



Survey Committee Meeting Report
October 16, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Teams Meeting (virtual) & Spokane, WA (in-person)

Virtually via Microsoft Teams:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 274 710 328 457

Passcode: 4hZpSf

Dial in by phone

[+1 564-999-2000,488460465#](#) United States,
Olympia

[\(833\) 322-1218,488460465#](#) United States (Toll-free)

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 488 460 465#

In person:

Gonzaga University
Hemmingson Center
702 E Desmet Ave
Spokane, WA 99202

Committee: Aaron Blaisdell, PLS (Committee Chair)
James Wengler, PLS, CFedS
Doug Hendrickson, PE

Support staff: Kristina Horton, PLS, Deputy Director
Shanan Gillespie, Regulatory Program Manager
Jill Short, Compliance Manager
Greg Schieferstein, Outreach and Communications Manager
Bryce Dickinson, Administrative Assistant
Mackenzie Wherrett, Executive Assistant
Vonna Cramer, Licensing Lead
Ken Fuller, Director
Elizabeth Lagerberg (AAG)

Guests: Tom Barger, PLS
David Icenhower, PLS
Pat Beehler, PLS
Walt Dale, PLS
Dennis Studeman
Joe (no last name provided – attended virtually)
Paul Galli, PLS

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m.



Agenda Discussion topics **(Action Items Highlighted)**

- PDH: Compilation of activities from most recent PDH audits (JS/KH)
 - Discussion of the review of PDH activities presented
 - Noted that PDH units are mainly from state survey association conferences and memberships
 - The compilation is a small sampling of 36 (to date) audits
 - This committee will revisit the sample size in a year (Oct 2025 Survey Committee Meeting)
 - Staff (Investigator) will continue to track and compile audit information
- Review Concise Explanatory Statement for WAC 196-16-120. Decide whether to recommend to the Board the filing of the CR103 – see attachments (KH/SG)
 - Doug H. noted a minor change to the Concise Explanatory Statement: The WAC number was incorrect. Shanan G. will make the correction.
 - This committee agrees to recommend to the Board, at the Special Board Meeting tomorrow (10/17), that the CR103 be filed
 - Staff will post the notification of the filing of the CR103 and the estimated effective date of the WAC change to the BRPELS website and send out as a message on Constant Contact to Professional Land Surveyors (licensed)
 - Aaron B. asked that this WAC change be part of the BRPELS presentation at the annual conference of the Land Surveyor's Association of Washington (LSAW)
- PLS State Exam: Project update (KH/SG)
 - Kris H. reported that the agency will not proceed with traditional Beta Testing of the two (2) new PLS exam forms. Instead a Subject Matter Expert (SME) group, separate from the exam writing SME group, will be formed to verify the exams and exam items (questions). There was discussion about this process and how to make it successful.
 - Aaron B. asked that an option of using a "pre-test" method for exam items be added to the current draft Exam Policy that staff is working on. Shanan G. will add it.
- Question from a PLS about monuments – see attachment (KH)
 - James W. and Aaron B. both stated that there is nothing in law (RCW or WAC) preventing a land surveyor from using a cap or washer with the PLS number and name on it, as a control point
 - Attendees stated that they are seeing more of this in the field and that not everyone uses "control" caps
 - Tom B. volunteered to write an article for the Board about "Best Practices" pertaining to this
 - Aaron B. is working on a written response to the PLS that presented this question to the committee. He will have the other committee members review it



and the final draft will be sent to Kris H so that it can be put on BRPELS letterhead and forwarded to the PLS.

Strategic Planning Items

- Determine the pathways to state specific PLS exam.
- Work with DNR on proposed update of Survey Recording Act (RCW 58.09) and associated WACs and RCWs. Engage with appropriate stakeholders.
 - No discussion at this meeting.

Additional Action Items

- The following items will be added to the December Survey Committee Agenda
 - Discuss PDH carryover: Some states allow, and some do not. Include considerations of calendar year vs. renewal year, and the intent of the PDH requirement
 - Report update on new PLS Exam progress
 - LSAW Conference presentation(s): Discuss idea and topics

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.