

ALASKA AELS BOARD

August 2005

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*Board of Registration for Architects,
Engineers, and Land Surveyors*

PO Box 110806

Juneau, AK 99811

Phone: (907) 465-1676; 465-2540; 465-2691

Fax: (907) 465-2974

BOARD STAFF:

Ginger Morton

Executive Administrator

ginger_morton@commerce.state.ak.us

(907) 465-1676

VACANT

Licensing Examiner

@commerce.state.ak.us

(907) 465-2540

Eleanor Vinson

Licensing Examiner

eleanor_vinson@commerce

(907) 465-2691

AELS Quarterly Board Meeting

The Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) held a quarterly board meeting on August 18-19, 2005 in Anchorage.

Board members in attendance were: Kenneth Maynard, Chair; Craig Fredeen, Vice-Chair; Clifford Baker, Boyd Brownfield, Robert Gilfilian, Richard Heieren, Harley Hightower, Richard Hughes and Mark Morris, Secretary.

Participating by teleconference for portions of the meeting were:

Richard Urion, Director,
Occupational Licensing

David Brower, Department of Law

Jennifer Strickler, Chief,
Occupational Licensing.

AELS Staff in attendance was:

Ginger Morton, Administrator

Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

John Clark, Investigator

George Weaver, Investigator.

Some highlights of the meeting:

Disciplinary Actions Taken

There were no formal disciplinary actions taken at this meeting.

Proposed Regulation Changes

The board approved the following draft regulations for public notice:

- 1) Mandatory continuing education for Land Surveyors based on NCEES Guidelines;

- 2) Landscape Architect mentoring program to enable interns to obtain work experience under a registered landscape architect;
- 3) Recognize the name of the national exams for land surveyors: change 'Fundamentals of Land Surveying' and 'Professional Land Surveying' to 'Fundamentals of Surveying' and 'Professional Surveying Examination', respectively.
- 4) Adopt "inclusions and exclusions of the practice of surveying" in order to recognize changes made by the national organization (NCEES) to recognize GIS and Photogrammetrists, with respect to surveying
- 5) Add geological engineering to the list of engineering disciplines it licenses, as well as provide specific language to allow engineers to provide work so long as it is done under the scope of practice of another Alaska engineering discipline.
- 6) Changes to 12 AAC 36.067 Date of Experience, to allow work experience up to 2 months (60 days) to count towards experience for engineer and surveyor exams.
- 7) Repeal 12 AAC 36.135(5), which required firms to provide a copy of its certificate from the Division of Banking, Securities and Corporations, as board staff can obtain this information from the Division's web site.

Subgroups

Engineering Disciplines/Incidental Practice Subgroup

Maynard, Chair, with members Baker and Brownfield. The board has moved forward with public noticing regulations for the registration of geological engineers, but is holding off on control systems and environmental engineering until additional research is done on the general license issue. The board continues to discuss non-discipline specific engineering. Issues regarding general licensure are enforcement, examination, administrative costs (this would require a complete rewrite of the board's statutes and regulations), board make-up, and how to keep the public informed about who is qualified to provide specific types of engineering services.

The subgroup is currently researching the overlap between architects and engineers; engineers and landscape architects; surveyors and engineers and surveyors and landscape architects.

Continuing Education (CE) Subgroup

Brownfield, Fredeen and Heieren. During the board's last two sunset reviews Legislative Audit has recommended the board develop a mandatory program for continuing education as a condition of license renewal.

The board is moving forward with Phase II of this project, which is to begin drafting proposed regulations for a state sanctioned mandatory continuing education program for architects and engineers.

The Board will continue to solicit input from professional groups.

Disciplinary Action Subgroup

Morris and Hightower charged to review follow-up to disciplinary actions taken.

Fire Protection Subgroup

Fredeen, Chair, and one AELS member, Morris. Remaining subgroup with industry representation and Fire

Marshal representative to be selected by the Chair. Subgroup will make recommendations for legislative changes to ensure the current system, which seems to work well in Alaska, is supported by statute.

Two additional subgroups were added:

Courtesy License Subgroup

Hightower, Gilfilian and Hughes. The board reviewed proposed regulations to allow for issuance of a courtesy license to nonresident registered professionals for limited purposes. The board will also be creating a checklist adopted by reference in regulation that would allow board staff to approve and issue the courtesy license, as time would be of the essence in most of the instances for which the courtesy license would be issued. The circumstances under which a courtesy license might be issued would be for expert testimony in a courtroom setting and natural catastrophes such as an earthquake, for the purposes of studying the catastrophic condition and making recommendations on remediation.

Proposed Legislative Changes Subgroup

Maynard, Brownfield, Morris. This subgroup is tasked with researching and proposing legislative changes for the following:

- Statutory language requiring all new buildings, structures and systems not specifically exempt under AS 08.48.331 constructed in Alaska be designed by the appropriate architect, engineer and landscape architect registered in Alaska.
- Stop work orders, giving the board's investigator the authority to shut down construction using unregistered and nonexempt architects, engineers, land surveyors or landscape architects.
- Registration exemption for fire protection technicians in AS 08.48.331.

- Changing the name of the board and land surveyors to "surveyors", recognizing that the profession of surveying encompasses much more than land.
- Statutory language to require that residences over a certain height or exceeding a certain square footage be designed by registered design professionals.
- Law to give the board authority to hold ex-board members in emeritus status, enabling them to continue to serve on national committees.

What's New

Masters Degree for Engineering Registration

The National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) has asked state boards for support of its recommendation to require a masters level degree in order to qualify for registration as an engineer.

At its August meeting the board adopted a position paper written by Fredeen stating that Alaska will not support the masters level recommendation.

Executive Administrator Retires

Executive Administrator, Nancy Hemenway, has retired from state service. Ginger Morton, a former licensing examiner for the AELS Board, has been appointed as her successor effective August 1, 2005.

Other Updates

The Board met with the Division Director, Rick Urion and discussed:

- Turning over administration of all licensing examinations to the NCEES (ELSES program). The board is researching the feasibility of UAF staff administering the FE exam to UAF engineering students.
- The Director indicated renewal fees would likely increase for the 2006-2007 renewal period but is uncertain of the exact amount of the increase until additional budgetary research is finalized.

Richard Heieren is the Western Federation delegate for the Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS).

Applicant Files Reviewed

The Board reviewed 74 applicant files: the Board approved 72 applicant files for examination or comity licensure for architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects. The Board found 2 applications incomplete. The board approved 47 applicants for the FE exam.

AELS Deadlines

All applications for comity and any supporting documents are due in the *Juneau office* no later than **November 7, 2005** to be considered at the next AELS meeting scheduled for November 17-18. The meeting will be held in Anchorage at the Atwood Building, 550 West 7th, Room 1270.

October NCEES exams:

The Board's staff will oversee engineering and surveying examinations on October 28-29, 2005, in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

The application deadline for the PE, PLS, FE and FLS was August 1, 2005. The deadline for NCEES exam retakes is Sept. 12, 2005.

April NCEES exams:

All applications for PE, PLS, FE, FLS and AKLS and any supporting documents are due in the *Juneau office* no later than January 23, 2006. The spring exams will be administered April 21-22, 2006 in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. Application deadline for exam retakes is receipt in the *Juneau office* no later than March 7, 2006.

Regional and National Participation

Robert Gilfilian volunteers on a national NCEES Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers.

Kenneth Maynard, FAIA, serves on the ARE Construction Document Subcommittee.

Staff Reports

Board Chair, Ken Maynard, reported on his attendance at the NCARB Annual Meeting in June 2005, in Miami, Florida

Investigator's Report

John Clark, Occupational Licensing Investigator for the AELS Board, reported the status on the investigative cases and actions. The report is located on the AELS website at:

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ/pael21.htm>

Building Officials Manual

The Building Official's Manual is posted to the AELS Website at <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ/pael.htm>. The Board considers it to be a working document, and welcomes your comments.

Interested Parties List

To sign up to receive proposed regulations affecting architects, engineers, land surveyors and landscape architects that are public noticed by the division, please contact:

Jun Maiquis, Regulations Specialist,
Division of Occupational Licensing, Dept.
of Commerce, P.O. Box 110806,
Juneau, AK 99811-0806, or by email:

jun_maiquis@commerce.state.ak.us