

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT ENGINEERS COUNCIL
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
July 2008

The monthly meeting of the MGEC Board of Directors was held on Monday, July 14, 2008, at the MGEC office.

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

Not present: Directors Gordon Bergstrom and Ron Dahlquist.

I. Call to Order: President Pignato called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

II. Secretary's Report: The minutes for the 6/9/08 board meeting were approved as written.

III. Membership Report: The July 2008 membership report was distributed. There are currently 929 Members (826 Regular, 42 Fair Share, and 61 Associates). There are 318 Life Members on the mailing list.

IV. Treasurer's Report: No report - table to next meeting. [A vote was taken later via email to approve the proposed MGEC budget for FY 2009, motion/second/pass (voting yes were Scott, Linda, John, Paul, Michael, Pat and Ron).]

V. Executive Director's Report: Dana Wheeler distributed his monthly status, labor relations and grievance reports.

A. Office of Pipeline Safety Item 3a: A grievance was avoided.

B. Grievance Item 19: A motion was unanimously approved to deviate from the contract allowing the parties to agree on a new date for a Loudermille hearing beyond the 24-hour period; the employee would not be paid for more than one day while awaiting the hearing.

C. Minnesota State Retirement System Item 25: A motion was approved modify Rhonda Bauer's contract to allow MSRS participation at 4.5% beginning 8/1/08. The current contract provides a 3% match to a Simple IRA.

D. MnDOT Item 4a: A new issue on the agenda is the length of time before grads can move to senior engineer after passing the PE - some were told six months.

E. Compensation Study: A draft survey was distributed.

VI. Committees

A. Legislative: The committee has met twice, and recommends proceeding with the following: 1) update the legislative booklet "Doing More for Minnesota," 2) prepare a talking point paper, 3) continue support for legislation of a licensed engineer in MnDOT leadership, 4) encourage members to join other professional organizations, 5) review the compensation study results. A motion was approved to accept this list as presented. A second motion was approved for the committee to negotiate a cost for updating the booklet with final board approval to take place online. [Vote via email, motion/second/pass: Approve spending up to \$10,000 on the MGEC Brochure and enter into a contract with consultant (voting yes were

Scott, Kim, Linda, John, Shongtao, Paul, Michael, Gordy and Ron).] The next meeting is 7/29/08.

- B. Nominations:** A meeting should be scheduled to begin work on this year's slate.
- C. Program:** Finalizing the date for the appreciation event was deferred to the committee following tonight's meeting. A motion was approved to increase the budget for annual meeting gifts to \$5,000.
- D. Education:** Instructors are needed for the exam review class. Invite members who were promoted to senior engineer within the last three years.
- E. Executive:** A meeting is needed to determine future office space needs.

VII. Old Business

- A. Member Benefits:** A motion was made and seconded to list companies offering member benefits, such as Wells Fargo, Lifelock, etc., on the website; motion failed.
- B. Science Debate 2008:** CESO (Council of Engineers and Scientists Organizations) has compiled a list of questions for the candidates and is active in pursuing this. [Remove item from agenda.]

VIII. New Business

- A. State Worker Pay Database:** Announced in today's Pioneer Press, their website lists all state workers' names and salary information in a searchable database.

- IX. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be the annual meeting on September 8, 2008, at Stone Ridge Golf Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Leitner
Secretary

Rhonda Bauer
Administrative Secretary