



**ISEE Western Canada**



# Chapter

## International Society of Explosives Engineers

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### Board of Directors Meeting

**March 5, 2008**

Held at the Pacific Blasting & Demolition Ltd. Boardroom, Burnaby, BC

**Present:**

Gary Anderson  
Courtenay Anderson  
Rod Boulay  
Lewis Clarke  
Ron Elliott  
Chris Fahr  
Warren Fulton  
Marek Gomolka  
Stan Holtby  
Dave Hudak  
Paul Jeannotte  
Jim Launay  
Lori Lovelin  
Terry Matts  
Ed Taje  
Andy Wells

**Regrets:**

Finn Conradsen	Daryl Mellquist
John Fairley	Shaun Norman
Daryl Fieber	Mike Osoko
Corry Goumans	Scott Parker
Alastair Grogan	Naresh Prasad
Len Henke	Jerry Silva
Garry Heringer	Rob Slivinski
Doug Kittle	Troy Walker
Gary Kreller	Ron Woolf
Dave McConnach	Blaine Wright
Dale McLean	Allan Zdunich

### **1.0 Review of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Stan Holtby opened the meeting and asked for a review of the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting. He asked if there were any errors or omissions. Lewis Clarke pointed out an error on the amount owing to the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Calgary. The outstanding bill was for \$9188.88 not the \$1084.08 noted in the minutes. Moved by Lori Lovelin, seconded by Lewis Clarke, that the minutes of the meeting be adopted as revised. Passed, unanimous.

### **2.0 Treasurer's Report**

- Stan Holtby asked Dave Hudak for a review of the status of billings received from the Sheraton Hotel in Calgary. Dave reported that he explained to the hotel

that we are a non-profit organization and can not afford to pay the back charges for un-used rooms.

Lewis Clarke reported that we have paid the outstanding actual conference charges, a balance of \$12,707.23. For the un-used room charges, they are charging us for 84 un-used rooms. Both Gary Anderson and Terry Matts were told that the hotel was fully booked on Thursday and Friday night.

Dave Hudak suggested that we assemble letters from each of our support organizations to inform the Sheraton Hotel of our support for the Western Canada Chapter's position on this matter. Dave will draft up a sample letter to use. **Action Dave Hudak.**

Ed Taje offered to see if the Dept. of Mines could support us with a letter. Moved by Stan Holtby, seconded by Ed Taje that we pursue the letter writing option for support. Passed unanimous.

- Lewis Clarke presented the Treasurer's Report:

Current bank balance                      \$4833.98

Stan Holtby noted that out of this, we have pre-committed funds to the Scholarship Plan of a total of \$1000.00. Lewis reported that we are charged \$375.00 per quarter for our web site. Dave Hudak suggested that Lewis prepare a budget for the current year showing anticipated expenditures and committed funds including telephone and mailing costs. **Action Lewis Clarke.** Stan would like to see two columns in the budget, one for fixed costs, and the other for variable costs.

### **3.0 Scholarship Committee Report**

Dave McConnach, Terry Matts, and Dave Hudak are on the Scholarship Committee. A scholarship application form has been prepared but it has not been posted on our web site yet. Lori Lovelin proposed that we request student papers on the following topic – "Blasting in the Service of Man". This will help counteract the negative perception of blasting in the community. Everyone thought that this was a great idea.

Deadline for the submission of scholarship applications to be June 26, 2008.

**Action Lewis Clarke.**

### **4.0 Membership Committee**

Marek Gomolka offered to take over as Chairman of the Membership Committee. Stan Holtby says that a number of companies have offered to send out information letters from our Chapter with their invoicing in an attempt to recruit new members and attendees for the Annual General Meeting. Our membership fee is currently set at \$20.00 per year. Ed Taje suggested we increase membership fees to have an introductory fee of \$25.00 per year with a regular membership fee of \$50.00 per year. Moved by Terry Matts, seconded by Lori Lovelin, that we make the proposed revision to our membership fees. Passed unanimous.

A discussion followed on member benefits and how we can enhance this.

- Dave Hudak said that he has a dictionary of blasting terms that we could post on our web site for members. **Action Dave Hudak.**

- Terry Matts suggested we have a Member's Page where members can post photos of interesting blasting projects,
- Gary Anderson said that his blasters could use a training course in the proper use of seismographs. He is willing to pay for the course if it could be offered through the Chapter. This could be a good "workshop" feature for the next AGM.

## **5.0 New Business**

- Rod Boulay reported that there is a link on the NRCan web site explaining the requirement for increasing the fees from NRCanada. There is a comment period until the end of March.
- Marek Gomolka raised an issue with a customer who blasts beaver dams. He is asking that the vendor take back the un-used explosives. With all the changes to the magazine regulations, we are going to see more of this.
- Gary Anderson asked Rod Boulay about the new magazine surveillance requirements. Is video monitoring a requirement? Rod said that this is not required. A continuous electronic surveillance system can be used in lieu of daily magazine checks.
- Jim Launay from Worksafe BC reported that there is a video on their web site regarding a major fly rock incident. He also reported that a blaster was stopped at a random roadside check carrying ANFO and 780 Nonel units without proper paper work or signs being displayed.
- Jim also reported that with Blaster Certification exams, they are questioning blasters on where they are working and the type of blasting being carried out. Blasters and companies employing them are being held accountable for what they do. They are restricting blasters to their area of expertise.
- Terry Matts says that not having any formal training for blasters is a problem. Dick Shaw was looking into this. Jim says that the study that Dick was working on has been put on hold for now. Warren Fulton said they are restricting new blasters to working only for the company that is training them.
- Ron Elliott suggested that WorkSafe BC should introduce proactive regulations concerning the use of proper blast design procedures. Most of the fly rock incidents involve blasters not following proper blast designs. Jim says that this is more a role for municipalities to follow. He recognizes the need for proper blaster training.
- Jim Launay suggested we put some "Blaster's Tools" on our web site to help with training of blasters. WorkSafe BC can help with promotion of blaster training much as they have done with training of blasters in logging applications for "Blasting of Danger Trees".
- Lori says that she feels that blaster certification exams are too complex in that blasters are questioned on blasting systems that are not relevant to their particular operation. Ed Taje responded that surface blaster certification has to cover any open pit where the blaster could potentially go to.
- Jim Launay said that 25% of the blasters in BC are avalanche blasters. The biggest problem they have is blasters who are working outside of their area of expertise.

- Rod Boulay explained the system used for training and certification of special effects and pyrotechnics blasters.
- Terry Matts said there should be a basic course for blasters with emphasis on safety, then specialties for different types of blasting. Ed Taje says he will respond further on this subject by email.
- Warren Fulton reported that in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, they have a 3-level system where blasters have to attend courses to get the technical background before they can write their blaster certification exams. Jim says that they can try and push for a similar system in BC, but it would take the support of industry to get this through. Jim also reported finding many blasters without log books, contrary to the regulations.
- Gary Kreller's retirement party is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM at the Ramada Inn in Kelowna.
- Stan Holtby reported that we have 8 people signed up for the "Train the Trainer" session where we will be reviewing the ISEE Level 1 Certificate Program.

## 6.0 Next Annual General Meeting

- The dates for the next Annual General Meeting are October 24, 25, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Vernon, BC. Stan says the Best Western Vernon Lodge Hotel and Conference Centre looks like our best bet. He will have a budget from the hotel within the next two weeks. **Action Stan Holtby.**

A tour to see Orica's Detonating Cord Manufacturing Plant in Tappin, BC is being organized for the Friday afternoon, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, immediately preceding the conference. Mark your calendars!

- Gary Anderson suggested we hold the ISEE Level 1 Certificate Program on a weekend independent of the AGM. Andy Wells suggested we hold the course on a Saturday and Sunday during the winter months. This would get us the greatest turnout from blasters.
- Stan said we need to issue a "Call for Papers" as soon as possible. The following have offered support in the form of presentations at the conference:
  - Jim Launay can do a presentation.
  - Rod Boulay can do a presentation
- Rod Boulay mentioned that Chris Watson may be willing to attend if he is sent an invitation with lots of notice. Ron Elliott to draft up a letter of invitation for Stan to sign. **Action Ron Elliott.** Lori mentioned that having Chris Watson attend the conference could be a drawing card to help us boost our membership.

## 7.0 Adjournment

Moved by Lori Lovelin, seconded by Chris Fahr that the meeting be adjourned. Passed unanimous.

Next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 5:15PM at the Pacific Blasting board room, 3183 Norland Avenue, Burnaby, BC – Mark your calendars!