

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SURVEYORS, INC.
2008 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA
January 19, 2007

President Thomas C. Brooks, Sr., called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM. President Brooks, Sr. gave the Invocation, followed by leading the Association in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Secretary/Treasurer Chuck Dunlap as for a show of hands from the voting members present. After a count, it was determined that a quorum of thirty (30) members existed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the minutes of the 2007 General Membership meeting held January 20, 2007 at Williamsburg, VA.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda was revised to move the East Tennessee State University (ESTU) report to as close to the beginning of the meeting as possible because of the weather; and, with this change, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.

MEMORIALS:

There were no memorials presented.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LOBBYIST:

President Brooks introduced the new VAS Lobbyist, John G. "Chip" Dicks. Chip began his remarks by introducing his assistant, Roger Brown, noting that Roger has also worked in the past as a surveyor and real estate lawyer. He further noted that they know what we do, are happy to represent VAS in this capacity and hopes for a long relationship.

As for an overview of the current picture, Chip noted that there are budget shortfalls due to economic downturns and there has been a dip in the housing market. As a result, the Governor's is predicting slow economic growth, with a shortfall of \$200 million in the current budget and additional shortfalls in the 2009 and 2010 budget, with the potential of what will happen in the next two (2) years even more problematic, given campaign promises and their potential effect on the budget and the housing market. He noted that there have been bills entered that would:

- Provide for impact fees on the transfer of property
- Affect vested rights, even if use was legally established
- Provide that adequate facilities be in place before a building permit could be issued.
- New VDOT access rights.

Chip also highlighted several bills making their way through the legislative committees. A bill failed in committee that would have provided a public facility for the recycling of wastewater for uses other than drinking water. Another bill provides for the qualification of workers that are tasked with working on certain sewerage and septic systems and components. Another bill would allow for flexibility in the ownership of business professionals, owners and corporations needing a licensed licensee which would change the rules to allow, if you have a business entity and you are a LLC, you can operate your company so long as at least one (1) is a licensee. Another bill would prohibit the location of cemetery can't be relocated in a tree conservation or wetlands areas.

Two other bills important to surveys will provide the ability to go online and view every land record from 1935 forward; and, the allow electronically notarized documents as of July 1, 2008. The land record access would be unlimited access, with every County Clerk of the Court having this service available in 2008; however, the Clerk's are authorized to charge a fee for this service. It was further noted that, for security reasons, the Social Security Numbers will be removed. (In response, several members noted that this service is already available in a number of jurisdictions; however, those practicing in multiple jurisdictions expressed some concern that the cost of the service could be expensive if every jurisdiction charges the maximum fee.)

OUT OF STATE GUESTS REPORTS:

MARYLAND – James Whitehead, President of the Maryland Society of Surveyors. Jim remarked that Maryland has similar issues with Virginia, such as legislative issues and photogrammetry. He also noted that continuing education have already adopted, is up and running and, in his opinion, is worth it. He further noted that the Maryland Society is supporting Trig Star program; and, they are working to register the Certified Survey Technician (CST) people. Lastly, he noted that Maryland already has deeds and plats available online.

NORTH CAROLINA – Brian Souva, Past President of the North Carolina Society of Surveyors.

Brian noted that they have been dealing with government seals on final plats. He also noted that the NC Society offices will be moving into the same building with architects and professional engineers associations. The NC convention will be held February 7 thru 9, 2008 in Ashville, NC. He further noted that they are working with Board of Examiners on a potential program to provide \$100,000 a year in scholarships. Lastly, he noted that they have completed their portion of the Appalachian Trail hike; and, they also have new Life Insurance Program for their members.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA – Michael Bazis, President of the District of Columbia Association of Surveyors (DCALS).

Mike offered congratulations to the plat contest winners, noting that he enjoyed judging the plat contest. He noted that they are the smallest state association with only 90 members; and, they are new state association, established in 2001. As for projects, they have established the high point in DC, with a national dedication to take place later this

year. They are working with the Maryland Society with CST program and have placed information on their website for applications and testing. They are also working with Board of Regulation and the DC Surveyor's office for definitions of the profession.

NSPS AREA III DIRECTOR – Bill Coleman, NSPS Area III Director.

Bill noted that the annual Lobby day is the last Thursday in September, and that this program has been successful, asking all members to participate. He also noted that overall the NSPS membership is doing well and growing; and, they have approved a \$1 million dollar budget and are tracking legislation important to the profession. He also stated that the Trig Star program is one of their most recognized programs. They are also promoting the CST program. He reported that the next NSPS annual meeting will be March 4 thru 9, 2008 in Spokane, WA; and, next year's annual meeting will be in Salt Lake City in February 2009. Lastly, he noted that his term is ending and he thanked all of the members for their support as he served as their Director.

REPORTS:

ACSM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Curt Sumner, ACSM Executive Director.

Curt presented a verbal report wherein he noted that ACSM is working with all stakeholders on GIS licensing and procurement, since GIS impacts the public welfare; however, he believes that he doesn't think this will go anywhere. He noted that some local jurisdictions are accepting GIS over surveys. He further noted that there have been discussions with Fannie Mae on using the ALTA language when needed. On the legislative front, the nationwide database has been taken over by NGS and they are helping the government find a home for it. He also noted that the Congress is more adamant about pursuing new maps. They are also looking at more control on grants to universities. In addition, ACSM is working to get surveyors added to the disaster relief bill, as engineers are already included on the list. He reported on a program to require railroad right of ways be established as part of the abandonment process, as the new Congress is more sympathetic, believing that it is an issue and public monumentation should be required. The National Surveyors Week bill is in both houses and has been set for the week beginning with the 3rd Sunday in March (March 18-24, 2008). He asked that ACSM be notified if procurement for professional surveying does not include professional services. He also noted that there is now a Merit Badge for Girl Scouts, and also for the 4-H clubs. The Skills USA survey competition in high school is available from ACSM at no cost. He again noted that survey equipment is being stolen on a regular basis; and, if you have had equipment stolen to please notify ACSM. ACSM is working with FEMA on accepting flood plain monumentation. On education, he noted that ACSM is the leading source of accreditation on the survey continuing education programs; and, with respect to schools in Virginia, VAS needs to help define what is needed to colleges.

VDOT LIASON – Mike Zmuda.

Mike presented a verbal report; and, the first topic was safety. Mike noted that safety is a primary issue, because highway workers are employed in the most dangerous work zones. Mike thanked VAS for all of the feedback on changes to the Land Use Permits process. He noted that there is a new version of the Road and Bridge Standards and Specifications available. He also noted that VDOT will be taking over right of monumentation. Lastly,

he noted that VDOT office has moved out of downtown Richmond.

APELSCIDLA BOARD (Survey Section) – Nancy E. McIntyre.

Nancy presented a verbal report wherein she noted that APELSCIDLA meetings are now posted on the Board website. The DPOR offices have also moved. The Board meeting schedules are also posted on the website, with the next meetings scheduled for February 20 and March 19, 2008. Nancy reminded everyone that they need to be using the new seals that became effective last year, as not to do so would be a violation. In response to several inquiries, she noted that stormwater management design is allowed to be performed by a 3B Surveyor; however, she further noted that dams are regulated under separate regulation, which, in turn, may require an engineer.

Regarding continuing education, the draft of the continuing education requirements was approved by the Board in September and to the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office for final review and approval. As proposed, the requirements will specify:

- 16 continuing education units (CEU) per 2-year licensing period
- 50 minutes equates to one (1) contact hour
- Program will be self-directed; it will be up to the licensee to determine whether or not the course is accredited
- Credit hours will not carry over from one licensing period to the next
- The licensee will need to keep records for 3 years

Nancy stated that there had been much discussion over the definition of continuing education, noting that they had argued over one paragraph for six month. She did note that the courses related to business practices and project management may not be given credit.

Lastly, she noted that the photogrammetry regulations will be coming soon; but, no date has been set yet. She noted that these regulations will include new topographic regulations.

The AUXILIARY of the VAS – Joyce G. Brooks.

Joyce gave a verbal report in which she noted the new Auxiliary incoming officers. She further noted that the silent auction raised \$2,803.00; and, the Auxiliary voted to donate \$500.00 to the John Foster School and \$500.00 to help the ETSU students defray their travel expenses.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORTS:

PRESIDENT - Thomas C. Brooks, Sr.

Tommy presented a verbal report where he thanked the VAS and its members for their support throughout the year. He noted that he had seen a lot of changes during the time I have been involved; and, there was a 12.8% increase in membership in the last year. He also thanked the Auxiliary and each of the Executive Officers for their reports.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - Doug Richmond.

Doug gave a verbal report, noting that he enjoyed planning the convention; and, he had gotten good feedback from the exhibitors. One item under consideration is that the

Presidents' reception may go back for Thursday night next year; and, he is waiting for feedback from the exhibitors on this item. He noted that the hotel was great. For 2008, he noted that he has formed two (2) new committees: The Geodetic Committee; and, the Certified Survey Technician (CST) Committee, noting that after talking to Chapter Presidents, he was getting a lot of positive feedback on the program. He also noted that he had meet with the new incoming Chapter presidents; and, the 2009 quarterly board meetings will be hosted by the following:

- Central Chapter - Spring BOD Meeting: April 17– 18 2009
- Peninsula Chapter - Summer BOD Meeting: June 26-27 2009
- Rappahannock Chapter - Fall BOD Meeting: September 18-19 2009

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - Tim Nash.

Tim gave a verbal report wherein he thanked membership for support and noted that he had great time working with Judy on putting together the Old Dominion Surveyor. Lastly, he stated that the 2009 Annual Convention will be held January 13 thru 18, 2009 at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, VA, adding that there will be information coming on the website.

SECRETARY/TREASURER - Charles F. Dunlap.

Chuck gave a verbal report wherein he thanked everyone for their help, especially Judy Hite and his administrative assistant, Christin Amdur; and, he was most appreciative of the written reports, which made his job much easier. He encourages everyone to keep you submitting the written reports to help Pete Moore in 2008.

NSPS GOVENOR - Steven P. Douty.

Steve gave a verbal report in which he noted that Fall VAS Board Meeting will be held in August at East Tennessee State University in conjunction with the NSPS area meeting and encouraged everyone to attend.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

University Liaisons:

Old Dominion University - Bruce Frederick. No Report

ETSU – Jerry Taylor.

Jerry gave a verbal report, during which time he thanked VAS for all of their support, noting that VAS has supported ETSU like no other association. He stated that there has been turnover at ETSU and they have new people. They have been working with the BSA on the surveying merit badge. Current enrollment in the surveying program is 75 students. Importantly, they have signed a “common market agreement” with Virginia and the surrounding states, allowing reduced tuition rates for students from those states, which in turn helps to produce new surveyors for those states.

VAS EDUCATION TRUST - Joe Coppedge.

Joe submitted a written report, which is attached as Appendix #1. Joe also that they had awarded nine (9) \$2,000 scholarships, noting that some of these scholarships have been

given to the sons of VAS members. He also reported that Gary Cooke had been appointed to a second term as a Trustee. He also reported that all of the raffle tickets had been sold.

VAS SURVEYORS FOUNDATION - Page Cockrell.

Page gave a verbal report in which he noted that the primary purpose of the Foundation is to raise money and issue scholarships; and, he noted that the scholarship application will put application online and available at the VAS website. Joe Coppedge, also representing the Board of Directors of the Museum of Surveying, asked VAS to provide the Museum Board with \$500.00 seed money. He noted that John Krobath is an alternate to the Board.

LEGISLATION - Fred Shanks.

Fred gave a verbal report that we had the opportunity to listen to Chip Dicks; and, the committee had been impressed with him after interviewing him in October. He noted that Chip will be sending out weekly updates. Fred noted that we had heard from Chip on several bills; and, Fred further reported on several additional bills of interest, all of which were described in more detail at the Board meeting held on January 17, 2007.

PAC - Fred Shanks.

Fred gave a verbal report, noting that we needed to continue to grow the fund. He also noted that contributions are not a deductible expense. Currently, there is approximately \$7,500.00 in the PAC account.

OLD BUSINESS:

RIGHT OF ENTRY, Steve Douty.

Steve noted that a seminar on trespass and the right of entry had been given Saturday morning. He further noted that he will provide a written report at the next Board meeting. He also requested that all issues with trespass please be reported to Judy, who is keeping a log. Mike Zmuda., the VDOT Liaison, also reported that VDOT is now required to do certified letter prior to entering private property; and, they have to wait 15 days after letter is sent before entering.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business brought before the Association.

NEXT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next annual meeting of the Association has been scheduled for January 18, 2009, in Roanoke, VA

A motion was made, seconded and passes to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNED AT: 5:35 PM