

Survey Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 21, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

Via Teams Teleconference

SAB Members Present:

Martin Paquette, PLS, Chair – **Education**

Paul Galli, PLS – **Government**

Bruce Dodds, PLS/PE – **Multi-Discipline**

Gary Letzring, PLS – **Urban Surveying**

(Erielle Lamb, PLS – Rural Surveying was not in attendance)

PLSO Staff Present:

Pat Beehler, PLS, Chief DNR Surveyor

David Icenhower, PLS

Ann Alves, LSIT

Dennis Studeman

Ryan Tessier

Liaisons:

Sam Mutt, PLS, WCCS

Tom Barger, PLS, LSAW

Kim Eisenbacher, WSACA

Casey Kaul, WSACA

Audience Guests:

Justin Holt, PLS, DNR

Kris Horton, PLS, City of Olympia

Kenneth Swindaman, PLS, Kitsap County

Edward Ranck-Copher, PLS, City of Pullman

Christopher Royak, PLS, Seattle Public Utilities

Jeff Dugan, PLS, DNR

Alex Sellman, PLS, Retired WSDOT

Brett Flippo, PLS, Kennewick Irrigation District

Call to Order

- Martin Paquette called the meeting to order shortly after 8:00 a.m.

- Board members introduced themselves
- PLSO Staff and Guests introduced themselves

Brief Items and Reports

1. **Approval of April 221, 2021 meeting minutes** - The minutes of the April 21, 2021 Survey Advisory Board meeting were approved.
2. **Monument perpetuation and PDH program report** - David Icenhower reported that since the April meeting:
 - 98 Land Corner Records (LCRs) were filed
 - 205 Permits to Remove or Destroy a Survey Monument, and 159 Completion Reports were filed
 - As a function of the PDH Program John Hoxeng learned about and helped to sort DNR records in June and Bob Knuth and David presented a class on WebXtender, via Zoom, to **11 participants** from Snohomish County in July
 - The Application for Permit to Remove or Destroy a Survey Monument and Completion Report forms are being revised
3. **WSACA report** - Casey Kaul reported that there are no updates at this time from the Recording Committee of the Washington State Association of County Auditors (WSACA)
 - **SAB Liaison to WSACA report** - Gary Letzring also had no updates to report regarding WSACA related issues
4. **Report from LSAW Liaison** –
 - Thomas Barger reported about coordination between the Land Surveyor’s Association of Washington (LSAW) and the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) on their *GPS on Benchmarks* program. The LSAW has sent out county-by-county needs that still exist, including 16 in King County. Sam Mutt is the point of contact for coordination. The deadline for submission to the NGS is in December but the NGS will still take a surveyor’s data after that time. Tom supplied the following link to the *NOAA NGS GPS on Benchmarks* website:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAANOS/bulletins/2f4f769>
 - Thomas reported that Jim Wengler is re-writing a 2018 letter from the Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BRPELS), currently on the 811 WA website, <https://www.washington811.com/protect-survey-monuments/>, regarding the protection of survey monuments. LSAW is trying to work with the organization that runs the 811 system to have them give monuments the same status as a “utility” since monuments serve so many stakeholders, including the utility companies.
5. **Report from Washington Council of County Surveyors (WA-CCS) Liaison** –
 - Since Sam Mutt was not immediately in meeting attendance David Icenhower reported that he had spoken with Sam and that Sam was building a questionnaire to be sent to the WA-CCS membership and former conference attendees in order to get their input regarding a January 2022 on-line conference. David would help create a Survey Monkey to help establish a level of interest in membership and conference attendance.
 - Paul Galli reported that the WCCS membership is low, likely due, at least in part, to holding meetings on-line instead of interaction in person.
 - Sam joined the meeting at about 9:15 a.m. Sam informed the group that he is the only WA-

CCS officer at this time and that the Secretary and Treasurer positions are vacant.

- Sam feels that it is important to host a conference, even if it is in an abbreviated format and is presented on a virtual platform, as interest amongst the members may further deteriorate in the absence of a conference. He would like to plan for the conference to take place during the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January, 2022.
 - Sam is planning the next WA-CCS meeting for October 28, 2021 via a virtual format.
6. **Status of the *Did you know?* Article** – Discussion took place regarding the status of an article on physical description and history of found and/or replaced monuments.
- David mentioned that Tim Kent had told him that he had been unable to finish the article before the end of his tenure on the SAB.
 - Paul stated that he believed that Gary, Bruce, and himself were going to work on the article together.
 - Paul stated that he would coordinate with Gary and Bruce on a joint effort.
 - Pat stated that one of the surveyors at a recent LSAW meeting complimented the *Did You Know* articles and said that he used them for training within his office; the articles are appreciated.
7. **Update of GPS Guidebook 2004** –
- Martin stated his belief that the GPS Guidebook should be re-written from the ground up given the changes in technology and the way GPS is used today.
 - Martin said that Gavin Schrock and Bob Green are willing to help.
 - Martin also plans to ask Larry Signani to help as well.

DNR Report

1. Public Land Survey Office (PLSO) Report

a. 02A Account report

- Pat Beehler reported on the recording fees that come in every month and how the number can fluctuate widely due to the timing of when counties decide to send the money to the state. So far this year recording fee surcharge revenue is \$265,000 and PLSO expenses \$120,342.
- Pat explained how our expenses are sometimes less during periods when the PLSO has personnel assigned to fire duties, as those people would be paid out of the Wildfire fund.
- Pat also explained that the photogrammetry section had been using the Surveys & Maps account for some expenses, but they have a different source and do not use the account now.

b. Senate Bill (SB) 5224 update

- Pat reported that he has a meeting set with the bill's sponsor, Senator Hunt, to ask for his help in the next legislative session.
- Pat is also trying to set up a meeting with Senator Van De Wege who is the chair of the committee that is hearing the bill. Senator Van De Wege has proposed a substitute bill that contains almost everything that had been included in the original bill, except that the original bill sought to require a \$10.00 recording surcharge on most recorded documents, whereas the substitute bill proposes a \$5.00 surcharge.

- Hopefully, SB 5224 will have another hearing in committee to discuss the amendment, then go through a few additional hurdles. If it passes in the Senate, it will go to the House and the approval process starts all over again. We may see some action on it next session starting in January.

c. Records

- David reported that the PLSO has recently received more Ken Long records.
- There are more records held by various groups that David is aware of but has not contacted them yet and he needs to find out where Bob may have left off with any discussions with these records holders.
- David also reported that the PLSO will be picking up records of Donald Haines which are currently in the hands of Richard Schroeter in Burien.

d. Outreach/Training

- David reported that he is lending assistance to the WA-CCS by working with Sam Mutt to create a questionnaire to the membership and other stakeholders regarding a virtual conference in January.
- David is also working with Pat to write an article for the Evergreen State Surveyor Magazine on the status of SB 5224.
- David mentioned that Bob Knuth had delivered a talk to the Washington State Association of County Auditors (WSACA) in September 2021.
 1. David said that at that meeting, some discussion ensued regarding whether any records from the County Engineer offices may have been delivered to Recorder's vaults but never officially recorded. Paul stated that this type of situation did occur in Cowlitz County and he believes in other counties as well. Casey Kaul stated that Bob had asked the counties to reach out to the PLSO if they had any unrecorded maps in their custody.
 2. Other discussion took place at the WSACA meeting concerning electronic documents. Casey explained that Recorders can accept documents with electronic signatures, but they cannot accept documents sent to them via email as they must have the original document. She also said that WSACA is looking into whether they can accept an electronic map which is in question due to some specific language in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

e. Revisions to the *Application and Permit to Remove or Destroy a Survey Monument and Completion Report forms*

- David explained that the changes to the forms was to make the forms easier to fill out by providing ready-made boxes for the requested information.
- Paul suggested that a box be added to the Completion Report to document the Auditor's File Number (AFN) of the Record of Survey (ROS) Map or Land Corner Record (LCR), as applicable, as called-for by law.
- David stated that he would add the AFN box and that he would also create a "date" box under the surveyor's stamp.

Active Items (Working) --

1. Pending Updates to WAC 332-130-050

- Pat explained the change of the requirement to show a graphic representation on a recorded survey map to identify a quarter of the quarter location. Surveyors MAY still provide the graphic, but are not required to.
- Pat also explained the need for changing the definition of Relative Accuracy to provide more clarity.

2. **Outreach concerning monument destruction**

- General discussion took place regarding the desire to have the 811 system recognize the need for monuments to be treated like utilities as they provide a service to everyone.
- It was agreed that further discussions would be needed with the 811 organization in an attempt to get them to amend their laws to accommodate the protection of survey monuments.

3. Holistic update to RCW 58 (2023)

- Pat informed the group that if we wanted to have a comprehensive re-write of RCW 58.09 pass through the legislature that the next best opportunity would be in 2023. In order for that to occur, a final draft would need to be ready in 2022.
- Pat stated that he has some proposed elements already, and if any surveyor has ideas for changes that they should submit them to him.

New Items

- None

Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting is planned to be January 27th with location to-be-determined

Adjourn

- Martin Paquette adjourned the meeting shortly after 10:00 a.m.