



COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL
MINUTES
February 16, 2011
9 – 11 AM

Present: Della Berwanger, Chair (in person) James Laramie
John Hooson – Vice-Chair (in person) Fred Walasavage
Carolyn Carrica (in person) Josh Sherretz
Jeffery Reece Orell Anderson
Vance Tuttle

Note: Della, John & Carolyn were joined in person by Lisa Harrison, Pat Pettito & Valerie Fries Wade part way through conference call to go over the discussion regarding the certification.

Regrets: Brent Arnold Clyde Johnson
Cristin Cochran Dhugal Hanton
Curt Proud Terry Matheson
Darrel Vanhooser

Item 1 - Opening Welcome & Review of Attendees (Della)

Della welcomed all that could attend & asked them to introduce themselves

Item 2 – Seminar Topics for 2011 Conference – Atlanta (John)

John discussed the outcome of the conference call meeting he attended to set the seminar topics for the upcoming Atlanta Education Conference. All topics put forward by our committee had been accepted. John had circulated the draft matrix of seminar sessions to the committee prior to the call, and then on call, he reviewed each of them.

- Monday PM - Energy Siting & ROW Related Issues
- Tuesday AM - Alberta Oil Sands Development and the Environment
- Tuesday PM - Using Geospatial Intelligence (co-sponsored with Engineering)
- Tuesday PM - Environmental Due Diligence (topic submitted by Orell)
- Wed AM - Environmental Justice (panel discussion co-sponsored with Relocation)
- Wed AM - Current Environmental Mitigation Requirements & Issues

Unfortunately due to pending litigation, the proposed session on the Kalamazoo River Oil Spill had to be cancelled, and may be potential for Seattle, or another future conference. John also indicated that Jade wanted to delay any discussion on the two Atlanta Tours until after the conference call. Subsequent to that discussion, Clyde



informed John that the City had not responded to his request for a tour guide. It was subsequently agreed that the tours should be dropped. (Note: Subsequent to this conference call, the Environmental Due Diligence topic was also dropped for lack of topic speakers.)

Regardless of these changes, our environmental and co-sponsored seminar sessions for the upcoming Atlanta conference are expected to be timely & interesting for wide range of attendees.

Item 3 – Specialty Certification Questions submitted to Committee for consideration (Della)

Lisa Harrison sent out four questions for the committee to consider (attached) as well as background for the committee’s consideration and reflection when discussing the questions (attached).

A discussion of the specialty career paths related to a specific right of way disciplines and a proposed recommendation to be presented to the Specialty Task Force on February 17, 2011 (to be attended by Della Berwanger for the Environment Committee; Clyde Johnson for the Transportation Committee; and Orell Anderson for the Valuation Committee) was held. The four questions discussed and consensus of comments from our conference call on the Environmental Certification are as follows:

1. Is there a specialty certification related to your Committee’s discipline?
 - Yes, a specialty certification already exists & no additional milestones were recommended
 - The potential need for more courses was discussed (see discussion below under Question #3).
 - Whether we should have a specialty certification was also discussed. It was agreed that it was helpful for our members to have that recognition. It was also suggested that the Environmental Certification should be for “Environmental Awareness” which recognizes that a right of way professionals has the courses required to gain an understanding and awareness of right of way environmental issues and processes. It was felt that the Environmental Certification, based on the courses offered by the IRWA, could not achieve or meet the requirements of the many different environmental professionals involved.
 - It was suggested that we obtain a listing of the IRWA members that have obtained the R/W EC certification and ask them why they had applied for it.
 - It was felt that we should try to understand whether the membership wants/needs an environmental certification.
 - There was disagreement on the actual need for an environmental certification but it was unanimous that environmental courses should be mandatory for other certifications & the SR/WA.

2. Is there another organization that has specialty certification for the discipline?
 - We also discussed other organizations that have specialty certifications ie organizations that provide licensing to environmental professionals such as Professional Engineers and Professional Geoscientists. It was agreed that more research was needed. It was pointed out that the

American Planning Association (APIC) has a certification for an Environmental Planner. These licensing and professional designations were available for those practicing as environmental professionals, rather than as real estate or right of way professionals needing environmental insight, training, and education. Therefore, it is not anticipated that they would be suitable as specialty path cross-certification options.

3. How many courses are needed to support your suggested path?

- The courses needed to support the Environmental Certification were discussed. Current R/W EC, requirements include: 600, 603, 604, and 602 changed to 606 (now 8 less hours); 24 credits at 200 level; Ethics (103 or 104); & experience requirements & capstone exam (Current R/W EC Certification Guide attached.)
- Other courses to be included or developed as environmental courses were discussed. The existing Course 417 should be considered as part of the requirement for R/W EC.
- “Alternate Energy” was also discussed and could be more marketable if broken down into shorter, more easily prepared modules. They would also be excellent for online presentation.
- The possibility of a Permitting course was also discussed with the thought that it could help in keeping course 606 to a more manageable 1 day course.
- We also discussed Clyde’s recommendation that a corridor preservation course be developed.
- It was also felt that Environmental Justice could also become a course, or module.
- It was also suggested that other “hot topic” sessions should be considered. Ones that could be prepared more quickly than full session courses.
- Orell mentioned a two day session that he prepared for the American Bar Association that might be appropriate for presentation via regional workshops, modules, etc.

4. Are there courses outside of IRWA that should be included?

- John had brought info for the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certified Environmental Planner designation. Research to see if any courses they offered would fit the IRWA’s certification was suggested.

Some discussion with Lisa, Pat and Valerie as they joined us after we had been engaged in the specialty certification questions. They commented about the Generalist Pathway, followed by SR/WA & potential for Management Certification but also tiered levels of specialty paths where member ship felt appropriate.

Item 4 – Any Other Business

We need to determine who will be able to make it to Atlanta 2011. The need for Environmental Topic Coordinators for conference was discussed.

Meeting adjournment.

Please provide any errors/omissions in these minutes to Della Berwanger.