

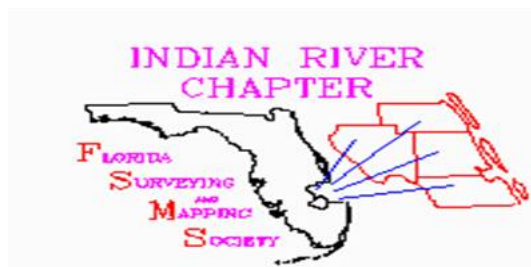
Florida Surveying and Mapping Society
Indian River Chapter
Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2008

Tonight's meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chapter President Howard Ehmke at the offices of Culpepper & Terpening, Fort Pierce, Florida. Mr. Ehmke read the anti-trust disclaimer. There were 16 members present as verified by the sign-in sheet.

Guest Speaker – Mr. Jack Breed, FSMS Legal Committee: Mr. Breed is also the lone surveyor on the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (FICE) Professional Practices Committee which oversees contractual/legal issues, ethics, inter-professional issues, and legislative/regulatory issues. Mr. Breed recommends FSMS to establish formal liaison relationships with the other professional disciplines' societies.

Topics discussed include:

- FSMS Legal Committee history and objectives
- Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA), the largest issue and time consuming topic for the Committee with eleven complaints since the state conference last September. Mr. Breed wanted to educate the membership that CCNA only affects state and local agency contracts asking for bids involving surveying & mapping (or other professional design) services valued or expected to cost over \$25,000, and does not apply to federal or Indian tribe contracts. The federal government is restricted by the Brooks Act and Indian tribes (discussed in particular was a Seminole Tribe of Florida contract) are sovereign nations that do not have to abide by state laws. He went on to say that an estimated 90% of CCNA complaints are solved by communicating with the complainant (typically the surveyor), 9% solved by communication with the issuing agency, and the remaining 1% are passed on to FSMS' attorney Claire Duchemin for further investigation. Some agencies/local governments have been consistently hostile to the Act and continually try to test it.
- Unlicensed Practice –
 - Washout surveys, mortgage companies offering extremely cheap surveys, Aerials Express offering unlicensed products, all of these are a continuing menace to the profession. One municipality was able to be stopped from purchasing Aerial Express' products due to the fact that tax money can not be used to purchase unlicensed products.
 - Subcontracting field crews and other subordinates (office staff, drafting) is prohibited under Chapter 472. Members continually are ignorant to this law, so for more information check Chapter 472. Questions about some photogrammetric companies contracting pilots or owners of cameras to fly projects was raised. The processing of the data is still under the surveyor's supervision, but the costs of running a plane can be prohibitive.
 - Engineering Surveys were discussed as the term appears in the engineer's laws in Chapter 471 but has no definition. Certain forms such



as elevation certificates allow a surveyor or engineer to fill them out and state "if allowed by law". Does Chapter 471 allow an engineer to fill out an elevation certificate?

- Platting – some municipalities starting to require finished floor elevations, flood zone delineations, building plans, topographic information, etc. on plats. Should this be restricted? Isn't the intent of a plat to be a subdivision of boundary and title, not be a survey? Another issue is that an individual firm was interpreting Chapter 177.031(15) "PRM" to mean "encasement in concrete" as an optional requirement for corner monumentation, therefore only setting 5/8" rebar & caps and calling them "PRM"s.
- A member's question about whether it is legal for an unregistered surveyor to have a registered surveyor sign on as a principle of the firm, while the registered surveyor is in charge of another firm. There was discussion about what would happen if the firms were both involved in a boundary dispute against each other, etc.
- House Bill 479 – trespassing and fences. This issue has three more days (by May 2nd) to be heard in the current session.
- Hometown Democracy – it is believed this will pass in 2010 unless there is secondary action to limit referendum requirements, etc. The title of the amendment is too appealing to the average uneducated citizen. What is the next step if/when it does?
- Machine Control – ACSM is working on national standards for control, base requirements, DTM parameters, etc. to try and get a surveyor in charge of providing and maintaining the DTM and control. Mr. Breed suggested contacting developers and getting surveyors' feet in the door now on Machine Control by offering these services in your areas.
- City of Perry – the recent proposal to require the removal of utility paint on sidewalks, etc. after a design survey went nowhere.

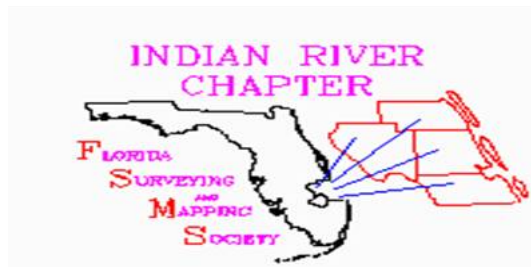
The Indian River Chapter appreciates Mr. Breed for attending and keeping us informed!

Reading and Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Secretary David Reyes was not present; therefore the minutes from the March meeting were not available or accepted. The minutes were available via email to the chapter the next morning (4/30).

Treasurer's Report: As reported by Treasurer Chris McLaughlin, there is currently \$6751.64 in the General Business Account and \$2,155.03 in Reservation for scholarship fund.

Director's Report: A recap by Director Rick Bussell from the February 28th FSMS Board meeting in Gainesville.

- Please pay your 2008 dues, even if you have to make installments.
- Conference discussion and hope that it will be a success with its central and more affordable location during these tough times.
- Suggestions that the society work a bit leaner to make the proceeds stretch further.



- The state society is looking for coffee break/raffle sponsors at Conference to help reduce a large expense of the conference. The breaks run around \$2500 each due to the raffles, coffee, food, service, fees to the resorts, etc. Donations of raffle items could reduce that dramatically – gift certificates, etc.
- The director discourages use of seminars not affiliated with FSMS or in direct competition. President Ehmke reported that he had complaints of some seminars not keeping attendees attentions, and speakers not being interesting. Director Bussell suggested taking online courses as an option.
- Pat Volpe mentioned that recently his firm could not find an 8-hour MOT refresher course. Are they being offered anywhere? Could this be an avenue for FSMS to take?
- DBPR appointed new four-year survey member Art Mastronicola to replace outgoing Pamela Nobles, and Ray Niles is the FSMS liaison to the Board.
- There was discussion to replace the essay portion of the exam with multiple-choice to the time involved to grade each exam. Vice-President Ted Phillips mentioned the pride of passing such a difficult exam and to keep it tough. Immediate Past-President (and recently married to Associate Member Jennifer Russell!) Steve Hyde noted that the exam should be at least updated to the needs of the current surveying world.

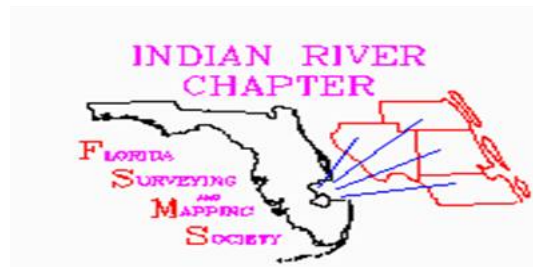
Old Business

Chapter web page – Jennifer Russell-Hyde accepted the challenge to create the page and Paul Beaulieu offered to maintain it. \$50 was voted on (Bob Johnson motioned, it was seconded and approved) to pay for the expenses of procuring a website host and associated costs.

Boundaries & Graves, Stuart Moores Cemetery – Treasurer McLaughlin reported that on Saturday, April 19th, 5 members and 2 children volunteered 7 hours to recover and tie-in boundary corners of the multiple parcels of the cemetery, review the condition of the cemetery, and devise a future course of action. Some corners were not found and half of those recovered still need to be located. The cemetery's condition is very poor, with many headstones being unreadable. Pat Meeds of Creech Engineering offered a field crew with RTK GPS to locate the remaining corners upon receipt of a sketch of their locations, and the Chapter greatly appreciates Mr. Meeds' and Creech's generosity. Once the boundary is finalized, the Chapter would like to utilize a laser scanner to locate improvements and possibly document worn down headstones. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) is also to be used to delineate possible areas of unmarked graves, as this was a paupers' cemetery for a number of years in the early 1900s. The next field visit will be in June.

Space Coast Surveyor's Festival/Scholarship Fundraiser – Denise Arnold reported that 515 people (including 157 children) attended the March festival in Melbourne. The festival raised \$3560 this year compared to \$1373 in 2007 (its first year). The auction alone raised \$2500! The Space Coast Chapter would like suggestions on how to make it better/what to change in 2009.

New Business:



Paul Beaulieu offered to contact Carlson about teaching an FSMS-approved 1-hour CEC course on Machine Control. The subject interests many members and there are many questions on its future in relation with surveyors.

Discussion of a golf tournament. It is too late to have it in the spring, so it was tabled to discuss a possible fall tournament in the future.

Discussion to increase the Director's expense fund from \$100 to \$150 per quarter for Board meetings due to the fuel costs and other increases. Pat Volpe made a motion to increase the amount; Vice-President Phillips seconded and was passed unanimously.

Immediate Past-President Hyde reported Florida Atlantic University has three courses being offered in Fall 2008, including GIS3015 Intro to Mapping & GIS, SUR2101 Plane Surveying & Lab, and SUR2034 Intro to Geomatics Engineering. These courses will be taught at the FAU Treasure Coast campus in Port St. Lucie. For those interested, visit their website at www.ge.fau.edu or email the program at geomaticsend@fau.edu.

Two candidates from the Indian River Chapter were nominated for Director, Immediate Past-President Steve Hyde and Past Palm Beach Chapter President Pat Meeds. The Space Coast Chapter also has a possible nominee (Space Coast & Indian River supply one of the two Directors for District 3). The two Indian River nominees had their resumes previously emailed to the members and stood to discuss their experiences. President Ehmke discussed emailing a ballot to vote for Director to the membership the next day, but may wait until after the Space Coast Chapter's May 13 meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned around 9:15pm.