

ALASKA AELS BOARD

August 2001

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Quarterly Board Meeting

The AELS Board held its quarterly board meeting in Anchorage on August 23-24, 2001 at the Atwood Building, Rm. 1270. Board members in attendance were: Robert Miller, Chair, Daphne Brown, Linda Cyra-Korsgaard, Marcia Davis, Kathy Gardner, Secretary, Donald Iverson, Pat Kalen, Scott McLane, Lance Mearig, Patricia Peirsol, and Ernie Siemoneit. Excused for part of the meeting were: Linda Cyra-Korsgaard, and Kathy Gardner. Some highlights of the meeting:

Subgroups

The AELS Board worked informally in subgroups for an hour. to discuss:

- 1) Landscape Architecture Practice
- 2) Incidental Practice
- 3) Legislation and Regulations

Subgroups may continue work between meetings. Any suggestions subgroups have will be made to the entire Board at subsequent meetings.

The AELS Board decided to take up other subgroups at their November meeting:

- 1) Incidental Practice
- 2) Legislation and Regulations
- 3) Building Officials Manual

Public Comment

Scott Sandlin, AIA-AK discussed the draft proposal for Architect by Comity regulation changes (12 AAC 36.103) and clarified the AIA-Alaska Chapter's original proposal.

Under AIA-Alaska proposal, Architects registered in another jurisdiction would apply and submit

evidence of 6 years responsible charge experience under the direct supervision of a registered architect (of which 4 years was completed on projects in Alaska), in lieu of holding an NCARB Blue Book Council record. Additionally, applicants would have no disciplinary action against them for the previous 4 years.

Regulations Project

The AELS Board adopted regulations public noticed on June 29th, 2001 with public comment ending on August 7th:

- 1) Update the reference to the architect's education standard publication (12 AAC 36.050);
- 2) Change the deadline for Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) to correspond with current AELS comity application deadlines (12 AAC 36.010);
- 3) Revise the lapsed license regulation. Under current regulations, licensees whose license lapses for five or more years expires and they could be required to re-test. The board decided that in most cases re-testing is probably not necessary, but the board retains the right to review each case, and revised the regulation to contain a provision for retesting for those applicants that have been sanctioned in other (12 AAC 36.165);
- 4) Revise the PLS Examination requirements by deleting "or related engineering sciences" from the board approved degrees it will accept (12 AAC 36.065) (a)(2)(A));
- 5) Revise the seal authorized for use to include a substantially similar digitized seal that will be available for downloading on the website (12 AAC 36.180);

- 6) Allow for disciplinary sanctions if another jurisdiction has disciplined an Alaskan registrant (12 AAC 36.320).

Other Regulations Projects

The Division of Occupational Licensing will **public notice** and take public comment on proposed regulations the board considered.

These matters will be on the November agenda, the Board will consider public comment, and decide if the regulations will be adopted in these three areas:

Projects to be Public Noticed

1. Architect by Comity

(12 AAC 36.103):

The AELS board considered a proposal made by AIA-AK at its May meeting, discussed again and further revised the proposed regulations at this meeting, to require Architect by comity applicants to: hold a minimum BA or BS accredited degree (in any major), have 10 years experience subsequent to licensing (none required in Alaska), and have had no disciplinary action. The board desires feedback from the public about creating an alternative path to licensure for those comity applicants who are unable to easily obtain an NCARB Council certificate (Blue Book) because they do not meet the NCARB educational standards (typically, a professional architecture degree), which is currently required.

2. Non-Discipline Specific Engineering License

(12 AAC 36.063)

Revise the discipline specific engineering license to a non-discipline specific engineering license. The Board would issue a general "professional engineering license" and track the specialty in its database. Instead of offering the 6 disciplines currently offered, all disciplines NCEES offers exams for would be available as a specialty (such as Fire Protection and Environmental Engineering);

3. Landscape Architect practice defined (12 AAC 36.069)

AS 08.48.331 (b) sets out the exemption for landscape

architects. The Board was left to determine what aspects of landscape architecture affect public health or safety. The Board took steps in making this determination and started a draft regulations project to define the aspects of landscape architecture that require a registered landscape architect.

The Board will take public comment, post an interim policy on its website, and develop a set of FAQs to be inserted in its revised Building Officials Manual, expected to be completed by its spring meeting.

Regulation Projects Held over to November:

The AELS Board held over to its November meeting draft regulations that would:

Develop a Continuing Education Program for all professions (phased in during the 2003 renewal, or later) based on a proposal prepared by the professional land surveyor society (ASPLS);

The Board will continue work to consider revising the Engineer for Comity requirements for Canadian Engineering Reciprocity to accept work experience under other than a U.S. engineer.

Other regulation issues:

The Board discussed the edits to 12 AAC 36.105, Engineer by Comity, and will ask the Regulations Attorney to revisit the editing for a correction. The NCEES council record stamped 'model law engineer' is accepted in lieu of education and experience, but not only to document exams for the six disciplines we currently register.

In conjunction with ASPLS, the Land Surveyor board members are working to develop a minimum standard of care by a land surveyor for the location of improvements within property boundaries, to present to the bill sponsors of HB 227/SB 212.

What's New

Scheduling letters for the upcoming NCEES exams to be held on October 26-27, 2001 will be mailed to candidates about a month from the exams.

The AELS Board staff received LARE scores for Landscape Architect Exams and two additional Landscape Architects were licensed.

The AELS Board has asked that the Interim Policy for Landscape Architects be posted to the website and that should be posted in October.

Other Updates

The Board heard an update from the Division Director on the on-line renewal project anticipated to be completed for the upcoming December 31, 2001 biennial renewal cycle. Applicants would be mailed a renewal form in early November and could choose to use a PIN and credit card to submit on-line. Once authorized they could print their own license.

Board Autonomy Kathy Gardner reported she will continue to research estimated costs for board autonomy.

Occupational Licensing Director Catherine Reardon reported that AELS fees would remain unchanged for the upcoming renewal cycle (\$195), and discussed direct and indirect costs.

She reviewed staff changes, including the conversion of a half-time clerk to a full-time licensing examiner.

Host Conferences:

The AELS Board has had good participation by Board members at its national and regional conferences due to budget increments for travel. This has helped to bring the NCARB Region 6 conference to Alaska in May 2003, and the NCEES Annual meeting to Anchorage in August 2005.

Applicant Files Reviewed

The board reviewed 116 applicants' files for examination or comity licensure for architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects and approved 108 for comity licensure or

examination, and denied 8 applicants for FLS or PLS exams.

AELS Deadlines

The retake deadline for the upcoming October NCEES examinations was September 11, 2001.

All applications for comity and any supporting documents are due in the Juneau office no later than November 5 to be considered at the next AELS meeting scheduled for the November 15-16th, 2001 board meeting.

Staff Reports

Investigator's Report

John Clark, Occupational Licensing Investigator for the AELS Board, reported status on the investigative cases and actions at the May board meeting (see attachment A)

Board Administrator's Report

The Executive Administrator report is attached (see attachment B)