



# Oregon

**State Board of Examiners for  
Engineering & Land Surveying**

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PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE  
AND  
RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

October 3, 2007

Members present:

Carl Tappert, Chair, Professional Practices

Grant Davis, Chair, Rules & Regulations

Ron Stuntzner

Amin Wahab

Staff present:

Mari Lopez, Executive Secretary

Jenn Gilbert

JR Wilkinson

Others present:

Ron Singh, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Joanna Tucker-Davis, AAG

Robert Horsefield

Brian King

Bob Neathamer (observer)

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room of the OSBEELS office at 670 Hawthorne Avenue, SE, Suite 220, Salem, OR 97301.

## **DIGITAL SIGNATURES –**

Mr. Tappert began the meeting restating that the Board recognizes the importance of allowing digital signatures and the need to develop a related procedure. The procedure must ensure the security of documents and that the process to utilize digital signatures is regulated. At this time, the Board is seeking input and guidance on developing this process. Mr. Singh stated that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is very anxious to utilize digital signatures.

Mr. Singh distributed copies of language contained in the rules of the State of Arizona currently allowing digital signature. It was his understanding that this process could be implemented by rule; not requiring a change in statute. Ms. Lopez verified that prior AAG Dahlin agreed and confirmed his understanding. However, Mr. Singh opined that a housekeeping change to the ORS should be made at a later date for additional clarity.

Mr. Davis also provided information contained in the National Council of Examiners of Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Model Rule specifically related to the topic. Ms. Lopez stated that she also has information and language from other state boards and the opinion written by AAG Dahlin. Mr. Davis explained to Mr. Singh that should his agency determine any conflict with proposed language and the ORSs, to please forward suggestions to the Rules and Regulations committee.

Mr. Tappert then moved the discussion to security of digital signatures. Mr. Singh explained the difference between electronic signatures and digital signatures. Several important differences are that a digital signature provides security; an identifiable specific person unique to the digital signature, clear indicators if the electronic documents were modified from the time the digital signature was applied, and encryption of the document. However, he clarified that encryption is not a proposal being made to the Board at this time; just the addition of allowing digital signatures.

Mr. Davis also brought to the attention of the discussion, suggested language implying the Board should approve certain methods for digital signatures. AAG Tucker-Davis would also like the members to consider the aspect of law enforcement and the archival process. The importance of a hierarchy and the paper copy prevails, would remain. Mr. Singh admitted that this is the most difficult question to answer but submitted that, as a result of lessons of the past, the ODOT has plans on migrating and storing data for future retrieval.

Mr. Davis requested that an ad hoc committee, comprised of the professionals in the community, be utilized to develop language and procedures to move forward. Mr. Singh will be included as a member of the ad hoc committee, along with Mr. Neathamer. Ms. Lopez will forward additional information for the committee to consider.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.