

**MINUTES  
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS**

DATE: February 3, 2016  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 500 N. Calvert Street  
Room 308  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

PRESENT: John V. Mettee, III, Chairman  
Donald Ocker  
John Jensen  
Daniel Lavelle  
Thomas Orisich

**OTHERS**

PRESENT: Steve Long, Executive Director  
James Baseman, Assistant Executive Director  
Milena Trust, Assistant Attorney General  
Vickie Wilkins, Commissioner  
Janet Morgan, Web Content  
Pat Simon, MSS

ABSENT: Brian Dunne

**CALL TO ORDER**

John Mettee, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**MINUTES**

A motion (I) was made by Tom Orisich, seconded by Don Ocker and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2016 meeting as submitted.

**COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Don Ocker reported that the Complaint Committee did not meet today as there were no new complaints.

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### **NEW BUSINESS**

John Mettee proposed to nominate Steve Long, James Baseman and Milena Trust to become Associate Members of the NCEES Board. Motion (II) was made by Don Ocker, seconded by Tom Orisich, and unanimously carried by the Board to nominate Steve Long, James Baseman and Milena Trust as Associate Members.

John Mettee stated that Mr. Peter McConaughy, representing his company SealAuthority, appeared before the Professional Engineers Board to discuss digital signatures and his belief that there are inconsistencies in our regulations. Using the language from this Board's response, the PE Board responded to Mr. McConaughy asserting that the Board will not approve or disapprove of SealAuthority's process. It was agreed that the end user must be satisfied that this service meets the regulation.

Mr. Mettee remarked that the Board will review the digital signature regulations and report on the topic at the 2016 Northeast Zone Interim Meeting.

John Mettee stated that he attended the Technology Task Force Committee meeting in Arizona last weekend. He commented that it was a productive meeting with discussions on digital signatures and seals, and model rules. A position statement was prepared on Emerging Technologies. Milena Trust asked if changes to the Model Law will be proposed. Mr. Mettee affirmed that changes will be proposed. Mr. Mettee will address the subject at the upcoming zone meeting in April.

Tom Orisich reported that he attended the Examinations for Professional Surveyors Committee meeting in Clemson, South Carolina. During the meeting it was confirmed that the next exam (April) will be the last paper and pencil exam. Computer-based testing for the Principals of Surveying Exam will start in October 2016. The committee started preparing questions in alternate formats instead of multiple choice questions. For example, fill in the blank for math questions and graphics for mapping questions. Milena Trust noted that the adaptation of the exam to the CBT format will increase the cost, and applicants should be encouraged to take exams during the April administration before the cost is raised.

Tom Orisich noted that the Future of Surveying Task Force also met and that a report will be provided at the Annual Meeting. John Mettee commented that NCEES has approved funding for programs aimed at generating interest in surveying careers.

The Board discussed the state-specific examinations and ways to reduce the cost of administration. Tom Orisich noted that the state specific exams will be

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given along with the PE exams in October and asked if these tests can also become computerized. Milena Trust suggested putting the state specific exams online. Steve Long suggested issuing an RFP to testing vendors.

Tom Orisich stated that he received an email inquiring if our exams are psychometrically defensible. Milena Trust responded that they are not.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Milena Trust confirmed that the CPC Committee has been approved to reconvene to address any substantive changes to the regulations. The Board would like the committee to meet in April, after the scheduled board meeting. There were no detailed notes taken from the last meeting, so the committee will need to revisit what was previously discussed.

John Mettee noted that the joint letter (with the PE Board) regarding certification of FEMA elevation surveys was sent to Baltimore County officials last week. Milena Trust will draft a joint letter to be sent to Baltimore City officials.

John Mettee asked if any additional issues have surfaced from the Governor's Regulatory Reform Commission. Don Ocker noted that an interim report was released. Milena Trust reiterated that no action is required at this time.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to review.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Board welcomed Steve Long as the new Executive Director. Mr. Long stated that he will focus on technology issues within the professional licensing boards and find ways to increase communication with licensees. He introduced Janet Morgan, Web Content and Outreach Coordinator, who creates the newsletter that is sent to licensees and posted on the Division's webpage. John Mettee suggested focusing on the state specific exams. Mr. Long noted that this topic will be addressed at the MBE meetings in Atlanta this weekend.

### **BOARD COUNSEL'S REPORT**

Milena Trust discussed the documentation required for firm permit applications. She noted that currently applicants are required to provide a Certificate of Good Standing from the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). Ms. Trust asked if the Board would accept a screen print, available from the SDAT website for no charge, showing good standing in lieu of the actual Certificate. The Board's response was favorable but questioned

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whether SDAT updated company information in a timely manner, or if the data found online could be incorrect. Don Ocker suggested that the Board require the applicant provide the certificate of good standing or a print out of the company status, instead of having the staff obtain this information. He noted that there would be some type of recourse if the applicant tries to mislead the Board.

Motion (III) was made by Don Ocker to accept a screen print of the SDAT record, provided by the applicant, or a Certificate of Good Standing. The Motion was seconded by John Jensen and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Trust stated that the Education Bill has not yet been submitted to the Legislature and that it will have the same sponsor as last year. She commented that she has not received anything from the bill drafter but the bill "is perfect." Pat Simon asked if the Legislative Committee at MSS should review the bill, Ms. Trust affirmed that they should review it. Don Ocker asked if the Board should contact the Senate to make revisions. Ms. Trust stated that MSS should make any revisions.

Ms. Trust stated that she recently attended the UPLG Committee (Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines) meeting in Albuquerque. She noted that Sallye Perrin of the PE Board will be giving the UPLG presentation at the Northeast Zone meeting in April. She also offered that the Central Zone will be requesting a meeting with the Northeast Zone.

### **MSS REPORT**

Pat Simon confirmed that the MSS Spring Conference will be from April 7-9, 2016, at the Maritime Institute. The CST prep class will be held on February 27, 2016 at Annapolis Junction. Tom Orisich noted that the class is full. The TUGIS (Towson University Geographical Information System Department) will also be conducting a conference on March 15, 2016 at Towson University. MSS will be giving a presentation with a panel discussion similar to the last Fall Conference. Mr. Simon invited any available Board member to be on the panel. Mr. Mettee pointed out that it was against regulations for a Board member to participate; the entire Board must be present in this circumstance. Milena Trust will ask the Ethics Commission for guidance. Mr. Simon will provide information regarding this panel to Ms. Trust. Mr. Simon also noted that the MSPS Geospatial Conference is March 14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Pat Simon requested the Board provide a list of all licensed surveyors and their license numbers for use in the field when identifying markers and monuments. He will make the request in writing to Steve Long.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion (IV) was made by Mr. Ocker, seconded by Tom Orisich and unanimously carried to go into Executive Session at 11:14 a.m. at 500 North Calvert Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. This session is permitted to be closed pursuant to State Government Article, Title 10-508(a)(7). Upon completion of this session, the Board reconvened its public meeting at 11:50 a.m.

**APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW**

Applications for Firm Permits:

Eco Land Solutions - approved  
TEP OPCO, LLC. - approved  
Quantum Spatial, Inc. - approved

Following a review of the above applications by a minimum of two board members, a motion (V) for approval was made and unanimously carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2016 at 10 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion (VI) was made by Don Ocker, seconded by John Jensen and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Without Corrections

With Corrections

  
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Donald Ocker, Vice-Chairman

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