

Survey Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 25, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

**Meeting held at the Public Land Survey Office
801 88th Ave SE, Tumwater, WA 98501
and via Teams Conference**

SAB Members Physically Present:

Bob Morse, PLS – Education
Gunnar Fridriksson, PE-PLS – Multi-Discipline
Paul Galli, PLS – Government
Erielle Lamb, PLS – Rural Surveying

SAB Members Present Via Teams:

Gary Letzring, PLS, SAB Chair – Urban Surveying

PLSO/DNR Staff Physically Present:

Pat Beehler, PLS – DNR Survey Manager
David Icenhower, PLS – PLSO Manager
Dennis Studeman – PLSO Staff
Ann Alves, LSIT – PLSO Staff

Liaisons Physically Present:

Kim Eisenbacher – WSACA (Pierce County Auditor)

Liaisons Present Via Teams:

Tom Barger, PLS – LSAW Liaison (Seattle City Parks)

Guests Physically Present:

Gavin Schrock, PLS – WSRN (Seattle Public Utilities)
Spencer Ryan – Thurston County Auditor's Office

Guests Present Via Teams:

James Wengler, PLS – Wengler Surveying & Mapping
Kris Horton, PLS – Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BRPELS)
Lucas Lymangrover, PLS – DNR
Alan Mooers, LSIT – City of Bellingham
Selva Lukatah, LSIT – WSDOT
Ken Shipley, PLS – Core Design
Phil Freeman, PLS – WSDOT
Kevin Gaunt, PLS – Sandis

Vince Brown, PLS – WSDOT
Jeff Lynch, PLS – City of Vancouver
Larry Signani, PLS – NV5
Lee Moua – Clark County
Richard Dickman, PLS – Pierce County
Ryan Tessier – PLSO staff
Ken Swindaman, PLS – Kitsap County
Brett Flippo, PLS – Kennewick Irrigation District

Call to Order

- Chairperson Gary Letzring called the meeting to order shortly after 8:00 a.m.
- The Board members introduced themselves.
- Guests were asked to self-introduce.

Brief Items and Reports

- **Approval of October 26, 2023, meeting minutes.** The minutes were approved as published.
- **Monument Removal/Destruction Permits and Records update:**

Ann Alves reported that since the October 26 the PLSO has:

- Received 267 LCRs (65 in previous period)
 - Processed 55 Permits to Remove or Destroy a Monument (68 in previous period)
 - Processed 229 Completion Reports (112 in previous period)
- **Report from Auditor’s Recording Liaison from Washington State Association of County Auditor’s (WSACA) to SAB:**

Kim Eisenbacher reported:

- 117 maps were recorded in Pierce County in December 2023, but there have only been 30 maps recorded in January as of the 23rd. This is potentially due to the newly added recording fees.
- **SAB Liaison to WSACA:**

Gary Letzring was unable to make his microphone work and did not give a report.

- **Report from Land Surveyors' Association of Washington (LSAW) Liaison:**

Tom Barger had nothing to report at this time but reminded everyone of the LSAW Conference Feb 28 - Mar 1.

DNR Reports

Public Land Survey Office

- **02A Account**

Pat Beehler reported:

- FY 2024, through December 2023, PLSO is ahead of budget by \$15,780, or \$2,630 per month.
- Revenue \$85,400 per month, expenses only from PLSO have been figured in but the DNR management split has not yet figured in, which will be perhaps 20-25%
- As of January 1st, the 02A account fund balance was \$440,370.
- **See attachment 1** report for details.

- **Record Indexes**

Dennis Studeman reported that since the October 26 the PLSO added the following quantities of indexes into WebXtender:

- 6289 Total Indexes
- 3064 Current Surveys
- 2903 Historic Surveys

- **Donated Records**

David Icenhower reported:

- Record collections waiting to be donated:
 - Larry Signani - WH Pacific, Bothell

- Larry is assessing information.
- Richard Norris (collection of others) – Shelton
 - Ann plans to pick up collection on February 2nd.
- DNR Northeast Region (collections of Thomas Carlson and Wes Thomas) – Colville
 - Date of pick up to be determined.

- **Outreach/Training**
 - News and information sent via Mail Chimp
 - NGS Webinar Series:
 - a. Redefinition of American Vertical-Datum
 - b. NOAA’s SatBathy Tool for Automating Satellite Derived Bathymetry
 - Notice of Rulemaking: Proposed Amendments to WAC 332-120
 - Notice of Rulemaking: Proposed Amendments to WAC 332-130

- **Coming up**
 - WSACA – Recorder’s Webinar, February 14th. David and Dennis will make a 40-minute presentation.
 - LSAW Conference, February 28th – March 1st
 - David is planning to present on the PLSO.
 - Dennis and Ann will staff a booth and answer questions.
 - Paul Galli and Bob Morse to present on the Survey Advisory Board Update

Active Items

- **Update of GPS Guidebook 2004**

- Gavin Schrock gave an overview of the committee's work thus far.
 - Old book was geared toward static GPS with limited signals, but today, we have many satellites with numerous signals.
 - They are adding Real-Time modern procedures.
 - They are trying to not make it too technically deep and making it applicable to a wide audience of users.
 - Will have recommended field procedures for various precision levels.
- Bob Morse asked for GNSS user scenarios be sent to him as a point person and he can forward them to the committee.
- **Low distortion projections (LDP)**
 - Gavin Schrock discussed the options for low distortion projections in Washington State.
 - The State currently has two zones.
 - Do we want to keep just two zones or have additional zones with lower distortion?
 - With LDP one does not need to convert ground-to-grid because the distortion is very low, but we may need about 40 zones.
 - We need to tell NGS if we want more zones to keep our foot in the door.
 - The State could hire a consultant to define LDP zones.
 - Gavin asked if the SAB would want to champion this endeavor and pass a funding hat to enable the hiring of a consultant.
 - Pat Beehler said that the DNR does not have money for this, but it could be a possibility if new funding legislation would be passed.
 - Gavin asked if the DNR would be opposed to LDPs, funding notwithstanding and would the DNR be the pass through for this project.
 - Pat stated that the DNR would not be opposed and that the DNR could

be the pass through for a contract to hire a consultant.

- Gavin said that Seattle Public Utilities is willing to commit \$25,000 to the project, but more funds need to be found.
- Gary Letzring is on a committee of interested parties (LDP Working Group) and will give periodic updates to the SAB.

- **Outreach Concerning Monument Destruction**

- Paul Galli reported that the Board of Registration (BRPELS) printed an article written by himself on a “best practices” for monument perpetuation. The article was directed at Engineers because they are typically project managers for projects that often destroy monuments.
- Paul also reported that he has experimented with setting 5’-tall Carsonite markers that contain a warning to protect nearby monuments and shows his phone number. He believes that this has helped to reduce the number of accidental cases of monument destruction. It costs about \$30-\$35 dollars each.
- Tom Barger reported that a call to the 811 system triggers the City of Seattle to paint underground utility locations (on the surface), but the other utilities will not mark the ground unless there is digging to be performed.
- Ken Swindaman reported that the utility locate purveyors in several of the larger cities are against locating for design purposes.
- Paul believes that we need to have a State-wide GIS of monuments.

- **NSPS Model Survey Law**

- It’s just a suggestion of elements to consider in a law.
- Pat reported that an ad-hoc committee within NSPS was attempting to create a law that is congruent with their way of thinking for adoption by NCEES as a model law. The NSPS rejected this proposal.

- **Discussion on proposed revisions to Permit and Application to Remove or Destroy a**

Survey Monument

- David Icenhower discussed proposed changes to the Permit and Application to Remove or Destroy a Survey Monument and Completion forms.
 - The option of having an engineer sign the Application form will be removed in order to be consistent with the proposed amendment to WAC 332-120 which eliminates the ability of an engineer to sign.
 - Proposed only one monument per permit. There was opposition expressed from several SAB members. Pat pointed out that WAC 332-120-050(3) specifically allows multiple monuments to be permitted on one application.
 - Washington Plane Coordinates – only need to be to “search level” accuracy, but no more variances will be granted for not showing WPC as RCW 58.24.040 does not allow for a variance.
 - The new forms will have one-inch margins to allow for them to be recorded as an option.
- **WAC 332-120 proposed amendments**
 - Pat stated that the intent of the new proposed amendment is to eliminate engineers from being authorized to stamp/sign Monument Removal or Destruction Permits; only Professional Land Surveyors should stamp/sign Monument Removal or Destruction Permits and set monuments.
- **WAC 332-130-080 proposed amendments**
 - Pat stated that the proposed amendment clarifies the relative accuracy requirement and the notation that should be made.

Future Meetings

- April 25, 2024 – at PLSO
- July 25, 2024 – location to be determined.
- October 24, 2024 – location to be determined.

Adjournment

- Gary Letzring adjourned the meeting at about 11:30 a.m.