

**MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT ENGINEERS COUNCIL**  
**Board of Directors Monthly Meeting**  
**March 2008**

The monthly meeting of the MGEC Board of Directors was held on Monday, March 10, 2008, at the MGEC office.

**Present:** President Joe Pignato, Vice President Peter Buchen, Secretary Len Leitner, Treasurer Scott Pierson, Past President Jim Sellner, Directors Ron Dahlquist, Shongtao Dai, Pat Ferrin, Linda Heath, Paul Kettleson, Mike Lownsbury, John Siekmeier, Executive Director Dana Wheeler and Administrative Secretary Rhonda Bauer.

**Not present:** Directors Gordon Bergstrom and Kim Larsen.

- I. **Call to Order:** President Pignato called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.
- II. **MSRS (Minnesota State Retirement System):** Presentation and handout on the RSM's\* legislative proposal to protect the Post Fund, presenters MSRS Executive Director Dave Bergstrom and Legislative Coordinator Erin Leonard. The proposal plans for two scenarios addressing the Post Fund which is right now "underfunded." 1) High investment returns (Post Fund recovers), payout formulas would be revised annually; 2) Returns are negative/low, the Post and Active Funds would merge. \*Three systems form the Retirement Systems of Minnesota: MSRS, Public Employees Retirement System, and Teachers Retirement Association.
- III. **Secretary's Report:** The meeting minutes for February 11, 2008 were approved as written.
- IV. **Membership Report:** The March 2008 membership report was reviewed. There are currently 920 Members (815 Regular, 42 Fair Share, and 63 Associates). There are 319 Life Members on the mailing list. Life Membership was granted to Ronald Deustermann (MnDOT).
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** A motion was approved to accept the March 2008 Treasurer's report subject to audit. The revised dues planning graph was reviewed.
- VI. **Action on Item II:** The board had discussion on and passed a motion to support the retirement system Post Fund proposal (HF 3421 / SF 2969).
- VII. **Executive Director's Report:** Dana Wheeler distributed and reviewed his monthly status, labor relations and grievance reports.
  - A. **Compensation Study:** Joe, Peter and Dana participated in a meeting at the BMS (Bureau of Mediation Services) to begin discussion on the Compensation Study for MGEC classifications. Initial steps include reviewing compensation studies currently used by the State and MGEC and determining the ability to use contractor/consultant information already available to MnDOT. At future meetings an information-gathering survey will be constructed; and determining what factors will be considered compensation. Monthly meetings will be held, with MGEC adding a few more participants with supervisory experience to our team. Send MGEC any comments, data, info, etc.
  - B. **Grievance:** Dana provided details of items #19 and #20.
  - C. **MnDOT:**
    - **Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE):** President Pignato testified before the Transportation Committee in support of legislation that the Deputy Commissioner/Chief Engineer of MnDOT be a licensed engineer.
    - **Meet & Confer:** The next Central Office M&C is scheduled for 3-11-08. The agenda, as well as the notes from 1-18-08, were distributed. Trent Weber discussed projected retirements for MGEC engineers eligible by 2011. Send MGEC your remarks about workforce planning.

- **“A History of State Involvement in Roads and Highways”**: Doug Differt document distributed.
- **Groupwise Archive Manager**: New “tool” places copies of messages in a central location and permits agency-wide bridge subject matter searches.

**D. Other Agencies:**

- **Administration** – A layoff of one MGEC member due to budget shortfall was averted.
- **MPCA** – Notes from the 2-20-08 Meet & Confer were distributed. The next M&C is in May.

**E. State Coalition of Unions:** Notes from the meeting on 2-28-08 were distributed. A alternate representative from MGEC is needed.

**F. Temporary Unit Assignment (TUA):** Notice was received from DOER of a newly-created MAPE classification (RECS Construction Project Coordinator Principal). The board unanimously approved a motion to exercise the exclusive representatives’ right to object to the TUA since the PD appears to be describing registered engineer work. A motion was approved 7-4 to accept this position into a licensed or unlicensed MGEC classification.

**VIII. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The next monthly board meeting is scheduled for 4:00 p.m., Monday, April 14, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Leitner  
Secretary

Rhonda Bauer  
Administrative Secretary