

# The Oregon Examiner

Published by the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering & Land Surveying

PPC Q&A  
Virtual Symposium Recap  
New Board Members  
2021 Updates  
[Administrator's Corner](#)

10  
SYMPOSIUM

## OSBEELS Symposium Goes Virtual, Welcomes Largest Attendance Yet

The Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering & Land Surveying (OSBEELS) hosted the tenth annual professional Symposium on September 24-25. Like many gatherings in 2020, the Board began the year planning for an in-person event and then, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, was tasked with transitioning the event to a virtual format. Thanks to tremendous event planning by staff, in addition to support from the Board, the transition was successful and the result was the highest attended Symposium to-date, as more than 430 individuals joined the virtual event from across the country.

With the transition to a virtual event, the OSBEELS determined expanding the annual professional education conference to two days would be necessary to maintain the amount of content provided to attendees in a normal year. With two days of content available, full-time attendees were eligible to earn 14 PDHs for their participation.

In their opening remarks, Board President, Daren Cone, PLS, PE, and Board Administrator, Jason Barbee, welcomed attendees to the virtual event and shared details about the (then) current openings with the Board.

The two-day program kicked off with a presentation from Cornforth Consultants' Tom Westover, PE, on landslide trends across Oregon and how his team works to investigate, evaluate, and mitigate landslides across the Northwest region. Day 2 featured an opening presentation from PAE's Marc Brune, PE, and ZGF's Justin Brooks, AIA, on the PAE Living Building, which will be the world's largest commercial-use living building once construction is complete in 2021.

Experts from the private and public sectors, academic universities, and the OSBEELS presented on projects ranging from designing communities for wildfire resilience, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Coast Survey, hydrographic surveying,

Portland State University's Viking Pavilion renovation, electronic and digital signatures, and more!

The OSBEELS would like to thank all who attended, presented, and helped to make this year's Symposium a success. At this time, the Board and agency staff are actively planning for an in-person or virtual event in 2021. We anticipate sharing more updates with registrants in the spring of 2021.

The OSBEELS Symposium is an annual event in September that aims to bring professionals from across the region together for a day of professional education and connections.

If you're interested in attending future Symposiums or other OSBEELS-related events, follow us on Facebook and keep an eye out for future announcements in *The Oregon Examiner*.

### Board Members

Daren Cone, PE, PLS *President*  
Dr. Sean St.Clair, PE *Vice President*  
Darryl Anderson, PE, PLS, CWRE  
Erin Austin, Esq., Public Member  
Renee Clough, PE, PLS  
Tim Fassbender, PLS, CWRE  
Paul Gribbon, PE  
Jason J. Kent, PE  
Massoud Saberian, PE  
Ron Stillmaker, PE  
Amin Wahab, Public Member

### Board Staff

Jason Barbee, *Administrator*  
Jenn Gilbert, *Deputy Administrator*  
Grant Aman  
Andrea Bijan  
Eric Engelson  
Veronica Gloria  
Dane Koonce  
Magali Martinez  
Santiago Puente  
Ashley Setzer  
Nick Siegrist  
Dennis Smith  
Rob Sobotka  
Tina Sorensen

### Mission

*The mission of the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering & Land Surveying (OSBEELS) is to regulate the practice of engineering, land surveying, photogrammetric mapping, and water right certification in the state as they relate to the welfare of the public in safeguarding life, health and property.*



## Administrator's Corner

It's safe to assume that we are collectively looking forward to what the prospects of 2021 will be. For OSBEELS, 2021 will hold many challenges and opportunities, but the most prominent and exciting prospect is the launching of our new system in the spring of 2021. As you recall, we've been working with our vendor since July in preparation of replacing our existing database system with a web-based licensing and regulation solution that will make it much easier for us to serve our licensees. Some of the key features will be online payment, online applications and online renewals. These features will save time and effort while significantly reducing the use of paper. In addition, because you'll be interacting with us online, we'll be transitioning the Examiner to a digital format.

On the not-so-positive side of things to come. It is very likely that our agency will remain closed to the public as 2021 begins. This will also likely mean that our Board and Committee meetings will remain virtual until sometime later this year.

Regardless if we're able to see you in person or you need to work with us remotely, our goal is to provide excellent customer service.

Once last thing, I'd like to welcome Massoud Saberian and Darryl Anderson as new OSBEELS Board Members.

## System Modernization Project

By now you may have heard that our agency has undertaken updating our registrant database system. With our current database entering the end of its product lifecycle, agency staff have been working hand-in-hand with our selected vendor to develop a new database system that will provide state registrants with an enhanced, online OSBEELS experience. As we continue to make great strides with the development of our new system, our agency wanted to provide registrants with an update on where we are at in the process and what is coming up.

In the coming months, registrants can expect to learn more about the new system and processes, what will be needed to enroll in the new system, and how their interactions with the Board may be different moving forward.

Our plan at this time is to roll out the new system to all registrants in May 2021. Keep an eye out for upcoming communications sharing more details in the next couple of months!

### Spring 2020

- Vendor selection process conducted and completed
- Initial discussions held with vendor identifying desired system functionality
- Agency staff reviewed current processes to identify areas for improvement with new system capabilities (secure online payments, paperless form submission, enhanced communication and reporting tools)

### Fall 2020 / Early 2021

- New system development underway by vendor
- Data from old registrant database transitioned over to new system
- Agency Staff identify methods for shifting majority of paper-based processes to digital
- Staff begins testing new system

### Spring 2021

- Agency testing wraps up with feedback continuously being shared with development team
- May – new system becomes available to all registrants. Individuals will sign up in new system using basic contact and personal information.
- Goal – conduct entire June 30, 2021 Renewal Cycle via paperless processes within new system

# Law Enforcement Cases

The following list contains law enforcement cases that resulted in disciplinary actions and became finalized during August-November 2020.

## **X0035 – John Nissen**

The Board issued a Final Order against John Nissen, PE, assessing a \$1,500 civil penalty for three (3) violations of Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR): OAR 820-020-0015(8), failure to comply with a Board audit; OAR 820-010-0635(1)(a) & (e); and OAR 820-020-0015(7), failure to meet CPD requirements for registration renewal. At the time his professional registration renewal application was submitted, Mr. Nissen stated to have obtained 36 PDHs. Upon being selected for an audit by the Board's Accounts Department, Mr. Nissen was not able to provide sufficient supporting documentation to reflect his completed CPDs.

## **X0048 & X0054 – John Heaton**

The Board issued a Final order against Mr. Heaton in cases X0048 & X0054, assessing a \$1,000 civil penalty. In a period between June 2019 and August 2019, Mr. Heaton performed 11 surveys while his license was delinquent, violating ORS 672.025(1). On multiple instances, Mr. Heaton applied a seal with a fraudulent expiration date to surveying project documents, violating ORS 672.045(2) and (4). Following its investigation, the Board assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty for 11 violations of ORS 672.025(1), 15 violations of ORS 672.045(2), and 15 violations of ORS 672.045(4).

## **X0071 – John Heaton**

Mr. John Heaton was first registered as a professional land surveyor in 2009, and in June 2017, his professional license became delinquent, yet he continued to practice and apply his expired seal to project documents. These allegations

were investigated as part of case #X0003. Following the investigation, the Board signed a Final Order in case #X0003 issuing John Heaton a \$52,000 civil penalty for violating ORS 672.025(1), ORS 672.045(2) & (4), and OAR 820-020-0015(8) – practicing the profession of land surveying without a valid license and using a falsified seal – on approximately 50 occasions. As of May 2020, Mr. Heaton had not paid the civil penalty issued in the Final Order.

As a result of Mr. Heaton's failure to comply with the Final Order issued by the Board, the Law Enforcement Committee opened case #X0071, to review and consider additional discipline, including license revocation, under ORS 672.200(5). The Board issued Mr. Heaton a Final Order in case #X0071 revoking his professional land surveying registration.

## **X0052 – Afsar Hasan**

The Board issued a Final Order against Afsar Hasan assessing him a \$1,000 civil penalty for failure to report license discipline received in another jurisdiction to the Board in timely manner, violating OAR 820-020-0045(4).

## **X0063 – Christofer Nickerson**

The Board issued a Final Order against Christofer Nickerson assessing him a \$100 civil penalty for failure to report license discipline received in another jurisdiction to the Board in a timely manner, violating OAR 820-020-0045(4).

## **X0058 – Erik Ainsworth**

The Board entered into a Settlement Agreement with Erik Ainsworth to assess

a \$1,250 civil penalty against him for violations of OAR 820-020-0020(2) and OAR 820-025-0020(1)(c).

In July 2020, the Board issued a Notice of Intent to Suspend Professional Registration and Assess Civil Penalty against Mr. Ainsworth, assessing a civil penalty of \$2,750 and a 180-day license suspension for affixing a signature and seal to plans that were not prepared under his supervision and control, violating OAR 820-020-0020(2), providing untruthful statements in a professional report, and failure to adhere to requirements for modifying designs or documents, violating OAR 820-025-0020(1)(c).

After requesting an Informal Conference, in which Mr. Ainsworth met with the Law Enforcement Committee, the two sides were able to come to an agreement on the previously mentioned Settlement Agreement terms.

## **X0050 – Carl Sundet**

The Board issued a Final Order against Carl Sundet, PE, assessing a \$500 civil penalty for failing to return a corrected map to a County Surveyor in a timely manner, violating, ORS 209.250(4)(b).

# Board Welcomes New Members

**M**r. Massoud Saberian, PE, PTOE, and Mr. Darryl Anderson, PE, PLS, CWRE, D.GE, were appointed by Governor Kate Brown to the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering & Land Surveying (OSBEELS) as of December 2020.

Mr. Saberian brings more than 40 years of engineering experience to the Board, working in both the public and private sectors in Oregon, California, and Washington. Now semi-retired, Mr. Saberian owns his own engineering consulting business, ETRC, LLC, which provides expert witness services in transportation engineering cases, as well as roadway safety analysis, and pavement management consulting services. Mr. Saberian is a registered professional engineer in Oregon, Washington, and California and also holds a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer designation from the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

An Oregon State University alumni, Mr. Saberian earned his undergraduate degree in Civil and Structural Engineering and his Master's Degree in Civil and Transportation Engineering. An Iranian immigrant, Mr. Saberian first moved to Oregon in 1978 and has enjoyed being involved in local organizations to give back to the communities he has lived and worked in. He has been involved in, and

held leadership positions, with the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Oregon Traffic Control Devices Committee, the Oregon Commission on Asian Affairs, and the Iranian-American Professional Society of Oregon, and much more.

When asked what he is most excited about as he prepares to begin his term on the Board, Mr. Saberian stated, "I am excited to continue my professional career by giving back to the profession and the industry

that has provided me with many great opportunities over four decades."

Outside of work, Mr. Saberian enjoys photography and the outdoors and has tried to pick-up gardening and reading musical notes in his spare time during the current pandemic. He also became a grandfather this past year.



Massoud Saberian, PE, PTOE



Darryl Anderson, PE, PLS, CWRE, D.GE

**M**r. Anderson is the President of Anderson Engineering & Surveying, Inc., which he started with his father. Serving primarily the southern Oregon region, the firm provides civil engineering, land surveying, municipal water and wastewater design, ODOT bridge inspection services, geothermal energy development, and a variety of other engineering projects for both public and private clients. Mr. Anderson is also the County Surveyor for Lake County in southern Oregon.

Holding professional designations in multiple states across the western region of the United States, Mr. Anderson is currently a Professional Engineer, Professional Land Surveyor, Geotechnical Engineer, and Certified Water Right Examiner in the state of Oregon. He is also a Certified Bridge Inspector with the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Mr. Anderson earned his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering Technology from the Oregon Institute of Technology. He is

also a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Oregon, ACEC Oregon Small Firm Council, American Society of Civil Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon, and Professional Engineers of Oregon.

Having grown up and spent a majority of his professional career in Lakeview, OR, Mr. Anderson has had the opportunity to work on my diverse projects over the course of his career, including working for Engineering Ministries on projects in Uganda and Nicaragua.

Looking ahead to his upcoming term on the Board, Mr. Anderson is most excited about leveraging his experience in the public and private sectors to offer ideas to help keep the professions strong and moving forward.

Outside of work, Mr. Anderson lives on a ranch and spends most of his spare time working around his property.

## Professional Practices Committee Responds to Registrant Questions

During Professional Practices Committee meetings, held on months in-between regular Board meetings, the members review and respond to questions submitted by the professional community. Recent questions pertained to local jurisdiction policies vs OSBEELS laws and rules for submitting project documents to permitting offices.

The question reviewed by the Committee was regarding whether or not professional registrants are required to adhere to local jurisdiction's plan submittal policies if they differ from the Board's rules and laws. The Committee reviewed and discussed the submitted question and confirmed that local jurisdictions may have local policies in-place, that are in addition to state regulations but they are not allowed to have local policies that reduce state requirements. In instances where a local jurisdiction may have submittal policies that differ from statewide regulations, the Board encourages professional registrants to reach out the local offices to confirm their policies and expectations.

The Board encourages all professional registrants to consistently review Oregon statutes and rules under the OSBEELS' jurisdiction to ensure they are up-to-date on professional practice and conduct standards that may relate to their professional area of competence or services offered to the public. If you have any questions, please visit the Board website to submit a "Question for the Board" form.

## The Oregon Examiner Available Online

Are you interested in receiving the Oregon Examiner electronically? OSBEELS's quarterly newsletter is now available both in print and online. We are encouraging those who receive the print copy of the newsletter to consider switching to a digital version instead.

Less printing can help reduce our carbon footprint and eliminate costs associated with the printing process. If you would like to begin receiving *The Oregon Examiner* electronically, use the Digital Opt-In link below to register.

This notification will not change your email address for Board correspondence. To update your email address for Board correspondence, please submit your request to the Board via the OSBEELS website at [oregon.gov/osbeels/maintaining/AddressChange](https://www.oregon.gov/osbeels/maintaining/AddressChange)

### Digital OSBEELS Opt-In

Sign-up to receive *The Oregon Examiner* and some of the exciting updates in 2021 via email.

Link: [www.oregon.gov/osbeels/aboutus/Pages/Digital-Opt-In.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/osbeels/aboutus/Pages/Digital-Opt-In.aspx)

### 2021 Upcoming News

Stay tuned in 2021 for some big exciting news on our new registrant system. For registrants there are improvements coming in how you engage with OSBEELS in all aspects. You can stay informed on the coming changes through the Board website or our Facebook page.

### Did You Know?

OSBEELS digitized all of our Oregon Examiners, and some other historical agency documents, and they are available to the public on the State of Oregon Library website, here: <https://bit.ly/2XnVLmc>



## Planning for Retirement?

Are you or a colleague considering retiring soon from your profession? If so, OSBEELS would like to remind you about the steps to take in order to officially retire your state of Oregon license. We're sharing this information to help prevent any issues regarding your status as a licensed professional in the state of Oregon once you decide to make the transition. To change your status from "current" to "retired" you need to complete and sign the Request for Retired Status form on the OSBEELS website within the License Status Changes section. More information can be found at [oregon.gov/osbeels/maintaining/Pages/Status-Changes.aspx](https://oregon.gov/osbeels/maintaining/Pages/Status-Changes.aspx)

## Renewal Reminder Notice

If your **last name begins with G-K**, your license expires on **June 30** and it's time to renew your registration. Download and print the Renewal Form and CPD Organizational Form on the OSBEELS website. If you have any questions, contact the Board office: [osbeels.renewals@oregon.gov](mailto:osbeels.renewals@oregon.gov)

## Complete the 2021 Customer Service Survey to OSBEELS Feedback

Each year the OSBEELS develops and distributes their annual customer service survey to registrants to collect feedback and identify areas of opportunity within the Board's various areas of service. Areas of the service the survey covers include general customer service, licensure registration and renewals, communication to registrants, and the law enforcement process.

The Board randomly selects a collection of registrants each year to participate in the survey, however this year we'd like to offer the opportunity to all registrants. If you're interested in taking a couple minutes to complete the survey and provide the Board with anonymous feedback, please follow the link below:

**Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021OSBEELSCustomerSurvey>



670 Hawthorne Avenue, SE  
 Suite 220  
 Salem, Oregon 97301

503-362-2666  
[osbeels.info@oregon.gov](mailto:osbeels.info@oregon.gov)  
[oregon.gov/osbeels](http://oregon.gov/osbeels)

To receive the newsletter electronically, please provide an email address below. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter in print rather than electronically or at a different mailing address, please provide the preferred mailing address below. If you are already receiving the newsletter in the preferred format and at the correct location, submission of this form is not necessary.

You may return this form by email to [osbeels.info@oregon.gov](mailto:osbeels.info@oregon.gov), by fax to 503-362-5454 or by mail to the address listed above. Please note, the contact information in which Board correspondence is sent will not be changed by submitting this form. Please utilize the Name/Address Change form (<https://goo.gl/9uTvYC>) to comply with Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 820-020-0050.

**Registrant Information**

First name	Middle name or initial	Last name
------------	------------------------	-----------

Email Address	Registration or certificate number, if applicable
---------------	---

To receive the print edition of *The Oregon Examiner*, please complete the information below.

Mailing address (include any apartment / suite number)
--

City	State / Province	Zip	Country
------	------------------	-----	---------