



IDAHO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

Agenda Board of Governors' Meeting June 10, 2023 Virtual

Present:

1. **Call to Order:** (Ballard) Guests: John Parrish

Proxy votes:

2. **Meeting Minutes**

March 13 Meeting Minutes have previously been approved by the Board.

3. **Conference 2024 – Contract & Program Update (Morgan) –** We have a contract with the Shoshone Bannock Hotel & Casino, Steve Frisbie has authorized a small deposit and the Conference Committee will begin meeting this summer regarding program content and speakers.

4. **Committee Updates**

Internal Marketing Committee reports

- A. **Membership report** (Morgan) – As of June 10, we have officially ended our membership year, with 223 total active members, a 12.6% increase over last year. We have 154 active PLS members. Patty will begin contacting non-member PLS licensees to market membership for next year.
- B. **Gem State Surveyor** (GSS)- (Beckstead) *The last GSS went well, we had updated the fees for advertisers and we have renewed with all advertisers at the new rates. The summer issue is coming along well, the Eastern Section recently had a workshop on Geodetic Leveling, we will have a writeup and some photos on that. Part of the writeup is to encourage other sections to get that set up and offer training in other sections. There are articles on riparian boundaries, digital twins, and there's an article written by Rajendra Bajracharya that will be published which is a follow up to an article we published last year. We have updates from board members, the minutes from this meeting if approved will be included. He would like to have the next issue out the end of next week, or early the week of the 19th.*

Brian Allen
Aaron Ballard
Hagen Beckstead
Glenn Bennett
John Elle
Jeremy Fielding-Stewart Ward Proxy
Steve Frisbie
Freddie Garcia
Tyson Glahe
Jerry Hastings
Austin Ishino
Kevin McGuire
Bruce Smith
Adam Thayer
Stewart Ward

Patty Morgan, Executive Director



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External Marketing Committee reports

- C. Legislative Update:** *We need to reconsider vetting a list of potential lobbyists and potentially contracting with someone this summer. Glenn: we do need to have someone to speak on our behalf if we expect to take the lead on issues affecting us. We need to start cultivating both houses to adopt a sponsor on each side, a contracted lobbyist is the best way to get that done. Glenn has some potential candidates. Brian has a neighbor, he has brought him up to speed regarding DOPL. He is willing to help us, he's not on the proper committees but he does know those that are. He could be a strong advocate. He's willing to put in the time to meet with us.*

Aaron is going to suggest moving our September meeting to in-person following the DOPL meeting that month. This will give us an opportunity to attend that meeting, and then follow up with our meeting. We can decide from there whether we want to continue that process. John: Doesn't know if having our meeting tied to theirs makes a difference. Sounds like DOPL doesn't have interest in that. Glenn: showing up at the DOPL meetings will have a greater impact than anything else we could do, would help more than anything else. Aaron: His takeaway from the last meeting was that DOPL was surprised that ISPLS showed up. It may have affected the result. Glenn: Yes, that's the first time that has happened; when they see people from industry it gets their attention. The Surveyors and Engineers need to hear firsthand what's going on. The more people that can show up the better.

- D. IDOPL Update (Bennett)** – *If we are going to have a meeting that has an impact on DOPL legislatively, we need to do it in the spring so they have time to get it prepared.*

The Governor has appointed a replacement for John Tompkins, Wyatt Thompson he specialized in land rights and land use. He will be at the July meeting. Glenn just completed his term as Chairman of the Board, Pete Jacobsen is the new Chair, Ray Tompkins is Vice-Chair and Tom Ruby is Secretary. Glenn's full report is include in the board materials <https://www.idahospls.org/resources/Documents/Board%20Report%206-9-2023.docx>

Glenn was happy to see some surveyors in attendance at the May meeting, they are all posted online and the agenda is posted ahead of the meeting, the meetings are also streamed. Use the published link on the agendas. Meetings are scheduled for two days, the only time they go into Executive Session is dealing with an applicant that wants to meet personally, all other applicants are reviewed in the open session. Meetings may not last two days, if you are going to attend do so the first day. The next meeting is July 27-28. There has been a push from the Administration to not be as strict in the rules, the Board has adamantly refused. The fact that they went from 30 reviews to 5 the last meeting may point to the fact that DOPL is approving rather than the board. Are the meetings always Thurs/Fri? Yes, generally. DOPL is not willing to be very flexible for their constituency.



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Aaron: Prior to the last DOPL Meeting he met with Tom Judge regarding what to expect at the meeting. It would be great for us to make a presence at the September DOPL Meeting and while it's still fresh we can have a meeting about it. He feels strongly that the board should consider this option. For Aaron, it's a marathon and not a sprint. Would love for others to experience what he did in that short amount of time. Some people have a knack for asking the right questions, he believes we can make some significant progress on where we want to go with us attending that meeting as a group. He would love to hear feedback from the board. It's important for us to go to those meetings because if we ask questions at the board meeting, you'll get a transparent response right there.

Kevin McGuire: His Section had Dusty Obermeier fill their section in a couple of months ago, they are all very concerned as well. He would be willing to step up if there's more he can do.

Hagen: what more can we do to help foster connections? John: One-on-one networking and advocacy for the organization. If you want to affect some changes at DOPL, write to Mike Hyde, ask them questions. Right now they are only hearing from Glenn, Tom Ruby, Tom Judge. If they aren't hearing from their constituency it's our fault.

John: When DOPL was created we were told nothing would change; they removed their entire staff. Administrators now know nothing about how the board has operated in the past. We should go to those meetings and bring up the fact that it's not operating in a manner that protects the health and safety of the citizens. We have historical data on the number of complaints etc., and if now they say there are none, we can start the discussion. Glenn: agreed, it's going to take multiple people showing up and asking pointed questions. The next IPELS Board meeting is July 27-28, then September 14-15. Brian: We could do a general update after the July board meeting. John: Thinks the historical information is on the board's website. Brian: it would be nice to get a list of complaints that have been filed with no response. Sections will have to ask at their local meetings. Adam: has heard applications are taking months. Glenn: Once the board approves them it's still 2-4 months before applicants get their license. The only way to ferret out complaints is to get feedback locally.

Aaron: Hoping to get more organized, making a presence in July and then a coordinated presence in September makes sense. If we have a September board meeting that follows IPELS, we could do it Thursday night at Casa Mexico. Brian: Would like to come up in July and September. Glenn: If we show up on Thursday the board can postpone the applications to the end so they can finish the pertinent business while we're there.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED BY BRIAN ALLEN TO MEET ON SEPTEMBER THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 14 TIME AND PLACE TBD, OUR REGULAR BOARD MEETING, AFTER THE DOPL MEETING, SECOND BY JOHN ELLE, 6 IN FAVOR, 2 OPPOSED PLUS ONE PROXY NAY. We will convene with whoever can make it, then present it at the next regularly scheduled board



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meeting.

Standards of Practice (Allen) – Brian found a list of those on the committee. He will begin to convene committee meetings.

Education Committee (Elle) – Stewart: We need to draft our letter to ISU ASAP. This item is covered in Old Business.

- E. Scholarship Committee (Thayer)** – Scholarships were due June 1, we received five applications, the committee will be reviewing those and making decisions soon. He does want to discuss allocation as far as the amount. Historically we have always done up to \$10,000. He would like to suggest we move that to more like \$15-\$20,000. Expenses for this year's auction were paid by the operating account rather than the scholarship fund. It could change down the road but for now we have a healthy bottom line. John: Is the scholarship fund in an interest-bearing account? No not yet. Steve Frisbie said he will set up that account ASAP.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED BY JOHN ELLE THAT WE AUTHORIZE UP TO \$15,000 TOTAL TO BE DISTRIBUTED; THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BRIAN ALLEN. WITH ALL PRESENT IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIES.

F. Administrative Committee (Frisbee)

- Treasurer's Report – We are at 95% of budget for membership but 45% higher than this time last year. Conference came in at 194% of budget, 55% higher than last year. The zoom option has increased our fiscal participation in the conference. It really helps with our income. In terms of raw dollars, the net conference profit was over \$29,000.
- Status of Accounts – We have 2 open accounts at Wells Fargo and 3 accounts at Westmark Credit Union. Wells checking has \$58k and savings has \$51k. Steve will close those accounts and move the funds to the Westmark accounts. Westmark accounts include a Checking, Savings and a Scholarship Savings account. Steve will invest the scholarship funds and then move the funds from this year to the scholarship savings account. We will get Aaron and Jerry connected as signers on the accounts at Westmark. The intent is to create a new simplified budget moving forward.
- Policy Document Updates (Elle/Frisbie) – The Board reviewed the tracked changes, John will update edits and another copy will be distributed for review and approval. The discussion regarding the GSS Editor position role will be carried forward to the next meeting. John's recommendation is to leave the position as an Ex-Officio non-voting board member. This item will be added to the next agenda for the September meeting.



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5. **NSPS** – (Ward) – *Stewart’s report is included in the board resource area.*
<https://www.idahospls.org/resources/Documents/2023%20NSPS%20Spring%20Meeting%20Complete%20Report.pdf>
6. **WFPS** – (Ishino) – *Austin is at the WFPS Meeting today, he will report back after.*
7. **Young Surveyors** – (Thayer) – *Adam’s report is included in the board resource area.*
<https://www.idahospls.org/resources/Documents/Young%20Surveyors%20Report%20June%202023.pdf>
8. **Staff report** – (Morgan) – *Operations are going well and other business has been covered elsewhere in the agenda.*
9. **Old Business – Letter to ISU** – *This item was carried over from the March Board meeting and will be taken care of ASAP.*

MOTION TO WRITE A LETTER OF APOLOGY AND CLARIFYING THE ROLES OF BOTH ISPLS AND ISU IN WORKING TOGETHER TO IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY; THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY AAARON BALLARD, THE MOTIION CARRIED. Will be signed by officers and cc to the BOG. The letter will be drafted by Aaron with assistance from Adam and others on the board for Aaron’s signature.

Darren Leavitt agreed to be ISU’s representative on the Education Committee. Patty will begin drafting a letter to distribute to the board for review and ultimately sent to ISU with Aaron’s signature.

10. New Business –

- Representative to IBPELS Position Vacancy in 2024 – *We need to start working toward Glenn’s replacement, it’s a Governor’s appointment so we need to come up with at least two names, we need to get this started sooner rather than later, Glenn’s position expires in May 2024. We need to have our recommendations to the Governor by very early spring. We need to send a request to the Sections to get their recommendations, and we can discuss at the next BOG Meeting, get recommendations to the Governor as soon as possible. Action Item: reach out to the Sections ASAP, reach out to ACEC and ISPE, send criteria out to sections to detail requirements.*

Anyone interested needs to fill out paperwork under the board appointments on the Governor’s website. <https://gov.idaho.gov/appointments/> You can fill out the paperwork online. How many hours per week or month go into it? They meet 6 times per year, probably about 16 hours per every two months minimum. Is it important that the person be Boise local? It’s handy but not necessary. The Governor looks at geographic distribution to keep it dispersed as much as possible. All expenses are reimbursed. Board members accrue PRSI value as they are treated as a



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state employee. You have input and impact, you should not select anyone that has their own agenda. For anyone that is interested in serving this is a good opportunity.

John: When Glenn goes off the board we need a new Ex-Officio board liaison, a replacement was mentioned and John Elle will discuss with him. Tom Ruby has agreed to be the next IPELS liason to the BOG.

We will work on attendance at the July meeting, we will look at the agenda and make a plan.

11. Next Meetings:

- September 14, Boise, Idaho
- December Boise – TBD

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY JOHN ELLE, SECOND BY JERRY HASTING, WITH ALL IN FAVOR THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:20 P.M.