

Survey Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

City of Bremerton Mayor's conference room,
6th Floor of the Norm Dicks Government Center (NDGC),
345 6th Street, Bremerton

SAB Members Physically Present:

Gary Letzring, PLS, SAB Chair – **Urban Surveying**

Bob Morse, PLS – **Education**

Gunnar Fridriksson, PE-PLS, Chair – **Multi-Discipline**

SAB Members Present Via Teams:

Paul Galli, PLS – **Government**

PLSO/DNR Staff Physically Present:

Pat Beehler, PLS – DNR Survey Manager

Dennis Studeman – PLSO Staff

Liaisons Physically Present:

Kim Eisenbacher – WSACA (Pierce County Auditor)

Casey Kaul – Auditor Recorders (Pierce County Auditor)

Liaisons Present Via Teams:

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

Guests Present Via Teams:

Kris Horton, PLS – Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BRPELS)

Bruce Dodds, PE/PLS – Former SAB member (Multi-Discipline)

Ken Swindaman, PLS – Kitsap County

Tamara King, PLS – Snohomish County

Selva Lukatah (LSIT) – WSDOT

Matt Walck – DNR/PLSO

Alex Sellman, PLS – Retired

Vince Brown, PLS – WSDOT

Mark Lensegrav, LSIT – WSDOT

Call to Order

- Chair 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 July 27, 2023, meeting minutes.** The minutes were approved as published.
- **Monument Removal/Destruction Permits and Records update:**

Dennis Studeman reported that since the July 27 meeting:

- Received **66** LCRs (57 in previous period)
- Processed **121** Permits to Remove or Destroy a Monument (302 in previous period)
- Processed **125** Completion Reports (99 in previous period)
- 5,300 total indexes added to WebXtender
- **PDH Program** – Dennis Studeman reported no changes at this time.
- **Report from Auditor’s Recording Liaison from Washington State Association of County Auditor’s (WSACA) to SAB:**

Casey Kaul reported:

- Dennis Studeman of the PLSO made a presentation at the County Auditor’s Association conference in September. Kris Horton of BRPELS also attended.
- An additional \$100 will be added to survey recordings on January 1, 2024.
- Vicky Dalton, WSACA Chairperson, is seeing many out of state surveyors not meeting recording standards. She requested help from BRPELS to remind surveyors of these standards.
- **SAB Liaison to WSACA:**

Gary Letzring reported:

- Casey is looking for a speaker to talk on Boundary Line Adjustments and Boundary Line Agreements at an Auditors’ meeting in 2024.
- Vicky Dalton, WSACA Chairperson, is seeing many out of state surveyors not meeting recording standards. She requested help from BRPELS to remind

surveyors of these standards.

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

Tom Barger reported:

- There was much consternation at the North Puget Sound Chapter meeting and the Board of Directors meeting concerning the proposed amendments to WAC 332-120 and WAC 332-130.
- Tom is working with Ken Swindaman to create a pamphlet on monument preservation to disseminate to contractors through the "one call" utility locates system.

- **Report from Washington Council of County Surveyors (WCCS) Liaison:**

Pat Beehler reported:

- There is \$30,000+/- in the bank, but the group seems dormant at this time.
- The Council would need to vote to change the by-laws to become the Washington Council of Government Surveyors.

- **Update of GPS Guidebook 2004:**

Bob Morse reported:

- Work on the guidebook is in progress.
- A draft version may be available soon for a select audience.

DNR Reports

Public Land Survey Office

- **02A Account**

Pat Beehler reported:

- PLSO current balance is \$368,406, but administrative charges are taken from the account at a variable rate each month.
- We have seen a bump in income in September due to the survey recording fee

increase, although, recording levels are down statewide.

- **See attachment 1** report for details.

- **Donated Records:**

Dennis Studeman reported:

- The field books donation received from the City of Bremerton have been scanned and sent to Archives.
- We received records from the Chehalis DNR survey office.
- Records waiting in the wings:
 - Ann Alves is still in touch with the Rich Norris family regarding his collection.
 - David was contacted by Sid Bechtel, PLS regarding records of Roger Lovitz and Carl McMillan.
 - Larry Signani may have some WH Pacific records available.
 - Paul Galli may have a line on some Eric Feezy (sp?) records.

- **Outreach/Training**

- News and information sent via Mail Chimp
 - NGS Webinar Series:
 - a. NSRS Modernization News
 - b. New CORS Station Webpages: Public Feedback Forum
 - c. New NGS Research Plan
 - Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to WAC 332-120-060/-070 and WAC 332-130-080
- DNR held Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to WAC 332-120-060/-070 and WAC 332-130-080 in August
- County Recorders Conference
 - Dennis presented to the County Recorders Conference in September on survey recording issues.

Active Items

- **Monument Preservation.**

- Paul Galli reported that he is working on a “best practices” article to be published in the Board Journal.
- Tom Barger mentioned again the idea of producing a brochure to help educate contractors and homeowners through the 811 program.
- **WAC 332-120 proposed amendments**
 - Pat stated that the intent of the new proposed amendment is to eliminate engineers from being able to stamp/sign Monument Removal or Destruction Permits; only Professional Land Surveyors should stamp/sign Monument Removal or Destruction Permits, and set monuments.
 - Discussion took place regarding the roles of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors.
 - Paul Galli suggested that we should attempt to obtain an official opinion from the DNR Assistant Attorney General (AAG) and the BRPELS AAG.
- **WAC 332-130 proposed amendments**
 - Pat stated that the proposal introduced recently was a hot issue within the profession. The proposal was tabled for now.

New Items

- **LSAW Conference speakers**

Gary Letzring reported:

- Crissy (LSAW management) is still seeking speakers for the March 2024 LSAW conference at Tulalip.
- Discussion took place regarding GPS and Washington Plane Coordinate System

Old Items

- None

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- Discussion took place regarding miss-filed maps and if there is a universal method of informing recording offices across the state of these types of errors.
- Discussion took place regarding people using hand-held GPS units, or smart-phone apps, to determine their boundaries and companies who claim to provide boundary surveys without leaving their office.

Future Meetings

- January 25, 2024 – location to be determined.
- April 18, 2024 – location to be determined.
- July 25, 2024 – location to be determined.
- October 24, 2024 – location to be determined.

Adjournment

- Gary Letzring adjourned the meeting at about 10:00 a.m.



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

02A Surveys & Maps Account – Fiscal Year 2024

As of September 30, 2023

Budget Performance (3 months)

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>
Budget:	\$217,263	\$72,421
Expense:	\$204,349	\$68,116
Variance:	\$12,914	\$4,305

Income & Expense (3 months)

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>
PLSO Revenue:	\$250,640	\$83,547
PLSO Expense:	\$204,349	\$68,116
DNR Admin Expense:	\$0	\$0
PLSO Revenue – Expense:	\$15,430	\$15,431

02A Fund Balance

As of Sept. 30, 2023: \$368,406