



ALASKA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

MEMBER OF WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

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BLM Yukon Building

3150 C Street

May 6, 2005

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Michael Schoder called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Those in attendance were:

A. Roll Call:

Attendance as follows:

President	– Michael Schoder
Past-president	– Tuck Maakestad
President-elect	– Martin Gutoski
Treasurer	– Dean Cimmiyotti
Secretary	– Michael Spangler (Excused)
WestFed Delegate “A”	– Paul Whipple
WestFed Delegate “B”	– Rich Heieren
NSPS Governor	– George Strother

Chapter Presidents:

Anchorage	– Ken Ayers (Excused)
Fairbanks	– Tim Sprout
Mat-Su	– Fred Schwaderer
Kenai	– Glenn Tinker
Student Chapter	– (absent)

Constitution/Bylaws	– Sam Best (Excused)
Standards of Practice	– John Bennett (Excused)
Membership	– Jim Sharp (absent)
APDC	– Paul Whipple
Legislative Liaison	– Pat Kalen
TrigStar Chair	– Michael Miller
Copyright Committee	– Gary LoRusso
Member	– John Horan
Executive Secretary	– Vicky Sterling

2. Approve Agenda

On a motion and second by Tuck Maakestad and Fred Schwaderer, respectively, the agenda was approved as amended during discussion.

3. Approve Previous Board Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2005

On a motion and second by Paul Whipple and George Strother, respectively, minutes of the February 23, 2005 minutes were approved as amended based on email review.

4. President's Report – Mike Schoder

Mike thanked members for their support during the past quarter, when he has not been able to be as active as planned because of personal commitments. He noted that he attended the ACSM national conference, where he earned Continuing Education credits, and NSPS Board of Governor's meeting. He will offer more comments when we reach appropriate reports on the agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report – Dean Cimmiyotti

Dean distributed a written report and noted that he transferred funds into a 6-month CD in accordance with the vote at the February meeting, and the report reflects the transfer. The checking account has sufficient funds to cover anticipated expenses. *On a motion by George Strother with second by Fred Schwaderer, the report was approved.*

6. Chapter Reports

a) Anchorage – Ken Ayers: Ken's written report was distributed with the agenda and Mike Schoder summarized highlights. The chapter continues to meet the third Tuesday of the month at Sourdough Mining Company. The chapter sponsored 7 schools in the TrigStar program and was successful in obtaining donations for prizes. Progress continues on the Center of Population Monument. Nominations are being solicited for a fall election of both President-elect and Secretary/Treasurer.

b) Fairbanks – Tim Sprout: Tim noted that Fairbanks also was involved in TrigStar this quarter. They also recently had an interesting report from a member of the Geomatics Board.

c) Kenai – Glenn Tinker: Glenn noted that the chapter's first meeting will be the seminar on Riparian surveys on Tuesday. They have 22 registered for the short course, so expect to make money. He wants to plan some social events this summer to help draw members. George Strother offered to attend a meeting sometime to provide an NSPS report, and extended the offer to all chapters.

Glenn asked how individual members should comment on regulation projects. Mike Schoder said that if it's a state issue we need to have a dialogue at the state level and speak with a unified voice; if individual members disagree and want to comment, they are entitled and welcome to offer individual public comment. If it's a local issue, the State Board would typically write a letter of support of the chapter's position, if requested.

d) Mat Su – Fred Schwaderer: Fred distributed a written report outlining first quarter activities, and noted that their TrigStar participation was down somewhat from last year for various reasons, but they had 58 participants from two schools. The chapter meets on the last Wednesday of the month. The borough Title 16 regulation project is an ongoing issue.

e) UAA Student Chapter: Mike Schoder noted that he heard from Sean Bolander that the student chapter has had elections, but he doesn't have the name of the new president. The group reportedly was disappointed in their sixth-place finish in the competition in using plane tables at the ACSM/WFPS/CALS/NALS Surveyor's Conference in Las Vegas in March. George Strother noted

that they were assigned a very rough piece of ground. He said 12 schools participated this year, the most ever, and that UAA students garnered 6 of 12 scholarship awards.

7. Delegate Reports

a) NSPS Alaska – George Strother: George attended the ACSM/WFPS/CALS/NALS Surveyor's Conference in Las Vegas in March and distributed a written report. He noted that he has comprehensive reports available on each topic, if anyone is interested in details. He mentioned that they've been unable to find a source for an acceptable quality banner at an affordable price, to donate the Museum of Surveying. He also noted that the FEMA/ACSM Certified Flood Plan Surveyor program (CFS) pilot project has been successful in North Carolina, and the board will begin taking applications in September 2005 from states interested in expanding the program to their state – this might be a good seminar to coordinate between ACSM conferences. This will be added under Old Business for next meeting. A motion to require that college professors have acceptable English written and verbal skills as part of ABET accreditation was referred to the Board of Directors for study by committee after spirited debate. Both George and Mike Schoder noted that a training session for members of Boards of Directors was particularly useful. This is discussed further under New Business. George noted that he found the WestFed report about how GIS is being integrated with surveying in some states to be interesting.

b) WestFed – Paul Whipple/Rich Heieren: Paul and Rich both attended the recent WestFed meeting. Paul noted that many committees were meeting, but no new or particularly hot items were discussed. Rich noted that it was his first meeting, and he was impressed by the level of activity.

c) APDC – Paul Whipple: Paul submitted a written report summarizing activities at APDC. He noted that HB 35 with amendment for temporary landscape architect position passed the Senate and is going back to the House for concurrence. The Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) committee has had good success educating clients about the problems and issues associated with selecting professionals services using price as a major component, but noted that the membership of ASPLS has not provided the committee an opportunity to educate our clients. George noted that NSPS is battling this on a national level. All members are welcome to refer price-based solicitations to the APDC committee for action. The Contracts committee is still looking for knowledgeable individuals to assist its efforts. This committee works with owners to revise objectionable or unenforceable language in their draft contracts. He also noted that APDC has requested the ASPLS board's position on the subject of expanding the number of engineering disciplines licensed by the AELS Board and noted that the engineering societies are opposed.

d) A/E/LS Board – Cliff Baker / Rich Heieren: Mike Schoder announced that Rich Heieren has been appointed to the board and will take the oath at the next meeting, and thanked Rich for joining the APSLS board meetings to promote liaison between the society and the board. Rich noted that letters will be sent soon officially requesting input on Continuing Education (CE). Question was raised whether Rich could serve the AELS Board and WestFed, and both Pat Kalen and Paul Whipple cited precedent for no conflict of interest, and anticipate no problem. Rich mentioned the Board is preparing for the upcoming meeting of NCEES Western Zone in Anchorage, and George noted that NCEES contributed substantial support to TrigStar this year. Pat Kalen said he understands the AELS Board wants to take administrative action to contract with NCEES to administer the registration exams rather than using local volunteers. This would more than double the fee to sit for exams. Tuck suggested we enlist APDC in opposition to the action. *George Strother made a motion, with second by Fred Schwaderer, that the ASPLS President write a letter to the AELS Board requesting that NCEES not be contracted to proctor exams in preference of continuing to use volunteers. Motion*

passed unanimously. Pat Kalen with forward the proposed fee schedule to Mike Schoder for reference.

8. Committee Reports

a) Membership – Jim Sharp / Vicky Sterling: Vicky distributed a written report showing 2004 and 2005 membership numbers by chapter and by member type. Numbers are down. Mike Schoder noted that everyone needs to be involved in recruiting, since this is the main source of revenue. Vicky will send the latest membership roster to all board members after the meeting. George Strother reminded that the letter to new members should include reference to membership in NSPS, and suggested that we require new registrants to return a completed membership form in order to get their free membership. Vicky agreed to download the list of new registrants after the AELS Board's June meeting. Vicky also will send Paul Whipple the names of two new members who requested Membership Certificates (Paul will forward if he doesn't still have blank certificates).

b) Standards of Practice – John Bennett: Mike Schoder reported that John has added a new search utility to the site, and that the invoice for domain name and hosting is due to arrive soon.

c) TrigStar – Michael Miller: Mike noted that he is going to coordinate the process for reporting final results next year to make it easier. The three top scores this year were from Anchorage, one from Dimond and two from Chugiak. Mike will proctor the winner for the national test. He requested new contact information from any chapter whose coordinator will change, otherwise will begin next year's coordination using the same contact list as this year. He requested use of his personal email address (not work) for society correspondence: mkmiller@mtaonline.net.

d) Raffle Committee – Mike Spangler: Mike Spangler provided a written report of raffle costs, proceeds and prizes that was attached to the agenda. Mike Schoder noted that working with Benton Bay Lions minimized the administrative work. The effort yielded just under \$2,000 in proceeds. It was noted that a mix-up resulted in Rick Bennett's prize being a \$250 gift card instead of \$500 as advertised and he donated the difference back to ASPLS rather than accept a check. He thanked Mike Spangler for his work, and asked for volunteers interested in handling a raffle next year.

e) 2005/2006 ASMC Conference – Tuck Maakestad/Mike Schoder: Tuck provided a detailed written wrap-up of income and expenses from this year's conference and noted that there should be funds to disburse but not all expenses are in yet so a final accounting cannot be made. The program of offering complimentary registration to companies/agencies sending multiple registrations seemed to work well. Early registration was strong, and 27% of attendees registered online this first year we offered the opportunity. Tuck Maakestad offered to resign his planned term on the ASMC committee for the coming year to let incoming Martin Gutoski serve this year, to get some experience on the committee because ASPLS will be called upon to chair the conference during Martin's presidency. Tuck will remain Martin's designated alternate, and will be involved in the conference.

f) Legislative – Pat Kalen: Pat noted the Sunset legislation (HB 35) and outlined the scuffle over the Landscape Architect position on the board that occurred during committee hearings. With help of Pat's intervention, status quo was restored before the bill passed out of committee.

9. Continuing Business

a) ASPLS Newsletter – Mike Zieserl: Mike Schoder reminded all of Mike Zieserl's recent e-mail announcing a May 20 deadline for the next issue. Chapters and committees were asked to send reports.

b) Continuing Education Regulations: Mike Schoder noted that he took the opportunity to earn CE credits at the ACSM/WFPS/CALS/NALS Surveyor's Conference in Las Vegas in March. He said the ASPLS draft was forwarded to the AELS Board and he understands it was largely followed in draft legislation, although the board apparently does not like the concept of awarding CE points for membership in the society. Mike made the case for education through newsletters, programs and networking, and that other states offer points for society activity. Gary LoRusso and John Horan explained how programs work in other states where they have experience, and Pat Kalen provided history of the current effort. The AIA model was mentioned, but that is a national program. The Board will decide by e-mail whether to call a special meeting to consider the draft legislation after it is out for public notice. Chapters are encourage to review and discuss it.

c) Center of Population Monument: The Anchorage Chapter written report outlines status – it will be placed in the kiosk soon, the plaque still needs to be developed. The Frontiersman is already interested in attending the dedication ceremony. Plans include invitations to members and dignitaries statewide, and media coverage will be cultivated. It was noted that Channel 13 often covers Valley events. George noted that NSPS is preparing a series of PSAs that will be available for use with local announcements added at the end.

d) Mortgage Survey Standards: Mike Schoder noted that the committee hasn't met since the Annual Meeting, when changes were suggested. Mike recently heard that the AELS Board wants to codify the version approved in August by stating the revision date of the standard in the code, so is concerned that necessary revisions be made as soon as possible for approval at the August meeting, so that the code cites the version we want. The MOA also has expressed interest to Ken Ayers in seeing changes to the standard, so Mike needs to invite Ken to join the committee meeting to express their concern. Mike Schoder will coordinate a committee meeting in May.

e) Survey Drawing Copyright Issues with ADEC and Boroughs: Mike Schoder reported known examples of harm caused by the practice of altering drawings, and said the ongoing dialogue is good. Gary LoRusso reported that he has been working the issue for more than a decade now, and has reached the point where his attorney suggested one of two alternatives, and Gary explained his preferred approach: Petition the Attorney General's office to employ the rule-making authority of ADEC or ADNDR to issue a rule that forbids copying copyrighted documents on file on state premises, but documents would still be available for public review. He believes the letter would be better coming from a larger body such as ASPLS or APDC, and would pay for his attorney to write the letter if the organization will sign it. He can get at least one Title Company to also sign a letter of support. *It was moved and seconded that Mike Schoder should write a letter on the copyright issue. A copy would go to APDC and another to Gary LoRusso. Motion passed.*

f) Mid Year 2005 Short Course for Fundraiser: Two ideas were discussed: a FEMA CFS course and duplication of the Fairbanks IRWA seminar. George Strother said that the fall CFS Board meeting was only to look at extending certification to some additional states, and the classes would not be ready to expand for another year. Martin Gutoski noted that the Fairbanks chapter is working on a joint seminar with IRWA in the fall and perhaps that program could be presented in Anchorage also.

g) Proposal to Move Conference to Fairbanks in 2007: Martin Gutoski noted that apparently he has already ruffled some feathers with this suggestion, and that's another reason he wants to get better acquainted with the committee members now. He explained that there are some synergistic events scheduled in Fairbanks for 2007 that could make it a dynamite venue to co-op with others for speaker fees and activities. Pat Kalen is discussing with the Hilton whether there would be any ramifications to future events if they decided to skip a year in Anchorage. The suggestion also involves a swap with ASPRS, because 2007 is their year to chair the conference and 2008 is ours. Following discussion of

concerns, *Rich Heieren made a motion with second by Fred Schwaderer that, with unanimous consent of other sponsor societies (URISA, ACSM, ASPRS), the ASPLS Board endorse moving the 2007 conference to Fairbanks. In discussion, Mike Schoder offered a friendly amendment that consent must also include the Alaska ARC User Group and exhibitors. The question was called. Motion passed as amended.*

h) Final Point for Ed Palmer: George Strother passed the monument around the table for inspection. He contacted Ed's widow and learned that she will be moving from their home in Talkeetna, so the point will be installed in a small block of concrete that she can take to her new home. There will be a celebration of life at their Talkeetna home July 2; RSVPs requested. George noted that Ed had work in progress, and has not been paid yet for some of it. If asked to complete a project that Ed started, members are urged to check with his widow, Melanie, to find out if work has been paid for yet, and do not take the job if it hasn't.

10. New Business

a) Board Member Training, BOD Insurance: Mike Schoder noted that these are recommended. As noted earlier, he and George Strother had the opportunity for training at the conference in Las Vegas. Training emphasized the importance of board training, and of having clear Mission Statement, Strategic Plan, and Policies. Dean Cimmiyotti was asked to look into the cost of Directors and Officers Liability Insurance. All board members were asked to review two URLs listed below. Mike Schoder will look for a existing ASPLS Mission Statement. This item will remain on the agenda. George Strother suggested the possibility of including a Board Training at the next ASMC. *Rich Heieren made a motion asking George Strother to draft a Strategic Plan for ASPLS. George accepted the task by offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.*

- ◆ www.boardsource.org
- ◆ www.nonprofitcenter.com

b) Mat Su Borough lawsuit White Paper concerning prelim vs. final plat: Member John Horan explained how he became involved in litigation concerning the allowable amount of variance between a preliminary and final plat. In a complicated series of events, the borough is suing its own Board of Appeals for supporting the platting authority's approval of a final plat that does not match the preliminary plat, in overlay view on a light table. The potential need for minor modifications based on further soils testing had been discussed during the preliminary plat hearing, and approval of the anticipated change if poor soils were found in a suspect area was noted in the minutes. John wants the borough to drop its suit, or to win in court if necessary; he also feels we should support the platting officer (PLS) who approved the plat. The Mat Su chapter has submitted a letter supporting the plat approval with a brief to the Borough Manager. Final briefs are due to Superior Court in 45 days. Fred's letter, and the Borough Manager's letter to John, will be forwarded to Mike Schoder for reference and Mike will write a letter of support to the Borough Manager and all Assembly members, with a cc to the plat officer.

c) Ethics Committee Re-activation: Mike Schoder noted that ASPLS deals with its members only, and many surveyors in the state (notably, bad practitioners) are not members. In some states, the society intervenes with bad practitioners through an ethics committee. John Horan reported that in Florida, where that is the case, they found that 80% of survey errors were because the person didn't understand something, and not because they were bad surveyors. Many with whom they intervened were appreciative, and joined the society. Gary LoRusso also spoke of favorable experience elsewhere. Paul Whipple explained that in Alaska, the Attorney General took exception to ethics

committee intervention in the 1980s and told them on clear terms to quit. This will remain on the agenda and the bylaws will be checked for reference.

d) Request from AELS Board re: Specialty Licenses for Engineers: The AELS Board is considering a regulation project to license geological, control systems, and environmental engineers in Alaska. Paul Whipple explained earlier that the engineering societies have taken a stand against it, and would appreciate support of their stand in favor of a single engineering license that allows for testing in the various sub-specialties. *Paul Whipple made a motion, with second by George Strother, that ASPLS write a letter to APDC supporting the engineering societies' position on a single engineering license and objecting to the additional specialty licenses. Motion passed with one Nay.*

11. Announcements

Conference Committee meets in Anchorage at AeroMap at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

Next Board Meeting will be Saturday, August 20, 9 a.m. at the BLM Yukon Building, 3150 C Street.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Vicky Sterling for
Michael Spangler, Secretary ASPLS

These minutes are as approved by the
ASPLS Board by e-vote