



State of Washington
Board of Registration for
Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors

Survey Committee

February 22, 2023

3:15 p.m.

Vancouver, WA (in-person) & Teams Meeting (virtual)

In person:

The Heathman Lodge
Chief Comcomly Room
7801 NE Greenwood Dr
Vancouver, WA 98662

Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Committee: James Wengler, PLS, Chair
Aaron Blaisdell, PLS

Member Excused: Marjorie Lund, PE, SE

Support staff: Rich Larson, PLS, Deputy Director
Shanan Gillespie, Regulatory Program Manager
Mackenzie Wherrett, Executive Assistant
Greg Schieferstein, Communication & Outreach Manager
Jill Short, Investigations & Compliance Manager
Vonna Cramer, Licensing Lead
Elizabeth Lagerberg, AAG Advisor

Guests: Tom Barger, PLS
Paul Galli, PLS

Discussion topics

- Feedback regarding response to DNR letter: Recording monument replacement
Mr. Wengler asked Mr. Galli if the DNR Survey Advisory Board had comments. Mr. Galli said it was being discussed and they are still in discussions about it.

Mr. Wengler said that this letter was a topic of discussion at the LSAW conference. There was and will be more discussion at the LSAW Board of Director's meeting in May. This is partly because of the new membership and chapter leadership within LSAW.

Mr. Blaisdell requested that staff put the letter on the Board's website.

- NCEES EPS division exams

Mr. Blaisdell discussed how the EPS committee determined the division exams. He informed the committee that the NCEES EPS committee may be recommending that there not be individual divisions as previously discussed but have an exam like the current PLS exam and pulling out the public land survey system (PLSS) questions. With pulling those PLSS questions out for a separate exam, there may be a PLSS division exam that will have 80 questions, including 20 pre-test questions. This is preliminary and no decision has been reached. It will be discussed at the Western Zone meeting in April and could be recommended at the NCEES Annual Meeting in August.

A discussion regarding how this would affect the WA State specific LS exam was held. If there was a separate PLSS division exam, we would have to look at the state specific exam and potentially remove the PLSS questions.

- Review WAC 196-29 *Professional Practices*

Mr. Wengler recommended that the Survey Committee meet with DNR Survey Advisory Board to discuss amendments to this WAC, and staff to set up the meeting.

- Discussion regarding Field Note retention

Mr. Wengler discussed that there is a statement on the survey that certifies that certain standards must be met. Mr. Blaisdell stated in WAC 196-27A does state that registrants shall cooperate with the board by providing, in a timely manner, all records and information requested in writing by the board, or their designees. But there is nothing that states those notes and/or calculations must be kept after a survey is filed. If a survey must meet a certain standard, there should be a statement on the survey reporting what they achieved and how it was done. Could there be a requirement to include meta data? Mr. Blaisdell stated that there should be a retention of information as part of the survey process – how you carried out the process and should be included in WAC 196-29.

The committee requested that Ms. Lagerberg investigate if there are retention requirements.

Mr. Wengler, Mr. Blaisdell, and Mr. Larson to meet with DNR SAB to discuss the reporting requirements in WAC 332-130-110.

- Discussion: what is a site plan?

Mr. Wengler informed the committee that there is a recent case out of California regarding site plans and unlicensed surveying. He will be forwarding that decision to Ms. Lagerberg, Mr. Galli, Mr. Barger and staff.

The Board has been receiving questions on what a site plan is and who can create them. The committee determined that this subject needs more research and requested Ms. Lagerberg perform the research and bring it back to the committee to discuss at the next meeting.

- SME process for LS exam

A PLS SME workshop was held February 2-3, 2023, and all draft questions were reviewed. Staff is adding the approved questions to the current item bank.

Ms. Cramer reported that she and Ms. Wherrett met with a psychometrician. They discussed steps in the exam writing process, including how to write questions. They also discussed a possible Job Task Analysis, to be performed at a later date.

The committee provided direction to Ms. Cramer about the next steps that need to be done to provide the committee and SMEs with data to determine whether the anghoff score(s) need to be adjusted, as well as looking at exam question performance to see what questions may need to be replaced.

Strategic Planning Items

- Determine the pathways to state specific PLS exam
- Work with DNR on the Survey Recording Act and associated WACs to determine our regulatory direction for “intelligent interpretation” and other items

Action items:

1. Staff to put the monument replacement response letter on the Board’s website.
2. Survey Committee to meet with DNR Survey Advisory Board to discuss amendments to WAC 196-29, and staff to set up the meeting.
3. Ms. Lagerberg to investigate if there are retention requirements.
4. Mr. Wengler, Mr. Blasidell, and Mr. Larson to meet with DNR SAB to discuss the reporting requirements in WAC 332-130-110.
5. Ms. Lagerberg to perform research regarding records retention (field notes) and bring it back to the committee to discuss at the next meeting
6. Ms. Cramer to provide the committee and SMEs with data to determine whether the anghoff score(s) need to be adjusted, as well as looking at exam question performance to see what questions may need to be replaced.