



Oregon

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
FOR ENGINEERING &
LAND SURVEYING

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P.E.O. Breakfast Meeting
Minutes of May 16, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 8:04 a.m. in the Great Hall of the Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, Oregon. Dave Bassett gave a brief history of the building before introductions began at 8:04 a.m.

OSBEELS Members present:

Chris Aldridge
William Boyd
Steven Burger
Shelly Duquette
Ken Hoffine
Jason Kent
Ron Singh
Dave Van Dyke

P.E.O. Members present:

Steven Anderson
Dave Bassett
Matt Cash
Ralph Dunham
David Etchart
Steve Frichtl
Ralph Graves
Mark Hampton
Michael Hardy
Tom Headley
Dave Holman
Tamara Johnson
Paul Selke
Peter Smeenk

Others Present:

Jenn Gilbert, Executive Assistant
Adaira Floyd, Social and Communications Media Specialist
James R. Wilkinson, OSBEELS Investigator
Katharine Lozano, Assistant Attorney General
Belinda Holcombe-Rasmussen, PEO Executive Director

Bob Neathamer, PLS
Dave Williams, PLS, PLSO Legislative Chair

The Professional Engineers of Oregon (PEO) invited the members of the OSBEELS Board to their breakfast meeting to discuss the following topics:

- Education and Training
- Registration and Licensure
- Legislation
- Leadership Training

Dave Bassett noted that he served on the OSBEELS Board from 1987 – 1995, and during that time, regular meetings were held with PEO and PLSO. He hopes that the parties can reestablish those connections.

Mr. Hardy gave an overview on Senate Bill (SB) 297 and provided a little background to House Bill (HB) 3489. HB 3489 would require OSBEELS to waive the fundamentals of engineering examination and the professional engineering examination for applicants who have held registration as a professional engineer in another state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia, or a foreign country other than Canada for 25 years; or 8 years if registered in Canada. From testimony made by members of PEO, including himself, HB 3489 was withdrawn. At this time, SB 297 is the currently being considered by the legislators in the House.

Mr. Williams inquired about the hydrography topic that surfaced. Ms. Gilbert provided the recent update on a conversation between Ms. Lopez and Marshall Coba, ACEC Lobbyist. Mr. Coba stated that an amendment may be introduced by Representative Holvey. Ms. Lopez informed him that the Board remains neutral to the matter and similar to the introduction of the regulation of photogrammetrists, more conversations need to occur. AAG Lozano reiterated that the Board will remain neutral on this matter without the permission from the Governor to take a position.

Mr. Bassett summarized the HB 2270 that was introduced by Oregon Design Professionals relating to the state's resiliency plan. HB 2270 would create a State Resiliency Office to direct, coordinate and oversee seismic safety and resilience planning and preparation by state agencies.

Mr. Bassett then asked AAG Lozano to walk through what Legislative Counsel does. AAG Lozano, along with Mr. Boyd who had recent experience working with Legislative Counsel briefly explained that the concept is reviewed and language is adjusted for grammar and modernization. Mr. Singh asked who develops the relating clause. AAG Lozano responded that typically, the relating clause is written by the agency; in this case it was not written by the agency staff. Mr. Boyd noted that the relating clause cannot be changed once the bill is filed. Therefore, it is important to write a relating clause that is not too narrow and not too broad. However, this piece of legislation was tricky because it does cover so much of ORS Chapter 672.

Mr. Bassett also brought up the practice of electrical engineering that PEO would like to see revisited in the future. Mr. Cash stated that this issue actually brought him to PEO. As a practicing electrical engineer, he frequently finds that electrical engineering work is competitive

with electricians. AAG Lozano noted that OSBEELS, as a governmental regulatory board, is required to remain neutral on professional competitive matters, and keep its focus on protection of life, health and safety. PEO insists that there is a safety component that must be considered by OSBEELS. It was clarified that PEO or another private organization is, of course, always free to work with legislators on statutory changes, but that OSBEELS has no plans to submit legislation related to the exemptions for supervising electricians. It was also clarified for PEO that a complaint related to electrical engineering being done outside what is allowed by the exemption can always be submitted to the Board office for consideration.

The discussion then transitioned to the OSBEELS Symposium. PEO supports the OSBEELS Symposium and will continue to schedule leadership trainings and meetings to not conflict with the Symposium September dates. Mr. Bassett noted that September 11th is becoming more of a day of remembrance. Ms. Gilbert responded that the date was not the first choice for staff. PEO offered to publicize the Symposium on the PEO website, on its calendar, in its quarterly newsletter, and weekly announcements. PEO also has speakers, if needed and offered any assistance to the education and training efforts.

In closing, remarks were made around the room. Appreciation was given for the support with legislation and SB 297. The members were grateful for the opportunity to experience the passion and ethical commitment shown. A PEO member observed that OSBEELS has the authority and enforcement ability but PEO has the advocacy aspect ability and the cooperation is a great thing.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.