



## Minutes of the PLSO Board Meeting

March 14, 2009, Weyerhaeuser Office, Albany, OR

### Attendees

J. Edward Henricks, Past Chair

Gary Johnston, Chair

Tim Fassbender, Chair-Elect

Mary Louise VanNatta, Executive Secretary

Central (1), Brian Reeves, President; Scott Freshwaters, President-Elect

MidWest (2), Kent Baker, President; Dan Baker (by proxy for Renee Clough, President-Elect);

Pioneer (3), Shaun Fidler, President; Joe Ferguson, President-Elect

Rogue River (4), Herb Farber, President; Craig Claassen, President-Elect

South Central (5), Evelyn Kalb, President

Southwest (6), John Minor (by proxy from Edith Forkner, President); Walter White, President-Elect

Umpqua (7), David Beedle, President; Randy Smith, President-Elect

Willamette (8), Dan Linscheid (by proxy for Dave Malone, President); Jack Burrell, President-Elect

Blue Mountain (9), Tim Simons, President; Bob Butler, President-Elect

Committee Chairs: Gary Anderson, EGAC/OSBEELS Liaison; Bob Neathamer, Professional Practices; Tyler Parsons, Website; John Nemecek, Finance; Greg Crites, WESTFED.

Guests: Mike Jackson, Ferguson, Gary DeJarnatt, Chuck Gibbs

Absent: Lloyd Tolbert, ACSM/NSPS, Brent Bacon, Bylaws; Logan Miles, Awards; Dave Malone (Willamette President); Edith Forkner (SW President); Renee Clough (MidWest President-Elect); Tim Kent (Conference); Mason Marker (Central Point President Elect); Bert Mason (Historian); Oran Abbott (Oregon Surveyor); Steve Haddock (scholarship); Roger Galles (Archives).

- I. Meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. (Gary's Note: The wall clock said 10:00, although written materials were still being distributed and actual proceedings may have been later)
  - a. Welcome: Johnston opened the meeting and introductions were made.
  - b. The Agenda was approved.
  - c. Minutes of the January 28, 2008 meeting were presented:

**MOTION: Linscheid moved, Farber seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion passed.**

- d. VanNatta gave the secretary report.

The PLSO accounts stand **today** as follows:

Checking	\$ 227,348.12
(Exact balance as of 3/11/09, not from last statement)	
Checking	closed

Conference closed  
Money Fund \$ 105,029.55(down from) \$117,002.91 on 1/09)

Total Assets \$ 332,377.67

Membership by class:	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	1//09	3/09
Corporate	632	609	592	574	583	473	543
Associate	106	107	120	131	108	68	78
Special	34	32	34	31	34	32	35
Student	37	19	31	50	83	25	33
Life	14	19	29	28	30	23	23
Totals	823	786	806	814	838	621	712

VanNatta reported that hundreds of membership renewals and questions have come into the office for processing. Reminders were sent out and the website password was changed, which spurred contact with the office. Individual chapters were provided lists of those members who did not renew to contact. Shaun Fidler followed up. Some people signed up for the conference as members, but did not renew. They have been contacted. Directory should be completed any time and available online. New member letters and cards were sent out to all members. Bank accounts have been consolidated and continuing to work to create a more manageable system. Budget continued to be finalized. New credit card system with better rate and swiper/online system instituted. Conference expenses are being collected and payments are made. A new tradeshow booth is being used. A Google Calendar has been added to the website to provide updated meeting information and to reserve the tradeshow booth. An area for legislative updates was created. The office is working to reconcile all 2009 conference expenses. The group contract and advance deposit were submitted to the Phoenix Grand Hotel for the 2010 conference.

Johnston passed out information for the Presidents and President-Elects. He announced that Fassbender will step down as legislative chair and Scott Freshwater will take his place. Johnston encouraged the board to carefully monitor the legislative discussions. Nemecek is delving into the financial picture of the association.

- e. Report from the Chair. Johnston said he attended the Washington Conference and it was as good a conference as ours. He estimated their scholarship auction raised about the same as Oregon's Conference. Getting art or other items all year long was discussed. He also reported that Steve Haddock had attended the Idaho Conference during the past week. Among other comments, Steve noted their silent auction raised over \$10,000 for the Idaho scholarship program while they had less than half the registrants as the Oregon Conference.

Getting varied speakers for chapter meetings was discussed. Anderson reported that during his tenure as President he was able to post Pioneer chapter meeting notices in the Oregonian which provided notification to the public.

Johnston noted he brought PLSO apparel and encouraged the board to buy them.

f. Report from the Chair-Elect: Fassbender said he and Johnston have been talking about committee assignments. He will be coordinating with the president and president-elects.

g. Chapter Activity Reports:

Kalb (South Central) shared photos from student groups. A group wants to write a report on forensic surveying.

Simons said Blue Mountain had a meeting a few weeks ago and talked about the high school job shadowing programs. They have talked about video conferencing. Pendleton has the highest number of attendees, but they are still looking for locations for meetings.

Kent said MidWest is promoting guest speakers. They had someone from animal control come speak. They discussed Trig-Star and have initiated contact with local schools.

Fidler said at Pioneer they got a lot of feedback from Mercy Corp. and members liked it. This time a vendor talked about ArcPad and next month a representative from BPA will speak. Fidler is stressing surveyor education and educating the public.

Burrell reported on the Willamette Chapter. There are five counties in the Chapter. Their most recent meeting was in Monmouth. Twenty-five people attended.

Beedle reported that Umpqua has had ODOT come out and talk about digital signatures, GPS and construction projects in Douglas Counties and SB 344. They have a seminar coming up on April 4. Smith suggested that PLSO sponsor a tee at the Harold Stockhoff Memorial Golf Tournament benefitting the Umpqua CC survey program.

Reeves reported on Central Chapter. They had 17 people at the last meeting. There was a good discussion about proposed legislation.

Minor reported for the Southwest Chapter. Last Wednesday they had Dan Linscheid and Pat Gaylord talking about "Right of Entry." Almost every member of the chapter was there. They paired up with PEO and put on a joint dinner. All the local high schools were there (10) and there were booths.

Farber (Rogue River) reported that a career fair and TrigStar is coming up. They are working on a workshop for September.

## II. Old Business

There was none reported

## III. New Business

Smith requested that PLSO sponsor two tees at the Harold Stockhoff Memorial Tournament.

***Motion: Fidler moved that PLSO sponsor two tees at the tournament, Minor seconded.***

***Motion passed.***

**Anderson** presented information on the TWIST program. He requested that PLSO Board donate \$3,000 to the program. Farber mentioned that the program has received high marks.

***Motion: Farber moved and Ferguson seconded that PLSO donate \$3000 to the TWIST Program. Motion passed.***

Johnston told the board that he had some survey monuments that PLSO can purchase and use to sell.

***Motion: Ferguson moved that we purchase the monuments for \$1000. Motion seconded.***

***Motion passed.***

Johnston brought up the travel policy, noting that under present policy, board approval is required for rates exceeding \$95 per night.

***Motion: Farber moved and White seconded to approve additional travel expenses for Johnston's meeting in Washington.***

Ferguson asked PLSO to support one of the local charities around the holiday time. Food bank or toy drive. He would like a statewide support for one cause. Johnston will put it in the Old Business for next meeting. Fassbender mentioned that this used to be part of the Welfare and Ethics Committee and now the Professional Practices committee.

Freshwaters mentioned he appreciated orientation on finances, but there is more in the board member binders that should be addressed. Johnston said that additional time for training will be provided at the next meeting.

Freshwaters asked about a provision of the bylaws that says delinquent members could not "participate" in the affairs of the members. Henricks said that he expected that meant "voting" or conducting the business of the organization, was reserved for paying members. Fassbender reminded that the non-members cannot participate in formal business of the organization. VanNatta reminded the Chapters that they can formalize the meeting by opening and closing the business meeting. Neathamer said that the chapters should have a sign in sheet with member/non member on the sheet.

#### IV. Strategic Planning Session.

Farber discussed the strategic planning session. He asked the Board to review the handout, especially the “strategic directions” before the next board meeting. Farber said keeping up to date on this has provided continuity to the board and has helped prevent us from repeating issues. We can record additional progress in many areas. Farber would like to find a replacement for his position. The Strategic Plan section of the Operating Manual needs to be updated.

- V. Neathamer reported that he met with OIT President Maples on his feelings about the program. He has a background in Geology. The Geomatics program looks like it is not going to be reduced, but OIT as an institution could be cutting back its budget an estimated 20% to 30%. It looks like it will be OK for now.

Break for lunch 11:55 p.m

- VI. Reconvene at 1:00 p.m. - Dr. Scott Ashford, OSU spoke on the OSU Civil and Construction Engineering Program. The program provides a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and construction management engineering. Students get enough coursework in surveying to permit them to take the LSIT exam. Dr. Ashford is hoping the department can expand to provide an advanced degree in geomatics. It will require the addition an endowed chair position at an estimated cost of \$3.5 million.

#### VII. Committee Reports

- a. Financial Report: Nemecek reported that the he is putting the budget in QuickBooks and we can have reports at any time. VanNatta reported that those chapter presidents will get a detail of each check that has been attributed to their chapters two weeks before each board meeting.
- b. Conference Report: Johnston reported that he put together the financial report for the conference. There were 494 people who attended. The projected net income at this juncture is \$53,524.97. Contingencies have been provided for some budgeted expenses that could still be received.

Ferguson provided comments on the conference and asked the committee to ponder ways to help members feel better about attending. The committee did debrief immediately after the conference. Communications to the attendees each day was an issue.

Fidler read a letter from a member about the difficulty of some people travelling in January. Johnston said that in 2010, we’re locked into January. Freshwaters questioned

the purpose of the annual conference – is it to raise revenue or to provide value to the organization or some combination of both? Henricks responded that the meeting was scheduled based on member input and that December was the runner up to January. In spring there were other concerns with work being busier and other chapters having their meetings during that time. Henricks would write a response. Fassbender said the bylaws required a year-end meeting. Until 2002 that was the rule and then it was changed. He noted that there are more accidents and deaths in March than in January according to ODOT. Kalb said January is better for her business and travel schedule than March.

- c. Scholarship. The silent auction at the Portland conference raised just under \$5000 and there was an additional \$2000 given with membership dues.
- d. Legislative: Freshwaters recommends that PLSO provide more information to leadership when they assume new positions. That would include providing minutes of meetings and giving training. PLSO is following HB 2737, which would increase the maximum fee that can be assessed on real estate transactions for the county surveyor's corner preservation fund. SB 344 would change the County Surveyor from an elected position to an appointed position, but optional if elected. Gary Dejarnatt, Jefferson County Surveyor attended, and spoke in support of HB 2737. Mike Jackson from Lane County said he has made assisting private surveyors a priority if they call the office. There is not a lot of money in the county. Chuck Gibbs from Linn County also spoke in support of HB 2737. He had been a private surveyor and understands the cost of restoring corners that should have been done by the public sector. There will be layoffs in the public sector. Linscheid said there were a lot of people opposed to the bill from the housing alliance. Linscheid is OK with the cap. Fidler felt that there should not be a dollar amount on HB2737.

Willamette Chapter: HB2737 was discussed and the chapter supported it.

Blue Mountain: SB344 was discussed and the chapter wasn't interested in adopting this bill. Simons said their County Surveyor uses the corner preservation fund to hire private surveyors to restore corners. The chapter is in favor of the increased fee authorized by HB 2737.

South Central: Kalb has not had a meeting.

Central: Reeves said they were in favor of raising fees for the corner fund, but wanted to leave the election as it is now.

Southwest: SB344 was not discussed. HB 2737 was supported provided that there was a cap. They did not support having the lobbyist speaking on this.

Rogue River: Meeting is next week.

Umpqua: Beedle said they didn't want to take away people's right to vote. They are supportive of the restoration fund in HB 2737 with cap.

Linscheid reminded the group that corner restoration is just one part of the fee imposed by county clerks on real estate recordings. Housing alliance does not want to impose an additional processing fee.

***Motion: Linscheid moved the board support HB2737 and direct the lobbyist to take action with a \$25 cap. Fidler seconded.***

There is support in OACES. A lengthy discussion was held.  
Farber called for the question.

***Motion passed. Minor and White voted no.***

***Motion: Beedle moved that PLSO actively oppose SB344, Simons seconded.***

***Motion passed.***

SB 944 limits who could bring action against surveyors. Freshwaters summarized the bill which defines the term “design professional” and limits claims against design professionals.

- e. Education Goals and Actions. Information was passed on a CD to aide members with public outreach. Six (6) PLSO bags of survey related materials are available for outreach activities. Anderson reviewed the *Building Futures* magazine ads that were run and ones that are scheduled for the education programs. Kent will be the best contact for TwiST. Anderson encouraged board members to have their chapters recruit for K-12 instructors to attend TwiST (details of event to follow, dates June 22-26, 2009). Anderson thanked those already active and encouraged all others to participate in our Trig-Star/High School Student program. VanNatta reminded the board that they will give gift cards (like a VISA gift card instead of a cash gift) to Trig-Star winners. More prizes get more students involved. Chemeketa Community College has a Career Night Tuesday, April 21.
- f. Oregon 150 project. Newstetter has put that in motion and Anderson has been working on it. The cement masons are working on creating the benches for the Willamette Stone Heritage Site. Dick Hofland helped prepare the lettering. The commemorative benches will soon be installed. The park’s cleanup day will be held May 2, and the actual event and geocache rally will be held May 30. Please encourage attendance; scouts can acquire two merit badges related to Heritage Site and Oregon 150 project.
- g. Webmaster. Parsons reported that the Surveyor L email list is updated. On the PLSO calendar, we can add chapter meetings. Make sure you confirm your events by going through the PLSO.org website and making sure it all looks right. Wendell Harness is handling the legislative portion of the web page. Make announcements about new postings on Surveyor-L. There are a lot of “surveyor at work” pictures on the website.
- h. Membership. Fidler said that we have 212 delinquent members. There are some new members who haven’t been members before. The office provided the delinquent list

and will try to visit the chapters this year. Freshwaters has 20 delinquent members in the Central Chapter. They contacted these people and many people were hard to find. One member was wondering why PLSO was sitting on such a large financial balance. Fidler said PLSO is working to increase membership by 10%.

**(Not on agenda)** Professional Practice. Neathamer reported that when he looked at the responsibilities of the committee we need to revise the operating manual. He was contacted by two different individuals about unlicensed practice. He will work to resolve those issues locally.

- i. NSPS. No report, Tolbert was not in attendance.
- j. WESTFED. Crites was awaiting the Salt Lake minutes. He has been asked to consider being a candidate for election as WESTFED chair. The board was supportive of this.
- k. OSBEELS to PLSO: Linscheid reported Grant Davis will be the president starting in July. The Assistant AG will be looking into the notification rules. Linscheid has been assigned to OSBEELS through 2013. There were 22 registrants for the 4-hour Oregon PLS exam in April.
- l. PLSO Liaison to OSBEELS. Covered in (k)
- m. PLSO to OACES: Gaylord and Galli were not into attendance. Linscheid reported the counties were reviewing the authority to remove monuments for developments that have been deferred or denied due to deferred decisions on land use. He also noted the OACES web site would soon have scanned copies of aerial photos covering railroad RW.
- n. Constitution and Bylaws. Bacon was not in attendance
- o. Publications. Johnston reported the *Oregon Surveyor* will be sent out within the week.
- p. Awards. Miles was not present.
- q. GPS Users Group: Annual Meeting in Bend will be held on June 19. October 16 there will be a workshop on OPUS and HTD program at Albany.
- r. Good of the Order. Anderson reminded the group that next week is National Surveyors week. A release was sent out from the PLSO office. Ferguson noted that Steve Muma from ODOT Region 1 had a minor heart attack last week, but is doing well. Fidler reminded the group that "Character Creates Courage."
- s. Next meeting is May 2nd in Roseburg.
- t. Johnston expressed the board's appreciation to Ed and Connie Henricks for hosting the board meeting and providing an excellent lunch.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary Louise VanNatta  
Executive Secretary, PLSO