In the absence of face-to-face meetings for some time, I solicited from last-appearing or emailing NSPS members who were listed as being members of various “practice” committees to comment on items for which input was requested at the behest of Past President Van Horne. In each case, the initial charge statement is from PP Van Horne. The following statement is from this chair, and addition reports received to date follow.

1. Periodically review and submit to the Board of Directors any recommended revisions or additions to the NSPS Code of Ethics. With all the major changes in the practice of land surveying, a timely large review of our Code of Ethics appears to be in order, if one hasn't been started already.

2. Study the cases of all persons reported to the Society to be operating in violation of ethics and professional practices, for possible recommendation to the Board of Directors for action. This would appear to need state society input for both content and action already taking place.

3. Encourage and facilitate local chapter Professional Practice Committee formation to deal with local issues. This could be a problem, with many local chapters having troubles getting chapter officers and participation, let alone numbers of members to have many active committees.

4. Act as resource on professional practice issues with the NSPS Board of Directors. This committee stands ready to serve upon request.

5. Act as liaison with other organizations regarding professional practice in land surveying. This committee stands ready to serve upon request.

COMMENTARY FROM CLIFFORD BAKER

Items 3 & 4. An issue we have at several individual state levels and on a national level is the push for removing licensure requirements. I perceive that much of this push stems from idea that licensure restricts participants from entering into a licensed practice. This may be sound reasoning for removing licensure requirements for some professions that do not protect the health, safety & welfare of the public. However, the public still needs professional surveyors’ expertise, obtained from experience, education & testing (3-legged stool), in many areas where we are the best able to protect their health, safety and welfare.

Many state licensures are usually a general land surveying license basically giving license to practice in a wide range of activity described as professional services, many of which the licensee has little or no experience in. In most states we are licensed as land surveyor (LS), registered land surveyor (RLS), or professional land surveyor (PLS), all of which stress a strong land boundary knowledge base. Today most of us practice professional surveying (PS) and have the expertise in several areas beyond land boundaries where the risk to the public can be profound. Who better than surveyors should be doing construction surveying, flood plain surveys, elevation certificates, Hydrographic surveying, etc.

2.

However, not all licensed land surveyors have the expertise needed in many of these areas, but are relying on
someone else to provide the information, they may only vaguely understand before signing the document. The actual expert in these various areas, without the land background, cannot be licensed and cannot sign off on their own work. The answer to this is surveying license in an ‘area of expertise’.

Licensing in ‘areas of expertise’ does the opposite of restricting, but actually opens up the surveying licensure track to more participants. Areas of expertise also provides better health, safety, and welfare protection to public.

To close, this issue addresses item 2 – where there is practice without a license by people that may be better qualified than land surveyors, but can’t get a LS license, 4 – working with the NSPS Board of Directors in identifying potential ‘areas of expertise’ where we (NSPS) already has high criteria certifications, and 5 – liaison with other organizations that represent these areas of expertise that can be licensed, i.e. photogrammetry.

**Private Practice**

1. Seek out sources to develop material relating to the preparation and submission of proposals to both governmental agencies and private clients. Joe Dolan has a very detailed proposal form that can be studied and presented verbatim or with comments. He has given us permission to review it.

2. Act as requested as a resource contact for professional publications in regard to studies, which may be conducted independently by said publication. This committee stands ready to serve upon request.

4. Maintain liaison with the NSPS Government Practice Committee. Will maintain discussion within the primary committee.

5. Work with the Education Committee to develop a list of skills and academic courses that will prepare surveying students for the needs of the practicing profession. Most of us in private practice has many ideas of such items. Shall we start a comprehensive list; who would volunteer to compile the list?

6. Review policy statements of various state licensing boards regarding machine control for grading and staking and advise the board as to whether NSPS should take an official position on this issue. This needs to be discussed with perhaps our NCEES Liaison and others who serve as state board members. My state licensing board has not been approached at all about this item, but it well could be an item that state society standards writers are considering.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Curtis, RPLS, FNSPS