



## OCEAN COUNTY SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

A Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers

### CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

**PRESIDENT**

John M. Mele, PE

The previous meeting was held at The Captain's Inn in Forked River, NJ on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Richard M. Cestone, PE

**ATTENDING OFFICERS:**

**TREASURER**

Patrick B. Lynam, PE

John M. Mele, PE

President

Richard M. Cestone, PE

Vice President

**SECRETARY**

Matthew M. Lunemann, PE

Patrick B. Lynam, PE

Treasurer

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Mark E. Reme, PE

Matthew M. Lunemann, PE

Secretary

William P. Delisky, PE

Director

**CHAPTER DIRECTOR**

William P. Delisky, PE

### **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & COMMITTEES**

**Treasurer's Report:** A Treasurer's Report was presented and approved by the membership.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting were presented and approved by the membership.

**Director's Report:** Director Delisky updated the Chapter on recent events as follows:

The NJ continuing education requirements are now in effect. The State Board of Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors has had their budget cut and does not have the budget or personnel available to audit or review everyone for the continuing education requirement. As a result, the continuing education requirement is likely to proceed on an honor system during license renewal where the licensee will be asked to attest that they have met the necessary requirements.

Although 5% were expected to be audited, it is likely that the continuing education requirement may only be checked if the licensee is called before the Board in response to a complaint against that licensee. However, to account for the chance of being audited, Director Delisky suggested keeping documentation for all meetings attended and believed to be acceptable for credit. Licensed professional engineers will need 15 credits before renewing in 2012 with 2 of these credits in ethics.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Garden State Parkway Improvements in Ocean County was the program for the November meeting. Thank you again to Mr. John Withers from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority for giving an excellent presentation.

The OCSPE has endorsed Matt Lunemann as their nominee for the Outstanding Young Engineer Award.

A reminder was given that MATHCOUNTS will be held on February 12, 2011 with a snow date of February 19, 2011. Volunteers are needed to proctor and grade exams. It was noted that the competing students are very impressive in their knowledge.

President Mele reminded members that Engineering Career Day will be held at Rutgers University on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Ocean County College's Engineering Career Day will be held on the Wednesday during Engineers Week. Volunteers are needed for both. Announcements will go out via email for the OCC Engineering Career Day, the Rutgers Engineering Career Day, and MATHCOUNTS in January.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Mele stated that a proposal was made by Mr. Chris Theodos to nominate Maser Consulting for the NJSPE Private Practice Professional Development Award. A motion was made to approve the nomination of Maser Consulting for the award. The motion passed unanimously. President Mele will draft the formal endorsement letter.

President Mele went on to state that if anyone is interested in becoming an officer, they are encouraged to let one of the officers know. Nominations will be presented in April, with voting in May. Officers will be installed at the June meeting.

The February joint meeting with the Central Jersey Chapter of the NJ Society of Professional Land Surveyors (CJCNJSPLS) will have a change of venue due to the recent closing of the Lobster Shanty in Toms River. As a result, the meeting will be held at Charlie Browns in Lakewood on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Payment by OCSPE members will match what is paid by CJCNJSPLS members this year, resulting in a reduced meeting rate of \$30 for the upcoming February meeting.

The April meeting will be with the Ocean County Engineer on April 28<sup>th</sup>. A similar meeting with the Monmouth County Engineer is still in the works for May.

Secretary Lunemann provided an update on the NJ Regional Future City competition, which was held at Rutgers on January 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated that around 250 middle school students competed in the final event and that the winning team was from Valley Middle School in Oakland, NJ. This school has now advanced to the national competition for 10 years in a row and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at last year's national competition. Carl W. Goetz Middle School and Christa McAuliffe Middle School, both from Jackson, NJ, competed for the first time this year and did well for a first-time school. The Township of Ocean Intermediate School from Monmouth County also competed and placed a team in the top 10.

### **Monmouth County Chapter**

The status of the Monmouth County chapter (MCSPE) was discussed. President Mele stated that the Monmouth County chapter has not been active for quite some time and noted that announcements for OCSPE already go out to Monmouth County chapter members. President Mele then opened up the meeting to the members to discuss the possibility of merging the Monmouth and Ocean County chapters.

Mr. Theodos recommended contacting the prior Monmouth County chapter officers in an attempt to revive the chapter prior to merging the groups. President Mele stated that he had contacted their former/current president previously and that the former/current MCSPE president had expressed interest in possibly reviving their chapter to President Mele and Director Delisky about 4 years ago. President Mele had personally put together a budget and operating plan for the MCSPE which he then sent to all of their former/current officers for submittal to the NJSPE. He explained that this budget and operating plan would have kept the Monmouth chapter alive. However, no action was taken, the budget and operating plan were never submitted. Hence, the Monmouth County chapter has been unfunded ever since and had been defunct for quite some time even prior to then. The MCSPE had not installed any new officers or held a meeting in at least 4 years.

Mr. Bob McCarthy stated that the Monmouth and Ocean County chapters used to have joint meetings often and that these joint meetings were a lot of fun. Having 20 to 30 members per meeting was fairly common.

President Mele stated that all Monmouth chapter members are currently on the OCSPE mailing list, but that the records received from the NSPE may not be up to date, as the NSPE is not too great at keeping track of members. Secretary Lunemann stated that the number of Monmouth County chapter members is similar to the number of Ocean County members. President Mele noted that the continuing education requirements were not in place before and that OCSPE may be able to get a better draw from Monmouth County members now.

Mr. Daum encouraged not merging with the Monmouth chapter, since the region would be too big and dilute membership at meetings. It was further suggested that the OCSPE should set up the Monmouth County chapter again, especially if continuing education is going to boost interest.

A motion was made to support not merging with the Monmouth County chapter prior to attempting to revitalize that chapter. The motion passed unanimously.

It was then recommended to pursue the meeting with the Monmouth County Engineer for May as a joint meeting with the Monmouth chapter. It is expected that this meeting would be in Lakewood to provide closer access to Monmouth County members and the possible speaker.

Director Delisky stated that money currently paid by Monmouth County chapter members sits idle for one year. If no budget is received from the Monmouth County chapter for that given year, those funds go into the general fund. It was suggested that an email be sent out to the Monmouth chapter to inform them of this and hopefully encourage more involvement from the Monmouth to revive their group. President Mele said that it may be premature to send out this email before attempting to raise support from Monmouth members first. The membership concurred, and no email will be sent on the matter.

A further motion was made to have all future OCSPE meetings be advertised as joint meetings with the MCSPE, with the intent of increasing attendance and interest among Monmouth County members. This motion was passed to include headers and officers for both chapters in the meeting notices for all future OCSPE meetings.

Mr. Theodos recommended sending out a mailing to MCSPE members for the May meeting with the Monmouth County Engineer. The officers agreed to look into sending out a mailing once/if the meeting with the County Engineer is finalized.

### Membership Directory

Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Daum both requested that the contact list of all MCSPE members be sent to the meeting attendees to see if they knew anyone on the list of members that they could personally contact to invite to meetings. Secretary Lunemann stated that this would be a privacy issue and that the OCSPE officers needed approval from the NJSPE just to get the MCSPE membership info. Both Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Daum expressed their displeasure with not being able to see who the members of their own society were and stated that this was public information. Secretary Lunemann stated that the information received included home addresses, phone numbers, and other detailed contact information and that he would not send out this personal information.

After at length discussion by the attending members, a motion was proposed to provide a Membership Directory of Ocean County and Monmouth County members to the meeting attendees that would include only the members' names, companies, and email addresses. The motion passed. The information in the directory will match that provided by the NJSPE.

President Mele requested that the attending members reach out to those members they know who may have incorrect information listed in the directory due to employment changes, relocations, etc. He reminded the members that a membership contact information update request form had been sent out several months ago. Secretary Lunemann stated that only around 10 responses were received from that update request from members with up-to-date information already in the database. President Mele recommended sending out the request again and the membership concurred.

### Society of Professional Engineers Conference/Convention

After some discussion between the members, President Mele suggested the possibility of holding a convention in Atlantic City, where engineers can attend accredited seminars and courses for their continuing education requirement, similar to what is currently offered to the land surveyors. It was noted that the idea has been brought to the attention of the NJSPE and Joe Simonetta but no formal action has been taken.

Mr. Theodos stated that the society needs to revitalize the group. NJSPE is better positioned to deal with the new continuing education requirements. Mr. Theodos suggested passing a motion for support of a conference where members could meet their continuing education requirements in one shot and to offer OCSPE to host the first conference. He stated that someone needs to take charge and suggested that OCSPE, with PSI's help, take the lead to put this together, as there was no reason a successful conference was not possible.

Mr. McCarthy suggested contacting suppliers to attend the conference. Mr. Theodos suggested looking at having the conference this fall and stated that the membership has been waiting for this for many years. He continued to state that when he was president of NJSPE, an Ocean County member had chaired the committee for the conference that was held that year. Mr. Delisky stated that the NJSPE's help would be needed to put the conference together in conjunction with PSI. It was discussed that OCSPE should only pursue serving as the host chapter if the state was willing to support the conference. It was further discussed that, as host, OCSPE would take the lead and do all the leg work with the support of our management firm, PSI, to include setting up a welcoming committee, providing continuing education, exhibits, presentations, etc. A final recommendation was given, and readily accepted by attending members, that the conference should focus around providing continuing education to fulfill the new requirements.

A motion was made that OCSPE would like to see a statewide conference with the intent of providing continuing education and that OCSPE would be willing to be the host chapter for the first conference and will work with our management firm, PSI, to provide a plan to the board to implement this conference.

The motion passed unanimously. President Mele will provide Director Delisky with correspondence to take with him to tomorrow's NJSPE Board Meeting. Director Delisky stated that he expected the NJSPE to be hesitant but that he would convey OCSPE's willingness to pursue this endeavor and state that the OCSPE is just waiting for the go-ahead from NJSPE.

### **PROGRAM**

No program was held at this meeting.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We extend our thanks to all attending members for a very productive meeting. We further extend our thanks and congratulations to Ron Igeneri for winning the 50/50 raffle. Ron won \$37 and donated the full amount back to the scholarship fund. As a result, a total of \$74 was added to the Alex Duque Scholarship account from this month's raffle.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Matthew M. Lunemann, P.E.  
Secretary