

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT ENGINEERS COUNCIL
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
December 2008

The monthly meeting of the MGEC Board of Directors was held on Monday, December 8, 2008, at the MGEC office. There was no meeting in November.

Present: President Joe Pignato, Vice President Peter Buchen, Secretary Len Leitner, Treasurer Scott Pierson, Past President Jim Sellner, Directors Gordon Bergstrom, Shongtao Dai, Pat Ferrin, Linda Heath, Paul Kettleson, Lane Moll (elected to 2009-10 term) Mike Lownsbury, John Siekmeier, Executive Director Dana Wheeler and Administrative Secretary Rhonda Bauer.

Not present: Directors Ron Dahlquist and Kim Larsen.

- I. **Call to Order:** President Pignato called the meeting to order at 4:27 p.m.
- II. **Administrative Secretary's Contract:** A motion and second was made to approve Rhonda Bauer's contract as stated; motion passed.
- III. **Secretary's Report:** The minutes for the 10-13-08 board meeting were approved as written. The draft minutes for the 2008 annual meeting were reviewed.
- IV. **Membership Report:** There are currently 964 Members (856 Regular, 46 Fair Share, and 62 Associates). There are 327 Life Members on the mailing list.
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** The November 2008 Treasurer's Report was approved subject to audit. The Finance Committee shall meet to discuss where CD's should be invested.
- VI. **Executive Director's Report:** Dana Wheeler distributed his monthly status, labor relations and grievance reports.
 - A. **Directorship Appointment:** Director Siekmeier will begin his term as Vice President on 1-1-09 and will vacate his directorship seat. A motion was approved to appoint a replacement for the vacant seat by email vote of the Board; appointing either Rachel Guan or Andrew Eller if the candidates both accept the nomination.
 - B. **Constitution:** A motion was passed to the Constitution Committee to review Article VI and/or policies that say whether the Executive Director is an officer.
 - C. **Tellers:** A motion was approved to accept the Tellers Report. Board election results were distributed.
 - D. **State Budget:** A meeting will was held between MMB and the unions on the budget deficit. Agency budgets are due to the Governor the third week in January, with unallotments taking place in December through January. MGEC encouraged the administration to not balance the budget on the backs of employees with 0% ATBs in the next contract. Commissioner Hanson stated that would be the State's starting point in collective bargaining but that meaningful negotiations would take place.
 - E. **SEGIP:** Table to next meeting to discuss security of SEGIP surplus.
 - F. **New I35W Bridge:** Approximately 60 people attended the Bridge Tour/Information Session and found it informative and helpful.

- G. MnDOT Meet & Confer:** The next meeting is 12-11-08. Minutes from the Task Force Committee should be distributed prior to the next meeting.
- H. Negotiations:** The MGEC timeline of yearly activity was distributed. Members can sign up now to be on the Negotiations Committee. The compensation study of private and public sector engineers and land surveyors is still underway.
- I. Transportation Professional Workforce:** A panel discussion sponsored by the UofM is scheduled for 12-16-08: "Is There a Crisis in the Public Sector?"
- J. Statewide Footwear Policy:** There is a statewide policy limiting safety equipment to \$100 which seems to conflict with the MGEC contract that has no limitation. The State claims they have a vendor who can provide safety boots for under \$100. They will forward this information to MGEC.

VII. Committees

- A. Education:** A motion was passed unanimously to increase the fee for the PE Review Class for private sector participants to \$200. Chair Kettleson is checking into new books and also finding an instructor for Surveys and Construction.
- B. Legislative:** The contractor has completed several interviews and expects to have a first draft of the brochure by the end of the year.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. The next meeting will be on January 12, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at the MGEC office.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Leitner
Secretary

Rhonda Bauer
Administrative Secretary