reviewed 31 exam applications, 82 applications by endorsement, 17 by reinstatement, 34 inactive status requests, and 2 self-reporting cases were referred for investigation. The RFP process is complete for the investigator and it is anticipated that a special meeting will be required to address the back logged cases. Mr. Tonander states that applicants applying through endorsement are asking for 3 disciplines on their initial application. Mr. Brasher feels that changing the wording on the form would possibly prevent this from happening.

**c. Executive Committee**

Mr. Thurow states that the Executive Committee has not yet met, therefore there is nothing to report.

**d. Joint Practice Committee**

Mr. Bohannon informs the board that the JPC will be meeting next week.

**e. Public Information, Exam and Licensure Promotion Committee**

Mrs. Samora states that the Committee met on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held on messaging and brochures. Mrs. Samora feels that it would be good to have something to hand out and is hoping for a completed product come the annual NCEES meeting in May 2016. Talk about the online renewals, violations, PDH requirements. Mr. Bohannon states that with the other newsletters he receives he religiously reads the complaint section. Mr. Valdez states that adding the

complaints to the newsletter is not something that the board has decided on as of yet. Mrs. Samora states that her main focus is to get the newsletter out, and the website up and running to complete a catch- up before starting on anything new. It was also looked at to provide events, or possibly creating a calendar of events to promote participation and furthering board involvement to create a more personal relationship with the licensees. Mrs. Samora would also like to look at creating a public relations budget to complete these tasks.

**f. Rules and Regulations Committee**

Mr. Bohannon states that the rule and regulations committee has not yet met. Mr. Thurow states that he and Mr. Cooper have been reviewing the Practice Act in regards to surveying and surveying exemptions. Mr. Bohannon suggest that staff work off of a shared drive to avoid any file management complications. Mr. Thurow states that he feels it would be best to have a legislator sponsor any changes to the “Engineering and Surveying Practice Act”

**g. Computer Based Testing – State Specific Exam for Surveyors**

Mr. Cooper states that they are moving towards getting the CBT testing accomplished. One step in this is creating new questions, Mr. Coopers states that they have solicited to have new questions available for review. Another portion of this discussion is if this would be allowed as a take home test or not.

**h. Legal Enforcement Committee**

No committee members present to give a report. Mr. Bohannon states that after the April Meeting this committee may be dissolved.

**i. Registrant Renewal Fees Committee**

Mr. Thurow states that this was discussed in a previous item.

**j. NCEES Committee Members**

Mr. Valdez states that he and Mrs. Samora attended a conference where they discussed comity, mobility, and decoupling. The new NCEES Portal is expected to go live in June 2016. The computer based testing PS exam will commence on October of 2016. Mr. Valdez states NCEES is also looking in to making the verification process easier to assist in mobility, this would be added into the portal as well. NCEES will now be requesting the transcripts so that individual boards

will not have to request this information. Mr. Valdez informed the Board that a decision will need to be made as to who will be attending the NCEES Western Zone Meeting. Mr. Valdez suggested sending the NCEES funded members to the meeting due to the location. Mrs. Samora feels that the location should not determine the amount of members allowed to attend.

**10. Executive Session**

**MOTION** by Mr. Thurow that the Board go into closed executive session to discuss only those matters listed on the agenda under executive session, pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 (H) (2)" **SECOND** by Mrs. Samora, **PASSED** unanimously.

**Roll call vote was taken, voting 'Yes':** Mr. Thurow, Mr. Bohannon, Mr. Tonander, Mrs. Samora, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Brasher

**a. Staffing and Executive Director Position.**

**11. Action on Items Discussed During Executive Session**

Mr. Thurow states that the Board is back in open session and affirms that while in closed session it discussed only those matters specified in the motion to close the meeting and listed on the agenda under executive session, in accordance with NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 (H) (2)"

No action was taken during closed session.

**12. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: April 15, 2016 – Taos, NM**

**13. Adjourn**

Mr. Thurow adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

s/ Sami Romero

s/ Glen Thurow

Ms. Sami Romero, Executive Assistant

Mr. Glen Thurow, Board Chair

April 15, 2016 Approved Date