

PSLS - South Central Chapter
Meeting Minutes
for
May 27, 2009
held in
Gettysburg, PA
at the
Appalachian Brewing Company

Attendees: Dave Anderson, Paul Brinkman, Matt Tilmes, Zane Williams, Eric Gladhill, Brian Taylor, Ed McKay, Dennis Meckley, Ronald Garis, Brad Foltz, Tom Farcht

Speaker: Dave Reynolds, Right of Way Administrator, PA DOT District 8

Dave Anderson, Chapter President called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM. Dave briefly summed up our last chapter meeting held April 29, 2009 at the Black Horse Tavern, Shippensburg, where Ron Henry, of NorEast Mapping hosted and gave a presentation on photogrammetry.

Dave had the opportunity to attend the PSLs Board of Directors meeting in Harrisburg on May 15th and reported:

- The budget for 2009-2010 was reviewed in detail and he believes the Society did their best to curb costs and was fiscally responsible trying to deal with a \$480,000 deficit. Dues for 2009-2010 will be increased to \$175, as planned three years ago. However, two installment payments may be made of \$95 each, with a \$6 administrative fee, bringing the total to \$202. The financial crisis for PSLs is due to low attendance at the 2009 PSLs Conference. John Fuerher, chairman of the education committee has taken steps to reduce our expenses, while increasing time allotted for seminars for 2010.
- The Public Relations committee is creating a speakers bureau and plans to train speakers and give guidance in producing presentations about the surveying profession. Bob Garlitz, committee chairman would like a "Champion" from each chapter to serve as a speaker. Please contact Dave, Brad or Tom if willing to help.
- A course may be included at the conference for developing speakers and the power point to assist them.
- Each chapter is looking for a mentor for the PSLs licensee mentoring program. The goal of this program is to help license applicants through the application procedure. Dave suggested that our chapter should have one mentor from each of our chapter's counties.
- Trig Star sponsors are needed throughout the state. Bob Miller, PSLs chairman for this program asked that each chapter make an effort to contact their local school districts about this program.
- The Pennsylvania Land Surveyors Foundation offers scholarships to high school as well as college students. Glenn Johnson is currently the foundation president.
- The DEP's proposed regulations for 25 PA Code Chapter 102 regulations were discussed by Andy Hilt, Executive Vice President, Design Center. He

has filed an objection with DEP regarding the apparent exclusion of professional surveyors from the design phase.

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Dave has written a report on what he observed at the Board of Directors meeting and it will be emailed to chapter members, and, posted on our chapter's website.

- We are in the early stages of planning a FEMA seminar about preparing elevation certificates and other technical information. Wendy Lathrop, PLS, and FEMA expert is being considered as our presenter. This seminar would be open to anyone who could benefit from this information.

Dave Reynolds, of PA DOT, serves as the Right of Way Administrator for District 8-0. He has worked there for 25 years and is manager of acquisition of land for all district projects. 99% is highway work and 1% are airport projects. District 8-0 includes York, Adams, Franklin, Cumberland, Perry, Lebanon, Lancaster, and Dauphin counties.

PennDOT construction budget was \$1 billion a few years ago. Last year District 8-0 did \$500 million alone. 8-0 will do 44 bridges each year. Only district 8-0 performs culvert projects in-house, no other district does this.

Project Development Process

- 12 year plan - formulated by Penn DOT executives.
- Projects scheduled beyond 4 years are just for planning, 1 or 3 may get funding.

PA has several Metropolitan Planning Organizations that also get a pool of money to do projects. District and Central Office work together to oversee which projects will proceed. Large projects take 2-3 years to go through just the environmental process.

Politicians promise projects several years faster than what is normally possible. This problem is increased during election years.

The Constitution says land will not be taken without proper compensation. In 1964 government condemned land and took right of way. Right of way would be appraised and claims settled, with Deeds of condemnation. PA was the first state to enact an eminent domain law. The Right of Way plan authorizes what land will be needed for the project. The Right of Way plans are always sealed by surveyors and engineers.

Feds are concerned with environment and funds must be encumbered to pay for approvals. Title work is done and property owners must be identified in 30 days. Penn DOT takes 3 months to hire a private appraiser. The hiring process takes too long to be fair to competing consultants.

Prior to 1972 all Rights of Way were highway easements. 1972 to now it is fee simple to acquire Right of Way. Supplement benefits are paid for relocation costs. We try to make people whole for taking homes and businesses.

R/W is step 6 of steps of the project process. Penn DOT has never acquired active graves sites. Faulty design and insufficient funds are two of the ways a landowner could stop a project. Risk management gives us two months to make

progress. There are gap, standard, viewer, and vacation Right of Way plans. Gap plans are used with multiple properties, a tool to get a head start. A view plan shows the project has claims description. Property plot will show entire property. The Right of Way plan is the most important document. They must be accurate. Penn DOT does not do metes and bounds surveys.

Dave provided everyone present a handout with Right of Way terminology.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, June 24, 2009, 6:30pm, at Coakley's in New Cumberland.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Minutes submitted by L. Bradley Foltz, PLS.