



A publication from the

Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers

Spring 2021

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Message From The Board Chair

Nick Campanile



"Where I Work" has taken on a different perspective, yet, the fundamental aspects of surveying and mapping continue as many who do not regularly perform field surveying transition from teleworking to repopulating offices to try and pick up where we left off in early 2020. There remains a constant in what the surveying and mapping profession performs, and that is in their services.

Regardless of the hurdles placed, the profession has persevered through a pandemic with its obstacles and continues to provide services to meet the needs of its customers. The welfare of consumers has been maintained through professionalism as evidenced in many ways. *Where I work*, regardless of location, the standard has continued in providing the same high level of services as always. Sure, it wasn't a walk in the park, but the concern for quality was paramount and dictated how we reacted and managed our responsibilities. *Where you work*, has shown to be the same, and evidenced by the ability to provide services in a timely manner, including transitioning into a substantial increase in real estate transactions involving surveying and mapping services. It's the strength and quality of the profession that affords welfare to the consumer, a primary concern of the Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers.

As the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Board continue in their responsibilities, it is encouraging to see the continued increase of applicants and licensees to offer services. Our recent meeting on May 24 included 51 applications for examination, 24 being for PSM and 27 for SIT. We have seen increases in applicants since the department began providing the Florida Jurisdictional Examination via Prometric in multiple locations and frequency.

The surveying and mapping profession recently completed a biennial licensing renewal, and the Department was aggressive in noticing licensees for renewal and continued follow-up for licenses that have become delinquent. The Board and Department are also focusing on disciplinary case backlog, modifying processes on same to aid in reducing the time to process, and developing a fair and reasonable approach to addressing disciplinary cases.

The surveying and mapping profession and the needs of consumers is dynamic, and therefore, the laws and rules are periodically in need of change. Ongoing Board discussion concerning rule and law changes continues, and the Board and Department are open to input from others. The value in this is the diversity of input from varied experiences. Where you work and what you do matters, and your input will be considered.

As we move into summer, we plan to hold the next Board meeting in Cocoa Beach. It may, however, continue to be held virtually. The final meeting of the year will be late October and could be in-person in St. Augustine. At that meeting, we will see two longstanding PSM board members move on, and welcome two new PSM board members early 2022.

In closing, be proud of your perseverance and professionalism *where you work* and continue to raise the bar.

Message from the Executive Director

Liz Compton



The 2021 renewal period has successfully wrapped up with few hiccups despite processing applications during a pandemic and working from home. I'd especially like to thank Regenia Lee on the board staff who took the vast majority of calls while timely handling applications! As a courtesy board staff also reached out to every surveyor whose license status was active/delinquent to alert them to the pending change to null and void status if they failed to renew a second time. I'd also like to thank the professional surveying community for its timely submission of renewal applications and patience when issues did arise. While the past year has had its challenges, everyone has risen to the occasion with grace and cooperation. We have proven we can adapt to whatever circumstances we are presented. The Board has been meeting virtually during the pandemic to ensure the safety of board members, staff and the public. After a short learning curve, it has worked out very well. In fact, as Chairman Nick Campanile mentioned, during the May 24, 2021 board meeting there were what may be a record number of applications submitted for review, a total of 51! The application committee members and the board continued their thoughtful and thorough review of these applications. It's great to see the surveying profession is alive and well in Florida. The meeting dates, times, and locations are published on the BPSM website at <https://www.fdacs.gov/About-Us/Advisory-Councils-and-Committees/Board-of-Professional-Surveyors-and-Mappers> and in the Florida Administrative Register which includes log in information for virtual meetings. Another example of adapting to circumstances was that NCEES held its annual Southern Zone meeting virtually in April with significant participation and success. More on that later in the newsletter. During the 2021 legislative session, proposed legislation that would have impacted the education and work experience required for licensure, HB821 and SB1342 did not pass this session. The Legislative Review of Occupational Regulations bills (SB 344 & HB 471) also both did not pass. As always, please know that we at the board office are always available to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. Feel free to reach out to us at either 1-800-435-7352 or psm@freshfromflorida.com, or my direct contact 850-410-3674 or liz.compton@FDACS.gov.

ADDRESS AND CHANGE REQUIREMENTS

A reminder that Section 472.0204, Florida Statutes, requires each licensee to be responsible for notifying the department in writing of the licensee's current mailing address and place of practice. It's important that board staff have current contact information to ensure timely delivery of renewal notices and any other alerts. During the renewal period we did find a number of licensees who had not updated this information which puts licensees at a disadvantage when staff is trying to reach them to rectify any issues with renewal applications, continuing education credits or anything else that might impact surveying professionals. So please remember to let board staff know if your contact information changes! A failure to notify the department of a change in address may result in disciplinary action against the license.

Additionally, pursuant to Section 472.021(4), Florida Statutes, and Rule 5J-17.063(9), Florida Administrative Code, business entities shall notify the Board within one (1) month of any changes in the business entity's location of offices, its licensed surveyors and mappers in residence, and the names of its principals, along with proof to demonstrate the change in principals.

NATIONAL SURVEYORS WEEK RECOGNIZED

National Surveyors Week was recognized March 21st -27th in Florida and across the nation despite limitations in public gatherings due to the pandemic. The Governor and Cabinet issued a resolution sponsored by Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried honoring the important work conducted by surveyors in protecting private property rights and managing Florida's precious natural resources. The resolution pointed out the unique qualifications of professional surveyors to determine land and water boundaries for the management of natural resources and protection of private and public property rights. Executive Director Liz Compton presented the resolution to Florida Surveying and Mapping Society Director Tom Steckler.



The Indian River Board of County Commissioners also took the opportunity on March 16th to recognize this important profession with a proclamation presented to a group of surveyors including board members David Schryver and Steve Hyde. Many thanks to Indian River County commissioners for taking the time especially during a pandemic to honor this profession!



The City of Dunedin also recognized the many contributions of surveyors and mappers on March 18 with a resolution presented to Board Member Chris McLaughlin who brought his adorable children Adeline and Wyatt. No one is too young to learn about the profession and possibly consider a future career as a Professional Surveyor!



NCEES SOUTHERN ZONE MEETING 2021

The NCEES Southern Zone meeting was held virtually on April 15th and here is a recap some of the highlights. The election for Vice President and Assistant Vice President was held and Andy Zoutewelle from North Carolina was elected V-P and Bobby Balli from Texas was elected Assistant V-P. Committees have been meeting virtually over the past year and a leadership summit was also held virtually in November. There was some spirited discussion in the Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors about the restructuring of the PS exam into five divisions. The committee reported that it expects the rollout of the revised exam in 2025. While testing for the FS and PS exams was temporarily delayed early in the pandemic, NCEES worked quickly to establish safety guidelines and resume the computer-based testing at partial capacity to ensure social distancing at the facilities.

BOARD POSITION VACANCIES

On October 31, 2021 we will be saying goodbye to two board members, Steve Hyde and Frank Conkling. Their dedicated service and institutional knowledge will be sorely missed. However, the vacancies provide an opportunity for other members of the profession to contribute their knowledge and experience to the betterment of the surveying and mapping community. We anticipate having these positions filled by November 1, 2021 and will be starting the interview process in July and August.

If you are interested in applying for the licensed member positions please have your questionnaire submitted to the board office no later than July 1, 2021. The Board Appointment Questionnaire can be found on our website: www.freshfromflorida.com/Business-Services/Surveyors-and-Mappers/Board-of-Professional-Surveyors-and-Mappers. If you have any questions about the position, or the appointment process, please feel free to call the board office.

CONTACT THE BOARD STAFF

Email: psm@freshfromflorida.com

Consumer Services Hotline:

1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) - Florida only
1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832) - En Español
850-488-2221 - Calling from outside of Florida

Mail:

Florida Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services Board of Professional
Surveyors and Mappers
Terry Lee Rhodes Building
2005 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32399-6500

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

August 2-3, 2021

Cocoa Beach, Florida (Tentative)

October 28-29, 2021

St. Augustine, Florida (Tentative)

Board meeting dates and locations are subject to change and may be virtual meetings. Any changes will be posted on the [website](#).



INTERESTING STATISTICS ABOUT YOUR PROFESSION

Currently, there are approximately 2417 active PSM licenses.

- **Ages 40 and under- Approximately 8%**
- **Ages 41-60 Approximately 44%**
- **Ages over 60 Approximately 48%**

EXAMINATIONS

Florida Jurisdiction Exam

The Board recognized early in the pandemic that with office closures and in person meetings on hold, we needed to find an alternative for administering the Florida Jurisdictional Exam. After contacting several 3rd party testing companies, the department contracted with Prometric, Inc. which has testing sites across the nation and in many other countries. The first six months of offering this option has proven successful. The response from examinees has been very positive with many saying the facilities have been professional and implemented strong safety measures. The fee for this service is \$69.00 in addition to the regular fees applicants pay to the department. However, this has enabled examinees to avoid significant travel costs including flights and hotels for those out of state and allows applicants to schedule the exam and a date and time convenient to them. They also have the option of waiting until department staff resumes in person meetings and will administer the test at no additional fee. That date has yet to be determined so those who have been approved to take the exam and do not want to wait can let department staff know and we will submit your information to Prometric, Inc. You can get more information about this option on our website at <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Surveyors-and-Mappers>.

The Fundamentals (FS) exam and the Principles and Practice (PS) exam are both offered year-round thru computer-based testing (CBT). The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) is responsible for the administration of both the FS and PS exams, and you may direct all your questions regarding exam registration and procedures to NCEES. Find out more by visiting www.ncces.org.

Please note: In order to register for any of the exams (FS, PS and Florida Jurisdictional) you must be first have submitted a registration application and been approved by the Board.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers has taken disciplinary action against the following licensees during 2021. Although every effort has been made to ensure that this information is correct, check with the Board Office before making any specific decision based upon this information. This listing may not reflect disciplinary actions occurring near or following the publication date. Further, this listing does not reflect pending appeals or requests for rehearing. Each order listed as follows, with the name, the case number, the license number, and the terms of the Final Order. To see the Final Order, the Administrative Complaint, and the violations which were found please visit our website where you may view each document individually.

Board Orders

John R. Beach

LS2984

Case No. 2008-26383

Licensure Status: Probation

Terms of Final Order

Fine of \$500.00

Survey review costs of up to \$2000.00

Continuation of probation

Suspension of license, stayed until survey review is completed

Stephenson Wilcox & Associates Inc.

LB7672

Case No. 1807-34310

Licensure Status: Active

Terms of Final Order

Fine of \$1000.00 and Costs of \$666.41

Dan Wilcox, Jr.

LS5749

Case No. 1808-36614

Licensure Status: Active/Probation

Terms of Final Order

Fine of \$5000.00 and costs of \$659.17

Probation terms also include: Complete 18 hours of continuing education courses; provide proof of insurance

If you would like to report a violation of Chapter 472, Florida Statutes, or Rule 5J-17, Florida Administrative Code or to report unlicensed activity click the following link: [Complaint Form](#)