



Minutes of a Natural Stone Council

Board of Directors Meeting

November 13, 2012

Present: Moe Bohrer, Bill Hood, Jane Bennett, Bill Halquist, Mark Sawyer, Brenda Edwards, William Swift, Gary Distelhorst, Eddie Greene, Tom Decker, Jonathan Zanger, Rick Dilts, Mike Schlough, Jim Owens, guests Rob Broekhuizen, Jim Hieb and Bernard Buster and Executive Director Duke Pointer.

Working with a 12-item agenda, Chairman Moe Bohrer called the meeting to order at 3:05 and read the anti-trust invocation. Bohrer then did a roll call of the Board. The minutes of the previous meeting, held October 9, 2012, were approved as presented (Motion: Edwards, Second: Swift with unanimous approval).

Pointer briefly discussed the financial report noting that as of 10/31 year to date revenues were \$ 101,018.00 and expenses were \$ 66,141.00, thus showing a net gain for the period of \$ 34,877.00. The NSC showed a balance on hand of \$ 200,147.00. If things continue as expected, he foresees a \$ 60,192 net loss which will be favorable to budget by \$ 10,628.00. The report was approved as presented (Motion: Owens, Second: Dilts with unanimous approval).

Attention then turned to the Committee Reports. Hood reported on the Regulatory Committee. The group had a conference call on 11/1 and the Environmental Compliance Committee needs more members. Dave Melum was unable to be on the call, but anyone who has people interested should get those names to Dave. One of the goals of the MSHA/OSHA group for 2013 is to build a database of issues from selected companies in NSC associations so they'd know what to address. They developed a survey (which was distributed with the Board meeting materials) for the associations to distribute and the suggestion was for them to contact a few companies personally, hoping to get more participation than an earlier survey which produced no responses. The survey was briefly discussed and among the suggestions was to give some options for answers. It was also stressed that anonymity is important. Ultimately the survey was tabled until the next meeting for additional input.

Regards the website, Bennett reported that Google Analytics was installed on November 8th and she will see that it's set up so the Board can access it. Since installation there have been 131 visits to the site, 92 of which were unique. She further noted there is a conference call scheduled for 10:00 Eastern time on Thursday, 11/15, with Interactive Media which will be a tutorial/walk-through of the site. Duke has offered the NSC call-in numbers and the goal is to get folks more familiar with the site. He also pointed out that the site is now set up to take direct donations to the NSC via PayPal and credit cards.

Regards fund-raising, the Bohrer noted the \$ 5,000.00 donation sent by the American Granite Curb Association and thanked Swift and the group for their participation. Swift noted that the group is made up primarily of companies in New England plus the North Carolina Granite Company and stated that they wanted to financially support the NSC's Sustainability effort.

Buster discussed Sustainability, noting that Dennis Gillan with NSF International Sustainability had sent an interesting proposal to the Board stating their desire to become the exclusive agent to perform the third party verification and certifications required by the Standard. They are experienced in that they've done these for other ANSI providers. Bohrer noted that the Executive Committee had a conference call with NSF this past Thursday, November 8th and in the end decided to ask them to do a presentation at the Las Vegas Board meeting so that the entire Board could participate. The question was raised as to whether or not they'd have cost estimates available, and Bohrer noted that was a big part of the conference call. A lot depends on the size of the company and the number and types of locations, etc. but they are expected to have ballpark examples. As one of the pilot companies, along with Lyons Sandstone, Edwards noted that she hopes to have the certifications done for Texas Stone Quarries prior to the Board meeting so that she can report on it. Suggestions were made including obtaining references and getting alternative bids. Price Waterhouse Cooper was mentioned as a company that had expressed an interest. The Sustainability Committee, via Pointer, should make the initial contacts and the information should go to Pointer and Buster.

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The point was made that contract length was among the details that were needed and that there may be an advantage to having one company do all of the certifications so that the process would be consistent. More information should be available by the January meeting. Their presentation is scheduled for 3:00 to 5:00 (or whenever, depending on the time needed). Buster further noted that the comment period expired yesterday afternoon and that the Committee will respond to the comments. It seems likely that the Standard will be posted for additional comments at some point.

In his Executive Director's report, Pointer noted the Board still has 19 members, offering a solid representation of the industry. He is currently in San Francisco for GreenBuild, which runs tomorrow and Thursday (the 14th & 15th). StonExpo runs from January 29th through the 31st and the aforementioned Board meeting will be on Monday January 28th from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Time has also been allotted (and a room procured) on Wednesday the 30th from 9:00 to 12:00 for follow up questions and answers for the Sustainability Standard.

Under old business it was noted that some of the material fact sheets on the web need edited and updated. Pointer will reach out to folks for the most efficient way to get this done.

Under new business, Distelhorst and Zanger reported on MIA continuing efforts with Radon. The EPA is now interested in worker health in shops and quarries. MIA intends to again employ Environmental Health and Engineering to do a scientific study and establish workplace standards to directly help the EPA define the scientific protocol. Included in the effort is a white paper hopefully due out in mid-December, along with the use of monitoring equipment to measure radon at varying quarry depths. They also intend to review the silica content and take measurements of same during the wet cutting of stone in fabrication facilities. The estimated cost is over \$ 100,000.00 and to date they've had no contributions. Bohrer noted that his company had received a letter and hadn't responded and given the election and other things going on the past few weeks surmised that other companies had set this aside as well. While NSC's funds are pretty well committed it seems likely that firms directly affected by this will step up and contribute. Zanger noted that the EPA has been extremely receptive to objective scientific research and that every little bit helps. It was estimated that \$ 75,000.00 will be needed for the scientific study with an additional \$ 35,000.00 necessary for peer review. They will send information to the NSC Board and we can discuss this further at the January Board meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2012 at 3:00 Eastern time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 (Motion: Owens, Second: Greene).

Respectfully Submitted:

Secretary: Jim Owens