

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT ENGINEERS COUNCIL
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
January 2008

The monthly meeting of the MGEC Board of Directors was held on Monday, January 14, 2008, at the MGEC office. A short orientation for new board members was held for one-half hour before the board meeting.

Present: President Joe Pignato, Vice President Peter Buchen, Secretary Len Leitner, Treasurer Scott Pierson, Directors Gordon Bergstrom, Ron Dahlquist, Shongtao Dai, Pat Ferrin, Linda Heath, Paul Kettleson, Kim Larsen, and Executive Director Dana Wheeler and Administrative Secretary Rhonda Bauer, and Past President Tony Kempenich.

Not present: Past President Jim Sellner, Directors John Siekmeier and Thomas Wood.

- I. **Call to Order:** President Pignato called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
- II. **Vacancy Filling:** A MnDOT posting issue was discussed.
- III. **Secretary's Report:** The meeting minutes for December 2007 were approved as written.
- IV. **Membership Report:** The January membership report was reviewed. There are currently 917 Members (811 Regular, 42 Fair Share, and 64 Associates). There are 316 Life Members on the mailing list. Life Membership was granted to Donald Speiker (MnDOT).
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report for January 2007 was approved subject to audit.
- VI. **Executive Director's Report:** Dana Wheeler distributed and reviewed his monthly status, labor relations and grievance reports.
 - A. **MnDOT:**
 - **Meet & Confer:** A M&C is scheduled for this week, 1-18-08. Four topics (ordered 1, 2, 10, 13 on the list) were chosen for discussion at the M&C and members to attend were decided on (Joe, John, Scott, Peter). The topics are: MnDOT collection of data on disciplines administered, MnDOT's policy on terminating Grad 2's without P.E.'s after 6 years, Workforce Planning Report, and Human Resources Council (diversity, succession planning, salary/retention, and other HR issues). Dana added a 5th topic: MnDOT Central Office building safety.
 - **Electronic Vacancy Postings:** MGEC is meeting with MnDOT on 1-17-08 to discuss paper v. electronic postings. After a one-year trial period, the Board voted last month to rescind electronic-only posting.
 - **District 6:** The Design/Hydraulics Section will be required to put in 15 hours overtime per pay period, due to the extra workload from an August flood causing regular program work to fall behind schedule.
 - **Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE):** President Pignato and Executive Director Wheeler participated in a meeting on 1-11-08 in which the consensus was that certain MnDOT leaders should be licensed Professional Engineers. Those meeting notes as well as draft language for MS 174.02 Subd. 2 were distributed. The deputy commissioner would need to be a P.E. licensed in

Minnesota. A motion was made by Director Kettleson to accept and support the proposed language as presented. Seconded by Director Ferrin, motion passed unanimously.

- B. MGEC Compensation Study:** MGEC and the State will meet with Arbitrator Bob Weisenburger to begin discussion. The meeting is likely to occur in March. Prior to the meeting there will be discussion between MGEC (Joe and Dana) and DOER (Tony Brown and Betsy Thompson) to outline study components.
- C. Benefits for Members:** Discuss whether MGEC should to offer members discounted benefits for commercially available services through various banks or companies. The provider would give MGEC members a discount on their service or product. MGEC would not provide any member information to the companies such as names, addresses or e-mail addresses. The company would confirm the MGEC discount via a code issued to MGEC, another form of ID or a contact to MGEC. MGEC would not be endorsing the provider of the benefit or service. With some benefits MGEC would receive a percentage of the fees collected and on some items there would be no contribution to MGEC. In all cases the members would receive an enhanced or discounted benefit. Item tabled for future meeting.

VII. New Business

- A. Board vacancy:** Director Thomas Wood is leaving state service and therefore resigning his seat as of this month. A motion was approved to appoint a replacement from a short list of three persons as noted. A motion made to reopen the list was seconded but failed. A motion was approved to vote [from the short list] by roll call. Mike Lownsbury, Sr. Engr., MnDOT - Willmar, was chosen by majority vote.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Committee Appointments:** Board members were asked to review their contact information and choose committees to serve on. Appointments will be made at the next board meeting.

- IX. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next monthly board meeting is scheduled for 4:00 p.m., Monday, February 11, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Leitner
Secretary

Rhonda Bauer
Administrative Secretary