

ALASKA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

AFFILIATE OF AMERICAN CONGRESS ON SURVEYING AND MAPPING

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

MEMBER OF WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

P.O. BOX 101465
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510



*Board Meeting August 23, 2003
USKH Conference Room, Anchorage*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Tuck Maakestad called the meeting to order shortly after 9 a.m. Those in attendance were:

A. Roll Call:

Attendance as follows:

President	– Tuck Maakestad
Past-president	– (Mike Fretwell, absent)
President-elect	- Michael Schoder
Treasurer	– Dean Cimmiyotti
Secretary	– (Martin Gutoski, absent)
WestFed Delegate “A”	– Paul Whipple
WestFed Delegate “B”	– (Bud Campbell, absent)
NSPS Governor	- George Strother
ACSM President	- (Sam Best, absent)

Chapter Presidents:

Anchorage	- (Pat Kelly, absent)
Fairbanks	- Martin Shurr
Mat-Su	- Fred Schwaderer
Kenai	– Tim Mullikin
Student Chapter	– (Steve Callahan, absent)

Standards of Practice	– (John Bennett, absent)
Membership	– (Ron Mitchell, absent)
APDC	– Paul Whipple
Legislative Liaison	– Pat Kalen
Executive Secretary	– Vicky Sterling

2. Approve Agenda

Administrative note: two agenda items have number 9, thus the last 4 items on the agenda should be re-numbered 10 through 14. Pat Kalen modified agenda item 12.b to indicate Ron Mitchell rather than Craig Savage is assisting with AELS exam review. Paul Whipple added 12.d Rep. Harris Fund-raiser to the agenda.

3. Approve Previous Board Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2003

Pat Kalen corrected the second sentence in item 7a. i. to read “Pat is hopeful of seeing it get through the Senate next session.” Fred Schwaderer corrected the spelling of Jim Colver (*not Culver*) in item 12.a. Pat Kalen corrected second sentence in item 10i to indicate IRWA (*not ASPRS*). Minutes were approved as amended.

4. President’s Report – Tuck Maakestad

President Tuck Maakestad distributed a written report. Highlights were plans the committee is making for the 2004 Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference; some great courses and technical sessions have been arranged. Michael Schoder is short course chairman, Paul Whipple is technical sessions chairman, and Pat Kalen is lining up technical sessions for ACSM. Mike Fretwell and Michael Schoder have been supporting Tuck, who is committee chairman. Tuck also noted that it is time to begin looking for candidates to fill the offices of President Elect, Secretary, and one of our delegate seats. Please be alert for candidates.

5. Treasurer’s Report – Dean Cimmiyotti

Treasurer Dean Cimmiyotti distributed a printed report prepared by PJ Whipple. He noted there are outstanding questions about two donations that were made at the conference in Fairbanks in February – the checks apparently were lost / not cashed but the donors might re-issue them. It was also noted that George Strother had a fruitful chance encounter with the former treasurer and was able to recover a briefcase containing some past records including two checks from two years ago that had not been cashed. Mike Schoder questioned the amount paid to ACSM for membership, which was determined to include 22 new licensees who receive complimentary first-year membership in ASPLS. George Strother noted that ACSM also extends free membership the first year, so we need to pursue a rebate from ACSM. It was also noted that the disbursement from the February conference needs to be made per the agreement noted in item 10.i of minutes of May 10, 2003. Paul Whipple noted that with George’s acquisition of past records, we now have auditable books for 2001-2002. It was agreed that Dean would look into options for getting an audit performed. The Treasurer’s report was accepted on a motion by George Strother with second by Fred Schwaderer.

6. Chapter Reports

- a) Anchorage – Michael Schoder spoke in absence of Pat Kelly. Primary activity concerns writing a letter to MOA about accepting drawings that consist of non-surveyor mark-ups on a stamped as-built (i.e., the mortgage survey issue). Michael also noted that he would encourage the chapter to hold regular meetings even when there is no pressing business, to promote attendance and networking.

- b) Fairbanks – Marty Shurr distributed a written report, which provides an address change for the monthly lunch meetings; welcomes new PLS Tim Sprout to the chapter; and notes that all TrigStar prizes have been awarded. They expect activity to pick up in the fall, and have tentatively scheduled Sen. Seekins as a speaker in October. The chapter also has decided to discuss the mortgage survey issue.
- c) Kenai – Tim Mullikin noted that the chapter is not active during summer field season, and a main role they serve when active is to watch the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Tuck noted that Tim had submitted agenda item 11.b and thanked him for raising the issue of timely utility locates for design surveys.
- d) Mat-Su – Fred Schwaderer noted that they are still working with the borough on a re-write of subdivision regulations (Title 16). They continue to attend working sessions with the platting staff and have much work left to do. George Strother noted that this effort is a total re-write with significant philosophical changes that will be hard spot if you don't know the old Title 16 well. Fred also noted that they are still looking for a home for the reference monument for the center of population, and the Wasilla Transportation Museum and Palmer Visitor Center are being investigated. They are also still trying to put together a survey museum at the museum of transportation (Gene Mound in Fairbanks was cited as a collector of historical equipment).
- e) UAA Student – Steve Callahan was not present; no report.

7. NSPS National Report – Craig Savage

Craig noted that NSPS is now (theoretically) independent of ACSM. They are in the midst of organizational change and the “new ACSM” will become official January 1, 2004. Many functions that were associated with ACSM will now be NSPS functions (for example, the ALTA committee will be an NSPS committee). He also noted that a new certification for floodplain survey is being offered in North Carolina. With it, when you turn in a map amendment to FEMA you get an expedited review of 4 to 5 days, compared to the usual up to 6 months. Craig will advise us when changes should be made to our letterhead.

8. Delegate Reports

- a) NSPS Alaska – George Strother noted that Lobby Day was moved to October 2 and Craig Savage noted that he just learned it has been cancelled. George noted that reorganization would be the focus for the next few months, as ACSM becomes a group of member organizations instead of individual members. He noted that timely utility locates / one-call centers are a national issue, as the centers don't want to perform locates for design surveys. He also noted that American First Title's Express Maps are on line again.
- b) WestFed – Bud Campbell/Paul Whipple are delegates. Paul distributed a written report with highlights of the June 21 meeting in Sparks, Nevada. The NCEES Model Law took up much of the meeting; the consensus was that the amendment was not well written and the board passed a resolution recommending that the Model Law not be adopted by NCEES. Paul also noted a \$15,000 deposit to the scholarship fund; and reported that ACSM has not received a reply to their letter to Express Map and that the web site was reported inactive (members noted today that it was back on line). Paul provided highlights of some state reports and offered to make copies of full state reports available upon request. The next meeting of WestFed will be October 23, 2003, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and will coincide with the meeting of that state's board of registration. The

February 2004 meeting is being scheduled to coincide with the annual conference of Montana to be held in Missoula; and the June 2005 meeting is tentatively set for Alaska. Paul noted a policy change on travel reimbursement and said neither he nor Bud has requested travel costs yet.

- c) APDC – Paul Whipple reported that the state’s building safety task force was established without consideration for APDC’s requested change in composition and a private Codes task force has been formed with Colin Maynard in the leadership. Tuck asked about the Port of Anchorage development, which Paul said is proceeding with no formal change in process despite APDC’s efforts to make the project subject to the state procurement regulations; parties involved paid lip service to the goals of APDC but the project is proceeding under federal compact contractor rules. He also noted that APDC has met with Mike Scott and Mark O’Brien of ADOT/PF about rumors that they want to take bids on professional services contracts, and they said the department is just trying to get a management audit. Paul noted that the annual APDC Fall Forum is coming up in October, and building safety / codes will probably be the focus.

9. Committee Reports

- a) Constitution and By-Laws – Sam Best was not present; passed on this item.
- b) Membership – Ron Mitchell/Vicky Sterling. Vicky noted that she has had difficulty getting together with Ron to finalize records and letters. She will send a draft letter to new LSs to Tuck for review, which will include contacts and meeting information for the chapters. She will also forward the full membership list in Excel format to all present via email after the meeting.
- c) Legislative – Pat Kalen noted that the society needs to draft minimum survey standards for mortgage surveys before the legislature convenes in January if we want Rep. Harris and the legislature to consider our input. George Strother noted that NSPS standards include a chapter on mortgage surveys that could be extracted and adopted.
- d) Standards of Practice – John Bennett was not present; no report. It was noted that the final minutes of May meeting, approved earlier today, should be sent to John in final form for posting on the website.
- e) TrigStar – George Strother reported that the national winner is an Alaskan; Martin Victor, a sophomore from Chugiak High School, took top honors and also got a special award from BLM for excellent work as an intern. He already has his eye on a surveying focus at UAA and will get \$1000 toward his goal, upon high school graduation. His teacher also gets a \$1000 award, and both get a trip to the NSPS convention in Nashville. George noted that we need an Alaska TrigStar coordinator for 2003-2004; Ron Schwinn and Jerry Lewis may do it. The program gets bigger every year; last year 323 schools participated and they expect 340 schools and 6500 students next time. Alaska is 8th in number of schools and 7th in number of students participating nationally, as well as 4th in dollar amount of awards given. George explained that TrigStar licenses will go up from \$35 to \$40 per school this year, and Alaska had 20 schools last year; alternatively, a state license is available for \$500 that covers as many schools as want to participate. George Strother introduced a motion that: ASPLS will purchase an Alaska state license for \$500, and will be reimbursed by chapters a fee of \$25 for each school high school that participates. Fred Schwaderer seconded the motion. In discussion, it was noted that materials will be available electronically for download this year; and chapters would get plaques on their

own. Paul Whipple noted that reimbursements would create an accounting challenge for the state as well as chapters. Pat Kalen offered a friendly amendment to delete reference to reimbursement from the main motion, which was accepted by Strother and Schwaderer. The final motion, ASPLS will purchase an Alaska state TrigStar license for \$500, passed unanimously.

- f) Raffle Committee – this item was passed.
- g) Training Committee – Ken Ayers / Mike Fretwell; this item was passed.
- h) Safety Committee – Mike Fretwell; this item was passed.
- i) 2003 Joint Conference ASPRS Annual Conference Wrap-up Report – Mike Fretwell / Tuck Maakestad. Tuck noted that it looks like we'll get a \$200 disbursement.
- j) 2004 ASMC – Tuck Maakestad / Mike Schoder. Mike noted several interesting short course topics in the works and ideas for keynote speaker, and mentioned the possibility of moving the board meeting to an evening in order to include a workshop on NCEES model law and invite participation by Pat Kalen, Scott McLane, and other AELS board members. It was also noted that Rae Kozloski has years of ASMC records, and has given notice of retirement, so we need to collect and organize those and decide where to keep them.
- k) Minimum Standards for Mortgage Surveys – Mike Fretwell. This topic was addressed under Legislative (9.c).

10. Continuing Business

- a) ASPLS Newsletter – Mike Zieserl was absent; no report. It was noted that he is now working for John Oswald & Associates.
- b) AELS Board – Pat Kalen / Scott McLane. Pat reported that the investigator sent the board examples of additions made to sealed as-built surveys that had been accepted as new plans by the MOA and questioned whether this was a good practice; the board will reply that this is a bad practice. Pat also thanked the group for financial help to attend the Western Zone meeting.
- c) NCEES Model Law – Pat Kalen distributed written reports on the NCEES annual meeting and the model law that was adopted there. He said the board of registration likely will proceed with drafting regulations for registration of photogrammetrists, and speculated that they would probably delete “land” from the official designation to create a registration for Professional Surveyor. He noted that the model law is available on the NCEES website. Pat said there are only 6 to 8 applicants for the AKLS in October. He also said the board of registration is looking for two changes to statute: they want the board administrative position to be partially exempt status; they also want Stop Work authority when trying to enforce rules against non-licensed practice, because they find some violators simply consider fines “the cost of doing business.” George Strother reminded that Pat’s and Scott’s terms on the board expire in March 2004 and March 2005 respectively so it’s time to consider recommendations for replacement. Pat suggested forwarding at least 3 names per seat and that it is appropriate for the candidates to formally apply for the vacancy prior to March, when the board should send its endorsements. Paul Whipple and Jim Colver have expressed intentions. Endorsements will be raised at the February meeting.

11. New Business

- a) Certified Survey Technician Testing – George Strother noted that the test for this certification is now available on line, and a state coordinator is needed to promote it. Information is available on the ACSM website. He noted they want an independent (non-teacher) proctor.
- b) Timely Utility Locates for Design Surveys – Tuck asked if this is an issue the group wants to tackle. There is no compelling reason for utilities to provide locates when digging is not involved, and it is increasingly difficult to get locates on design projects. Mike Schoder noted that DOT has found that utilities want to be paid for providing locates. It was noted that Curt Sumner has background on the issue at a national level, and that the issue could also be raised at an APDC board meeting since it affects designers in general, not just surveyors.
- c) Draft Budget – George Strother reminded that the treasurer needs to bring a draft budget in November.

12. Announcements

- a) Next Board Meeting – November 17 in Anchorage, tentatively 4 p.m. at either DOT or USKH. To be confirmed.
- b) AELS Exam Review (Nov. 15-16, 2003 Anchorage) – Ron Mitchell / Pat Kalen.
- c) Following Board Meeting – will be at the ASMC 2004 conference.
- d) Rep. Harris Fundraiser – Paul Whipple shared an invitation to a fund-raiser Wednesday for Rep. Harris.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Gutoski, Secretary ASPLS

These minutes are as approved by the
ASPLS Board at its November 17, 2003 Meeting.