

MINUTES

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS AND MAPPERS

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

April 7, 2004

Department of Business and Professional Regulation
Board Conference Room
1940 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida

The meeting was called to order by Beverly Sutphin, Chair, at 8:05 a.m.

Members Present:

Beverly Sutphin, Chair
Dennis Blankenship
Louis Lebron
Sidney Greer

Members Not Present

Omar Armenteros

Others Present:

Ted Madson
Eric Hill
Art Mastronicola
Richard Matthews
Alvin Gloer
David Melvin
Marilyn Evers
Harley Gilmore
Jeffrey Cooner
Ronnie Taylor
Jeffrey Carlen
Allen Nobles
Dave Gibson
Steven Woods
Julie Golding
Louis Bush
John Clyatt
Henry Echezabal

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 12, 2004 CONTINUING EDUCATION MINUTES

The committee reviewed the January 12, 2004, continuing education minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Greer made a motion to approve the January 12, 2004 minutes.
SECOND: Mr. Lebron seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF RED VECTOR INTERNET INFORMATION

Ms. Sutphin advised the committee that she requested that the Red Vector Internet information be included on the committee's agenda for review. Ms. Sutphin advised the committee that the Internet site had been brought to her attention. Ms. Sutphin advised the committee that Red Vector is not an approved provider but offers to the public courses for approved continuing education providers. Ms. Sutphin stated Red Vector states on their web site that the Florida board does not pre approve continuing education courses only continuing education providers and she advised the committee that the statement was incorrect. Ms. Sutphin also advised the board that the provider's approval number was not included nor the course approval number.

Mr. Gilmore advised the committee that he noted that the providers on Red Vector did not require that the licensee sign and seal the exam for Internet courses.

After discussion the committee suggested sending Red Vector a letter advising them of the committee's concerns of non-compliance to board rules. Mr. Martin advised the committee that Red Vector was not an approved continuing education provider. Mr. Martin advised the committee that continuing education providers use Red Vector as a portal. Mr. Martin stated that Red Vector collects the money and issues the certificates of completion.

Mr. Blankenship stated that he felt Red Vector's advertisement leads the public to believe that they are approved provider of continuing education. The committee agreed.

MOTION: Mr. Blankenship made a motion to notify Red Vector of misleading advertising and to notify the approved provider's offering courses through Red Vector that they were not in compliance to advertising their provider numbers.
SECOND: Mr. Greer seconded the motion.

The committee asked Mr. Martin to send correspondence to Red Vector.

Mr. Bush stated that Red Vector made an appearance before the board a couple of years ago and advised the board that they were just providing portal service to the providers.

Mr. Madson stated that he felt Red Vector was an advertisement for the providers and stated the providers were not in compliance if they were not including their provider numbers on their advertisement.

Mr. Martin suggested that the committee invite Red Vector to the next meeting to discuss their issues.

After discussion the committee instructed Mr. Knap to invite representatives from Red Vector to appear at the next meeting to discuss misleading advertisement and their overall operations.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF COURES 6450 AND 6451 OFFERED BY LSS SEMINARS & PUBLISHING COMPANY

Mr. Madson was present at the meeting and addressed the board issues in regard to hint sheets that were included in his course materials. Mr. Madson stated that a letter from Mr. Knap stated

that the hint sheet was added to the course materials after the approval process. Mr. Madson stated the hints sheet was included in the original submission of the courses.

Mr. Madson stated it was his experience that surveyors have difficulty passing the courses and that the majority of surveyors were not interested nor in-depth enough to read laws and regulations. Mr. Madson stated that the course materials were mailed out to all licensees and that he would argue that the hint sheet was included with the original submission. Mr. Madson stated that he reviewed the materials and did not find the hint sheet to be a problem because there is not anyone who has made a 100% on the exam. Mr. Madson stated that the courses are very effective.

Mr. Madson stated that Mr. Knap's letter also brought to his attention that the courses referenced old course numbers and Mr. Madson agreed. Mr. Madson advised the board that he and his staff were aware that the course numbers change and that the error and occurred with the graphic printing center he used. Mr. Madson explained that the graphic printing center maintained the originals of the courses and that Mr. Madson did not review the materials prior to mailing. Mr. Madson stated that there was no damage done and he assured the board that he and staff were aware of new course numbers. Mr. Madson advised the board that Mr. Hill from the graphics printing company was present at the meeting and would testify to the error.

Mr. Greer asked Mr. Madson if he had any financial interest in the graphic printing company. Mr. Madson answered no. Mr. Greer asked Mr. Madson why information was redacted from the materials he handed out at the meeting. Mr. Madson stated that he did not feel the board had any interest in what he was paying to the printing company.

Mr. Madson stated he apologized for the mistake but felt the hint sheet was a useful tool. Mr. Madson advised the board that he would remove the hint sheet but would have to revise the course exam questions to make the courses easier. Mr. Madson advised the board that if they were to withdraw approval of the courses that it would cause a hardship for many licensees that have already started or completed the courses. Mr. Madson advised the committee that the package was mailed out to all licensees.

Mr. Madson stated he would not include the hint sheet in the course packages in the future. Mr. Martin advised Mr. Madson that the letter he received from Mr. Knap advised him to cease and desist offering of the courses. Mr. Madson stated he was aware of that but he is receiving course completion from licensees daily. Mr. Madson stated that he mailed the continuing education packages to all licensees. Mr. Martin asked Mr. Madson if he notified the licensees after he received Mr. Knap's letter that he would no longer be offering the courses. Mr. Madson stated he had not notified the licensees. Mr. Martin advised Mr. Madson it was his responsibility. Mr. Madson asked the committee not to penalize the licensees.

MOTION: Mr. Greer made a motion to require Mr. Madson to remove the hint sheet from all correspondence/home study courses in the future and this affects all approved continuing education providers.

SECOND: Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Sutphin asked the committee to discuss course 6450 and 6451. After discussion the committee advised Mr. Madson that if he made revisions to the courses then he would be required to submit a new course application. The committee discussed the date licensees could receive credit for the courses. After discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Mr. Blankenship made a motion to disallow approval of courses 6450 and 6451 as of March 10, 2004 and this was the date Mr. Madson was notified by Mr. Knap to cease and desist.

SECOND: Mr. Greer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Madson stated he would submit new courses applications for 6450 and 6451 for the committee and board to review.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF PROVIDER COURSE APPPLCATION

Florida Department of Transportation

MOTION: Mr. Lebron made a motion to approve the course 61G17-6 Minimum Technical Standards for Surveyors for 6 hours of MTS.

SECOND: Mr. Greer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Lorman Business Center, Inc.

MOTION: Mr. Blankenship made a motion to deny the course Zoning and Land Use in Florida for 6 hours of Laws and Rules. The applicant did not provide a detailed course outline.

SECOND: Mr. Greer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

National Business Institute (NBI, Inc.)

MOTION: Mr. Blankenship made a motion to deny the course Florida Land Use: Current Issues in Subdivision, annexation and Zoning Laws for 6 hours of general. The applicant did not provide a detailed course outline and the course content did not benefit the survey profession.

SECOND: Mr. Greer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Florida Surveying and Mapping Society

MOTION: Mr. Blankenship made a motion to approve Florida Laws Affecting Professional Surveyors & Mappers for 4 hours of laws and rules, Mason & Dixon and Their Famous Line for 3 hours of general, and ALTA/ACSM Land Title Survey Standards for 2 hours of general.

SECOND: Mr. Lebron seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Knap advised the board that the continuing education office was questioning if a provider could only request approval of a 6 hours MTS course. Mr. Knap asked the committee to clarify rule 61G17-5.0031, F.A.C. The committee advised Mr. Knap that the MTS courses do not have limitation of the number of hours and that the licensee could take as many courses as necessary to complete the 6-hour MTS requirement.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Update on CE course Project and March 9, 2004 Meeting – Beverly Sutphin

Ms. Sutphin advised the committee that she had provided a written report from the March 9, 2004 meeting and that the report was included in their board member folders. Ms. Sutphin

reviewed the report with the committee and made a recommendation that the course application be revised. The committee agreed with Ms. Sutphin's suggestions.

Ms. Sutphin advised the committee that she was in the process of preparing a final list of courses approved during the 2001 continuing education audit and that she would provide a copy to the committee at their next meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Greer made a motion to approve recommended changes to the course application.

SECOND: Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Sutphin stated that during the March 9, 2004 meeting the course renewal process was discussed. Ms. Sutphin advised the committee that a large number of course applications would have to be reviewed prior to May 31, 2005. Ms. Sutphin stated that one suggestion was made to contact the continuing education providers and ask the providers to remove courses no longer offered and to submit their course applications now. After discussion, the committee supported Ms. Sutphin's suggestions and would like for the full board to discuss.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 11.05 a.m.