

WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

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MINUTES

WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

held January 11, 2014 at Embassy Suites in Portland, Oregon.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Heieren called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM.

ROLL CALL

Richard Heieren, Chairman

Nancy Almanzan, Chair-Elect

Matt Gingerich, Secretary/Treasurer

Alaska	Richard Heieren
Arizona	Chris McDonald
California	Ray Mathe
Colorado	JB Guyton
Idaho	Glenn Bennett
Montana	Dick Smith
Nevada	Nancy Almanzan
	Matt Gingerich
New Mexico	Earl Burkholder
	Chris Medina
Oregon	John Thatcher
Utah	Ken Hamblin
	Michael Nadeau
Washington	Carla Meritt
	Mike McEvilly
Wyoming	Paul Reid

States Absent: Hawaii

GUESTS

Gary Anderson, PLSO

Greg Crites, PLSO

Tim Kent, PLSO

Patrick Smith, NSPS President-Elect

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was noted that Christopher McDonald, Arizona Delegate was present at the September meeting and should be added to the roll call in the minutes.

The September 2013 minutes with changes, were approved by unanimous consent.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Richard Heieren reported:

- NCEES has confirmed they will be providing matching funds for the TwiST program.
- NCEES computer-based testing is moving forward. WFPS should consider how they can become involved potentially as an exam question bank. This will be discussed during strategic planning
- A presentation should be developed to provide information regarding WFPS to the state associations. **Action item:** Ray Mathe to forward the powerpoint he developed to the WFPS Executive Office.

Computer based testing is moving forward and WFPS can be a resource for an exam.

CHAIR-ELECT'S REPORT

Chair-Elect Nancy Almanzan thanked John Thatcher and Carla Merritt for planning Friday night's dinner.

Nancy reported that the WFPS Officers have been discussing the possibility of a holding a strategic planning session at the next Board of Directors meeting. The Officers will be meeting during lunch to develop a recommended schedule for the strategic plan. The recommendation will be reported after lunch for Board action. **Action item:** Send your state association strategic plan to the WFPS Executive Office.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary/Treasurer Matt Gingerich reported on the financial statements as included in the agenda.

MOVED by Ray Mathe and **SECONDED** to accept the financial statements as included in agenda. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AGENDA REVISIONS

Move TwiST report to the beginning of agenda.

TEACHING WITH SPATIAL TECHNOLOGY (TwiST)

TwiST Chair Dick Smith reported holding a committee meeting. TwiST will be held June 23-27, 2014 at Clark College. Special thanks to Tim Kent for securing Clark College and teaching the program.

Registration for TwiST will increase to \$600 to help cover the costs of an icebreaker BBQ. It was noted that there were teachers from kindergarten to junior college represented at TwiST. The goal is to provide students with information about a potential career in land surveying. With this in mind, the criteria for teachers is being changed to include grades 6-12 only.

The Committee is requesting the following **action items:**

- Each state contact the teachers they sponsored and obtain written testimonials. In particular, request how they have implemented the information they received in their class this year.
- Confirm two teachers (grades 6-12). A minimum of 18 teachers are needed to hold the event and there is a maximum attendance of 22. [Deadline for registration is April 15th.](#)

The registration form will include a request for the teacher's continuing education requirements. The WFPS Executive Office will work with Tim Kent to determine if continuing education credits can be issued.

Action item: Crissy Willson to update TwiST forms with 2014 dates and information, add the Clark College and OIT logo to the forms, and post on the website.

NSPS UPDATE

NSPS President-Elect Pat Smith reported on the activities of NSPS.

NSPS is intent to withdrawal from SaLIS journal as the other two organizations are not providing articles. Funds have been received for subscriptions and advertising and as no magazines are being published NSPS is unable to close their books.

NSPS spring meetings will be held in conjunction with the CLSA-NALS Conference.

NSPS is in the preliminary stages of planning a Conference in the Washington DC area. NSPS does not want to compete with state association conferences. Therefore, the NSPS Conference will be organized differently and most likely be more geared toward government surveyors and vendors.

Forty states have signed MOUs for the NSPS 100% membership program. The majority of NSPS membership of NSPS is private practice, specifically small business.

NSPS Government Affairs is fighting the addition of surveyors to the Davis-Bacon Wage Law Act. It appears this was orchestrated by the Operating Engineers union to increase union enrollment.

Each state that has signed the 100% membership MOU has a Director on the Board. NSPS is trying to determine the best way to manage such a large Board of Directors. In addition, they are trying to determine if there is still a need for a Board of Governors.

NSPS is holding their elections and this is the first year that there was a ballot write-in/petition for Vice President. A ballot will be mailed to all voting members.

NSPS is currently reviewing their member categories and considering adding categories for other geospatial professionals (e.g., GIS).

ALASKA

Report included in agenda.

Membership: 190

Conference: March 24-28, 2014 at Westmark Hotel – Fairbanks, AK

The ASPLS Standard of Practice Manual has been adopted and is available online at www.alaskapls.org

ARIZONA

Report included in agenda.

Membership: 505

Conference: April 10-12, 2014 in Tucson, AZ

The Department of Transportation funding is now being overseen by Department of Highways which now requires contracts to go to firms with at least 50 people. Most of the land surveying firms in Arizona are small businesses and no longer qualify. This means that most of the work is going to large business from out-of-state.

The Arizona Boundary Survey Minimum Standards is in final draft and will be voted on the general membership this year.

CALIFORNIA

Report included in agenda.

Membership: 2150

Conference: April 12-16, 2014 at Town & Country Resort in San Diego, CA

CLSA Legislative Committee monitored 31 bills last year. They are currently discussing survey narratives and possible changes to the Public Resource Code.

CLSA has approved an annual contribution to support the California Spatial Reference Center (CSRC).

CLSA continues to work with youth soccer organizations to assist with soccer field layout. In return for laying out soccer fields, CLSA receives a complimentary booth at opening day events in order to promote the land surveying profession.

CLSA set a commemorative Center of Population monument in October at the railroad museum in Shafter, CA.

CLSA, in conjunction with CalTrans and the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, hosted a Chinese Delegation of land surveying professionals.

COLORADO

Report included in agenda.

Conference: February 27- March 1, 2014 at the Arvada Center.

PLSC Board of Directors approved a new scholarship program to sponsor candidates for the Certified Federal Surveyor program (CFedS).

HAWAII

No report.

It was noted that we have not received a report or had attendance from Hawaii in over a year.

Action Item: Chairman Richard Heieren to contact Hawaii Delegate Arden Torcuato.

IDAHO

Report included in agenda.

Membership: 237

Conference: March 4-7, 2014 at the Red Lion Inn in Pocatello, ID.

ISPLS is considering a joint Conference with WFPS in 2015.

ISPLS continues to review the definition of surveying. It was decided to modify the definition in the NCEES Model Law and incorporate those changes into Idaho Code.

Surveyors in Idaho are being cited by OSHA for minor things such as not wearing gloves when using a shovel. ISPLS has formed a committee to work with OSHA to prepare a safety book and program for Idaho Surveyors.

MONTANA

Report included in agenda.

Membership: 226

Conference: February 19-21 in Kalispell, MT

Dick Smith reported that Linda Smith is stepping down as WFPS Delegate.

Action Item: WFPS Plaque to be issued to Linda Smith and Aaron Smith.

Action Item: Each state to provide 5 lapel pins to Dick Smith for use in developing the WFPS plaques.

MARLS is endorsing Debi Anderson for NSPS President-Elect.

MARLS is currently monitoring a possible Department of Natural Resources rule change regarding the drilling of new wells within 1320 feet of existing wells.

Some Chapters within MARLS are questioning the need for two WFPS Delegates.

NEVADA

Report included in agenda.

Membership: 158

Conference: April 12-16, 2014 at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego, CA

NALS has updated their website: www.nv-landsurveyors.org

The four-year program at Great Basin has been closed. UNLV is considering starting a four-year program. NALS plans to meet with UNLV to determine how to initiate the program.

NALS has posted all past editions of the Nevada Traverse on their website.

NEW MEXICO

Report included in agenda.

Membership: 206

Conference: March 14-15, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza in Albuquerque, NM.

NMPS Board of Directors discussed NSPS's request to withdrawal from publishing the SaLIS Journal. NMPS discussed the importance of continued support of a peer-reviewed publication by NSPS, the "national voice for surveying."

NMPS is currently interviewing possible candidates to endorse for the NM Board of Licensure.

OREGON

Report included in agenda.

Conference: January 22-24, 2014 in Salem, OR

PLSO continues to have financial concerns and is working to build membership.

John Thatcher is stepping down as WFPS Delegate as he will be Chair of PLSO which will require a greater time commitment.

PLSO was successful in working with Oregon Utilities Notification Center to modify requirements so that surveyor pins set 12 inches and shallower are excluded from notification requirements.

Chairman Richard Heieren provided a letter to PLSO outlining the importance of state associations supporting attendance of WFPS Delegates. PLSO approved continued support of WFPS Delegate travel and actually increased the budget. (letter attached)

UTAH

Report included in agenda.

Conference: February 19-21 in St. George, UT.

Ken Hamblin will serve as the second Utah Delegate.

UCLS is currently monitoring a bill that apparently clears up confusion regarding vacation plans.

UCLS has approved the 100% NSPS membership program and is modifying the MOU prior to signing.

Mike reported that UCLS has requested information regarding WFPS. It was noted that the WFPS powerpoint developed by Ray Mathe would be a good starting point.

WASHINGTON

Report included in agenda.

LSAW has offered to host a WFPS Seminar every three years.

LSAW is currently negotiating a contract for management services.

LSAW is discussing how to create a sustainable plan to fund NSPS dues without raising LSAW dues. No viable plan has been put forth yet.

LSAW continues to pursue changes to the prevailing wage requirements and has hired an attorney to obtain the un-redacted copies of the 2010 salary survey that was used to support prevailing wage calculations.

WYOMING

Paul Reid reported PLSW has signed the MOU with NSPS for 100% membership and has raised dues \$45 to cover NSPS dues and the additional administration costs of managing the program.

ACTION LIST

The action list was reviewed and amended. (attached)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Earl Burkholder discussed the importance of maintaining a peer-reviewed journal and that, as the national voice of land surveyors, it makes sense for NSPS to remain involved in the publication of the SaLIS Journal.

It was discussed that if NSPS decides not to continue offering a peer-reviewed publication, and SaLIS fails, that WFPS should consider discussions on starting a peer-reviewed publication.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Chair-Elect Nancy Almanzan reported that the Officers met and recommend holding a strategic planning session at the next meeting.

MOVED by Nancy Almanzan and **SECONDED** to hold a strategic planning meeting at the next Board of Directors meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Officers discussed the current mission of WFPS and what WFPS does to accomplish that mission. It was noted, that when WFPS coordinates programs that are common to all states it not only helps to promote the profession but also offers assistance to the state associations. An example of this working well is the TwiST program. Without the coordination of WFPS, bringing all the western states together, the program would probably not continue.

Action Item: Prior to the next meeting, ask your state association what WFPS could provide that would assist them in accomplishing their mission. Examples: An article bank for magazine editors, a speaker's bureau for conference committees, etc.

CONFERENCE

Glen Bennett reported that ISPLS is considering partnering with WFPS for their 2015 Conference.

It was discussed, should Idaho decided to move forward with WFPS for a 2015 joint conference, Idaho will lead the conference and WFPS will be as involved as they would like. In some cases, states have requested a lot of support from WFPS in the planning and execution of the conference and in other cases the state has requested that WFPS handle only select areas of the conference. It was also noted that WFPS can provide speakers for the program.

MANDATORY EDUCATION

At the September 2013 Board of Directors meeting, WFPS took a position favoring mandatory continuing education and requested a resolution be considered for adoption. A draft resolution was included in the agenda. The resolution was amended to read:

WHEREAS, the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS) is a regional Association representing Land Surveyors in the 13 western states, and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of WFPS states have a mandatory continuing education requirement for license renewal, and

WHEREAS, WFPS is committed to the protection of the public, which is accomplished by Land Surveyors maintaining an up-to-date knowledge and understanding of current laws, rules, and regulations related to the practice of land surveying, and

WHEREAS, WFPS is committed to keeping Land Surveyors up-to-date, expanding their outlook and ensuring that they are provided the professional resources, outlets and educational advantages needed to succeed; respond rapidly to the ever-evolving professional requirements and,

WHEREAS, continuing education is a proven method of enhancing skills and resources, providing information concerning new technology, developments and issues relating to land surveying; and,

WHEREAS, continuing education is a method of ensuring that the Land Surveyor has formal opportunities to upgrade and update professional knowledge and skills; encouraging the Land Surveyor to learn from other professionals; and assisting the professional to expand his/her professional resource network; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that WFPS supports a requirement of mandatory continuing education for Land Surveyors.

MOVED by Glenn Bennett and **SECONDED** to adopt Resolution 2014-01 supporting a requirement for mandatory continuing education. **MOTION CARRIED.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

LSAW reported that, as they do not have a four-year degree program in Washington, they are requesting the scholarship criteria be expanded so their two-year certificate students can be considered for WFPS scholarships.

Scholarship Chair Paul Reid to review criteria and provide suggested amendments to include students enrolled in a 2-year survey curriculum program

Special thank you to Earl Burkholder for the \$1000 donation to the WFPS scholarship fund!

WEBSITE

Mike McEvilly provided a template form for each state to complete so that more detailed information on each state can be provided on the WFPS website. (template attached)

Action Item: Each state complete the template and provide to WFPS Executive Office for posting on the website.

Crissy reported that Board of Directors information such as past minutes, and the handbook are included on the password protected FTP site. To access the FTP site:

<ftp://wfps.org>

Username: wfpsbod.wfps.org

password: wfps4045

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chris McDonald reported that he has been appointed to the Arizona Board of Registration. Due to conflict of interest, Chris can no longer serve on the APLS Board of Directors. Since the WFPS Delegate is a member of the APLS Board, Chris will have to step down as WFPS Delegate.

NEXT MEETING

The next WFPS Board of Directors meeting will be held May 3rd in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Richard Heieren adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.

2014 ACTION LIST

ON-GOING

All Delegates: Forward conference dates to admin@wfps.org for publishing on events page.

All Delegates: Forward updates to WFPS matrix to WFPS Executive Office.

Not Assigned: Develop a position paper demonstrating importance of mandatory continuing education.

Not Assigned: Develop information on importance of having two delegates from each state.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Dick Smith: To develop Speakers Bureau from 2013 Conference programs.

All Delegates: Email WFPS Executive Office with a list of topics they could present for a WFPS seminar. Presentations could range from 2 – 8 hours.

All Delegates: Forward conference programs to Dick Smith for use in developing speaker's bureau.

Richard Heieren: Draft a letter to state associations indicating WFPS has speakers available and would like to participate in their conference.

EDUCATION

Nancy Almanzan: Develop WFPS workshop program.

Mike McEville & Chris MacDonald: Determine if WFPS can assist CFedS in providing live continuing education events. Make services proposed are not overlapping with NSPS services provided.

WEBSITE

All Delegates: Complete the website template developed by Mike McEville

WFPS Central Office: Add historical information to the WFPS website.

WFPS Central Office: Post state templates on website once all are received.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

All Delegates: To consider programs & services that could be provided by WFPS to benefit state associations. Information to be discussed during strategic planning.

All Delegates: Forward copy of your state association strategic plan to the WFPS Executive Office.

Direction/Revenue Committee: Develop a list of potential revenue ideas for the Board to review at the next meeting.

TWIST

WFPS Central Office: Update TwiST forms and post on the WFPS website.

All Delegates: Identify teachers for TwiST program.



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October 23, 2013

Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon
Board of Directors

RE: PLSO's Delegate to WFPS

It has come to our attention that PLSO, during their budget process, will be reviewing their support of Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS). I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the importance of WFPS and encourage PLSO to continue supporting the travel costs of at least one Delegate to attend WFPS meetings.

WFPS, consisting of the 13 western states, was formed in 1979 to serve as a collective voice for the western region. The capability to effectively obtain and disseminate information and the ability to support the activities of our neighboring state associations makes WFPS an invaluable resource.

To enhance the surveying profession and support the member state associations, WFPS has a strong government affairs and legislative program. Most recently, WFPS adopted a position in favor of mandatory continuing education and has lobbied in support of the Arizona Society of Professional Surveyors pursuit of gaining a continuing education requirement.

In addition, WFPS, in support of PLSO and LSAW, worked diligently to revive the TwiST program. WFPS secured matching funds from NCEES and worked with the 13 western states to recruit teachers.

WFPS continues to play an active role on a national level, providing input to NSPS and other organizations to ensure interests of western state surveyors are protected. Below is a list of notable achievements.

- ◆ Co-authored Board of Registration Licensing Handbook
- ◆ Lobbied to change key provisions in the NCEES Surveying Model Law
- ◆ Provided vital input regarding the NSPS NAFTA MRD
- ◆ Provided support for NSPS Railroad Abandonment legislation
- ◆ Lobbied in support of the Brooks Bill
- ◆ Awarded over \$72,000 in scholarships to date

WFPS is committed to providing a regional voice and supporting the western state surveying associations, however, strong participation from all the member states is needed. It is our sincere hope that PLSO will continue to participate and provide support to your Delegate.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Heieren", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Richard Heieren, Chairman
Western Federation of Professional Surveyors

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October 8, 2013

Arizona Board of Technical Registration
1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 240
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Board of Technical Registration:

Subject: Mandatory Continuing Education

The Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS) is a regional nonprofit organization composed of Land Surveyor Associations representing the thirteen western states, including Alaska and Hawaii. WFPS is dedicated to education, fostering common goals within the western states and providing a regional voice for the land surveying profession. WFPS, at their September 2013 meeting, adopted a position supporting mandatory continuing education (MCE) for Land Surveyors.

The purpose of MCE is to maintain, improve, and broaden professional and personal abilities, including attitudinal competencies, using a continuous process of updating knowledge and skills. All licensed Land Surveyors are encouraged to identify and address their own educational, personal, and professional needs. The aim of the MCE is to achieve the highest standard of professional practice to impact positively on the health and welfare of the public. Increasingly, global best practice has dictated that MCE be included as a requirement for continued professional registration.

WFPS fully supports the Arizona Professional Land Surveyors Association (APLS) in their endeavor to establish a requirement for mandatory continuing education for Land Surveyors. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (907) 451-7411.

Thank you,

Richard Heiren, RLS
WFPS Chairman

cc: Dan Muth, President of Arizona Professional Land Surveyors Association
Christa Heley, Executive Director of Arizona Professional Land Surveyors Association