

**North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers
Board of Directors Meeting**

May 25, 2007 – Teleconference Call

1. **Call to Order** – The Board of Directors of NDSPE met via teleconference on May 25, 2007 at 12:15 p.m. President Gregg Thielman called the meeting to order. Present by city were:

Bismarck: James Landenberger, Michael Gunsch, Bruce Nelson (proxy for John Spilman, Kevin Nelson and Mary Nelson)
Fargo: Gregg Thielman and Kent Ritterman

The Secretary declared that a quorum was present.

2. **Introductions**

3. **Adoption of the Agenda** –

The following items were added to the agenda under New Business:

- 6. e. Life membership request for Lloyd Anderson
- 6. f. Fall Board of Directors meeting
- 6. g. NSPE meeting issues
- 6. h. Board of Registration Update on Continuing Education reviews

Michael Gunsch moved to approve the agenda as amended. Motion was seconded by James Landenberger and carried.

4. **Approval of Minutes** – the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on March 8, 2007 were distributed via e-mail and reviewed.

Kevin Nelson moved that the minutes be approved as distributed. Motion was seconded by James Landenberger and carried.

5. **Old Business** –

- A. **Request Approved for NSPE Hardship Dues Waiver from Bruce Nelson** –

NSPE President Bob Miller sent a letter stating Bruce Nelson had been granted NSPE Hardship Dues Waiver. Bruce Nelson extended a heartfelt appreciation to the NDSPE Board of Directors for their support.

- B. **Travel Schedule** – Jay Kleven attended the Saskatchewan APEGS Annual meeting in Moosejaw in early May. Michael Gunsch, Jay Kleven & Kevin Nelson are planning to attend the NSPE 2007 Annual Conference in Denver, CO, July 26th -29th. There is a possibility that the new Executive Secretary may attend as well.

- C. **Regional Meeting Updates** – Monthly teleconferences are held with the North Central region. Discussion has focused lately on state only membership and associate membership. The region is split regarding the state only membership issue. Kansas is giving serious thought about leaving NSPE if the state only membership is not approved. The code of ethics and repayment of due advances has also been discussed.

- D. **Status of Executive Secretary Replacement** - Barb Lennington had expressed interest at one point, but no longer seems to be interested in the position. Mary Nelson will put together a list of duties for the position, which will include major tasks and also an estimate of the amount of time required to perform those duties and tasks. Mathcounts uses the services of PMS, a local secretarial services company, which may be a possibility for NDSPE. PMS services typically cost \$20 per hour plus mileage & expenses. An advantage of having PMS provide the services is to increase NDSPE's exposure. Michael Gunsch suggested getting an estimate from PMS and if a decision was made to use them, a dues increase may be needed to cover the additional expenses. Gregg Thielman will send a mass e-mail to the membership to inquire if anyone else

is interested in the position. Michael Gunsch will also contact Larry Smith with ACEC and possibly contact Allen Erickson regarding Bev Schwab, who is the executive secretary for the ND Society of Prof. Land Surveyors.

6. New Business -

- A. 2007 Annual Meeting Recap** - NSPE President elect Ken Rigsbee, P.E., commented that he was very impressed with the efficiency and organization of our society, and that he enjoyed attending the annual conference in Grand Forks.
- B. 2008 Annual Meeting Update** - The planning committee will need to focus on increasing the amount of PDH's offered to the extent of one or more full days. As of yet, no date has been set, but the committee is targeting the end of March, keeping in mind the Easter weekend and state basketball tournaments.
- C. NDSPE Dues Advance Update** – NSPE President Bob Miller sent out an e-mail to all of the state societies stating the amount owed by each state for dues advanced by NSPE. The email we received stated that ND owes NSPE \$998.30. The NSPE association management system database was not implemented as smoothly as they wanted, and as a result, NSPE had to pay the societies based on what they anticipated each chapter would collect in dues. Because of that, NSPE has overpaid some of the societies and they are now requesting repayment.

Kevin Nelson moved to pay back NSPE for the overpaid due advances in the amount of \$998.30. Motion seconded by Michael Gunsch and carried.

Mary Nelson will send a short thank you letter with the check in the amount of \$998.30 to NSPE.

- D. Status of Committee Assignments** – Michael Gunsch has had some discussions with individuals regarding serving on the NDSPE committees. Jerry Backes chaired the Legislative committee this year and has expressed disappointment with lack of responses by NDSPE members pertaining to legislative issues during the session. Michael Gunsch will visit with Jerry to discuss the disappointments he encountered. ACEC meets two times a year, and the idea of holding a joint meeting during Legislative session years to keep communication open between NDSPE and ACEC was mentioned. Discussions followed regarding the legislative committee; the suggestion was made to encourage the members to register as lobbyists and make a presence at the committee hearings. This would give the organization more visibility. A two year commitment was also discussed for this committee since ND legislature only meets every other year.
- E. Life membership request for Lloyd Anderson** - Lloyd Anderson is a member of chapter 4 and has requested life membership. After a review by the members present at the meeting, it was determined that Lloyd meets the requirements for life membership.

James Landenberger moved to approve life membership for Lloyd Anderson. Motion seconded by Michael Gunsch and carried.

- F. Fall Board of Directors meeting-** Arrangements have been made for the fall meeting to be held in Carrington at the Chieftain on Saturday September 22, 2007 starting at 10 am.
- G. NSPE Meeting Issues-** Kevin Nelson revisited the NSPE Code of Ethics issue. Florida is recommending the sustainable development language be removed from the NSPE Code of Ethics, and to redefine and reorganize, and to distinguish between items of fundamental ethical principal and items to promote social well being. The NSPE Board of Ethical Review did not take any action and they decided they will take it to the House of Delegates at the Annual Conference in July in Denver. A motion was passed at the March 8, 2007 NDSPE Board of Directors meeting regarding the direction this Board wishes to take on this issue, which was to encourage NSPE Board of Directors to direct the appropriate committee to revise the Code of Ethics to separate it from a list of recommendations.

NSPE is proposing Associate membership at state and local level which could result in the following:

1. Open up membership to others that do not qualify for membership like technicians and architects.
2. Membership on the state level and not be a member at the National level and limiting the number of years you can belong, those that would qualify are engineers and EIT's on track for licensure.

This Board does not support #2 per motion at the March 8, 2007 Board of Directors meeting. Further discussion took place and by supporting it, this could possibly provide more contacts to the organization. Fargo-Moorhead engineers club does not require their members to be an engineer and they have members that are not members of NDSPE. Membership to NSPE offers a variety of services and associate membership would not offer these same services. NSPE does not support the associate membership because they currently have over 10,000 dues structures and this would just add more to the mix.

Bruce Nelson moved to oppose Associate Membership on National level. Motion was seconded by James Landenberger and carried.

Discussion followed regarding the price of the subscription and the costs associated with the PE magazine, which is offered to NSPE members.

The question was called and motion was carried.

NSPE has one candidate for the position of treasurer and president –elect. Russ Devick is the candidate for treasurer and Brad Aldrich is the candidate for president-elect. Kevin commented that Brad Aldrich was a driving force for reorganization of NSPE. Both candidates meet the qualifications and are willing to serve. These minutes reflect a consensus of this Board to support the two candidates mentioned above.

Kevin Nelson's last National meeting will be in 2008 and it was suggested to start looking for a new delegate. Kevin Nelson recommended Tom Neigum and he has visited with Tom about the possibility. Tom did not say that he isn't willing to serve. The national delegate would take over July 1, 2008 and attending the National meeting in 2009.

Gregg Thielmann congratulated Kevin Nelson for receiving fellow membership. Kevin thanked the society for their support.

H. Board of Registration Update on Continuing Education reviews- The continuing education audit process is proving to be challenging. Bruce Nelson has been helping with the audits. There seems to be a lack of documentation with submittals for CLE credit, for example someone included their hotel receipt and neglected to include a program from the conference. Another issue the committee is encountering is the registrant is claiming a certain amount of CLE hours and the number of actual hours is found to be much less than submitted. The committee is giving the registrant the benefit of the doubt. Documentation will not be returned, and it is being destroyed at the end of the audit. Cliff Keller is putting together a summary of what the committee has found.

Dean Wieland has been appointed to the Board of Registration and his term will begin on July 1, 2007.

7. **Other Business** – No other business was discussed

8. **Adjourn** –

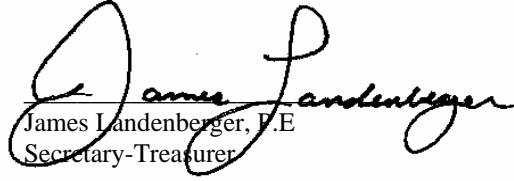
Kevin Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Bruce Nelson and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary B. Nelson
NDSPE Executive Secretary



James Landenberger, F.E.
Secretary-Treasurer

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