



Survey Committee Meeting Report

October 15, 2025 | 11:15 a.m.

Virtually via Microsoft Teams & In Person:

Washinton State University
Sloan Hall, Room 146
405 NE Spokane St
Pullman, WA 99163

Committee:

Matt Rasmussen, PE, PLS, Chair (*MS Teams*)
David Peden, PE, SE
Jon Warren, PLS (*Excused Absence*)

Support staff:

Ken Fuller, PE, Director
Kristina Horton, PLS, Deputy Director
Shanan Gillespie, Regulatory Program Manager (*MS Teams*)
Mackenzie Wherrett, Executive Assistant (*MS Teams*)
Bryce Dickison, Administrative Assistant
Vonna Cramer, Licensing Lead (*MS Teams*)
Kevin Ballard, Internal Control Manager
Jill Short, Investigations & Compliance Manager (*MS Teams*)
Randy Garcia, Investigations & Compliance Manager (*MS Teams*)
Elizabeth Lagerberg, AAG (*MS Teams*)

Guests:

Marjorie Lund, PE, SE
Jim Wengler, PLS (*MS Teams*)
David Icenhower, PLS (*MS Teams*)
Aaron Blaisdell, PLS (*MS Teams*)
Tony Chenier, PLS (*MS Teams*)
Paul Galli, PLS (*MS Teams*)

Discussion topics

- DNR Rule Change on Legal Descriptions

Mr. Rasmussen introduced the discussion around the DNR rule change requiring both the legal descriptions and reference to be included in a record of survey.

Mr. Wengler commented that the previous WAC change occurred in 1989 to include a reference and prior to, did not have a requirement for reference only for the legal description. Mr. Wengler believes it should be an option for the PLS to add the reference or the legal description.

Mr. Blaisdell added that some PLS consider adding a legal description rather than the reference adds potential for misinterpretation of the record of survey. The committee discussed whether the change was realistic for larger projects with a lengthy legal description. These concerns were not brought to DNR's attention during the CR102 process. A small business economic impact statement should have been completed for these changes as having to put the full legal description on the ROS may be burdensome.

Ms. Horton recommended writing to Mr. Pat Beehler, PLS, of DNR with a summary of the committee's discussion to ask for his interpretation and how this might be enforced by the Board. The board will be affected by the change and further discussion needs to be addressed directly with DNR for more information.

Action Item: Ms. Horton and Mr. Rasmussen to reach out to Pat Beehler, PLS, with DNR for more information about the DNR rule change on legal descriptions.

- **New PLSS NCEES Exam Impact**

The committee discussed what steps should happen leading up to a decision whether the new NCEES PLS examination adequately meets requirements for Washington State and what it means for the state exam. October 2027 will be the first administration of the new NCEES PLS exam format.

After reviewing the new NCEES PLSS exam blueprints, it may present an opportunity to eliminate the state PLS exam. Additionally, the board may find it appropriate to turn the state exam into a take-home exam. Whatever decision is made by the Board must not create a barrier to licensure. No WAC changes would be required.

Action Item: Ms. Horton and Mr. Fuller will put a project scope, schedule, and budget with resources together for the committee to consider, with LSAW involvement and SME recommendations before the next committee meeting.

Action Items

- Ms. Horton and Mr. Rasmussen to reach out to Pat Beehler with DNR for more information about the DNR rule change on legal descriptions.
- Ms. Horton and Mr. Fuller will put a project scope, schedule, and budget with resources together for the committee to consider, with LSAW involvement and SME recommendations before the next committee meeting.
- The PLSS NCEES Exam changes will be a new business item at the December Special Board Meeting.