

Official Meeting #1 Minutes
North American Free Trade Agreement

Fort Worth Texas November 8, 1998

Sector: Licensed Land Surveyors

Participating Parties: The United States of America
 Canada
 The United Mexican States

1. John Abenroth, Chair of the NSPS NAFTA Committee opened this historical meeting with greetings to all and a recognition that this was the first official meeting of the economic sector known as Licensed Land Surveyors in the NAFTA. Five pages of questions were distributed which he hoped could be answered during the meeting. The questions included education, licensure, and practice and their purpose was to foster a better understanding of the practice of surveying in all three countries. He announced that the formal meeting may recess for general discussion or writing and translating motions from time to time during the day. Otherwise the meeting would be recorded on tape and transcribed into the three languages. (The recording machine was not running during the recesses.)
2. Curt Sumner, in his capacity as the Executive Director for the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) announced that he had a request from the US Trade Representative's Office for a copy of the minutes of this meeting.
3. The Chair called upon the Sector Representatives of the Parties and everyone else present at the table to introduce themselves. He asked that each speak slowly to allow for translation and to state the full name of their respective Associations before using the acronyms.

National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS);

Robert Prescott, President of NSPS,
Curt Sumner, Past President of NSPS and Executive Director of ACSM,
Rita Lumos, NSPS NAFTA Committee Member,
Malcolm Shaw, NSPS NAFTA Committee Member,
Al Flores, NSPS NAFTA Committee Member,
John Abenroth, Chair of the NSPS NAFTA Committee.

Canadian Council of Land Surveyors (CCLS);

Dick Wright, President of CCLS,
Wayne Brubacher, Chair of the CCLS NAFTA Committee.

**Federacion de Colegios de Ingenieros Topografos de los Estados Mexicanos, A.G.
(FECITEUM)**

Ing. Braulio Mercado Gutiérrez, Presidente, (FECITEUM),
Ing. Lino Solis López, Vice Presidente (FECITEUM).

Others;

Bruce A. Pitts, Member of the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors,
Sonja Brubacher, French Language Interpreter,
Gilberto Hinojosa, Spanish Language Interpreter.

4. As Chair of the NAFTA Committee for NSPS, the Sector Representative of the host Party, John Abenroth declared himself Chair for Meeting Number 1.
5. The Chair introduced proposed Rules Governing the Formal meeting. Each was read aloud in English and then in Spanish and time was allowed for concurrence from the Mexican delegation before proceeding to the next. At the conclusion, the Chair asked if anyone had any reservations about the rules. There were none and it was pointed out that the rules would likely evolve as needed. The Chair declared that the Rules were adopted for the present meeting since there were no objections.

Rules governing the formal meeting.

1. *Proceedings will be tape recorded.*
 2. *Participants will pause while speaking to allow translation.*
 3. *The formal meeting may be temporarily adjourned to permit discussion off the record.*
 4. *Each participating country (party) will be allowed one vote.*
 5. *Each party will select one person to be its principal speaker. Other representatives may make additional comments but the chair may limit discussion.*
 6. *Observers may be allowed to speak at the discretion of the chair.*
 7. *Minutes will be taken and provided to each party in English, Spanish and French. Minutes will not be taken of off the record discussions. If a consensus is reached, the formal meeting will be reconvened and the results may be read into the minutes for information or presented as a motion for action.*
 8. *The parties reserve the right to waive the need for a translator in any of the three languages to be present but minutes will be provided in all three languages. The right to waive may be exercised prior to the meeting by mail in or e-mail consent.*
 9. *The representatives of the parties intend to comply with the requirements of the NAFTA. If any actions of the representatives are not compliant, the remaining actions will be accepted.*
 10. *Minutes will become official when each party has endorsed them. If any section of the minutes is disputed and cannot be resolved by mail within six weeks of the meeting, the section will be deleted and brought to the next meeting for resolution.*
6. Agreement on format of the meeting:
- a) Since representatives of the Land Surveying Sector from the country of each Party were present the requirements for a Quorum were fulfilled.
 - b) It was acknowledged that translators were present for Spanish, French and English. The Chair asked if any person in the room required or wished translation into French. No one responded and therefore the following motion was introduced.

Motion No. 1

Motion to waive the need for French translation at Meeting No. 1

After asking the representatives of the parties and the observers present if anyone required or desired that discussion during the current meeting be translated into French, and having no person requiring or needing French translation, and that a person qualified to provide such translation is present, it is hereby moved by Canada and seconded by the United States of America that:

The need for French translation during Meeting No. 1 be waived and that the translator be excused.

*Mover: Wayne Brubacher
for Canada*

*Secunder: Rita Lumos
for the US*

There was no discussion on the motion and therefore the Chair declared the motion adopted and dismissed the French Translator.

7. The meeting recessed to develop a Mission Statement and when the meeting resumed, the following was adopted.

Motion No. 2

- *The purpose of this group is to develop understanding and comradeship among the surveying profession in the three countries.*
- *We will explore the requirements for education, licensure, and practice of the profession of surveying in each country with the goal of developing an agreement for cross-border practice under the NAFTA.*
- *The Group of Representatives under NAFTA should take care of being respectful of the sovereignty of each nation, their laws, and how we are responsible for the well being of our respective publics, in a reciprocal manner always in favor of the well being of our profession.*

*Mover: Wayne Brubacher
for Canada*

*Secunder: Ing. Braulio Mercado
for Mexico*

Producing no discussion, the Chair declared the motion adopted.

8. Canada put forward a Motion to sign a document of support for each of the representative Associations that confirms each to be the proper representative of the profession for entering into and concluding negotiations under NAFTA for their own country.

The US desired to make an amendment to the motion to recognize that the National Society of Professional Surveyors will work in cooperation with NCEES, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. Canada then asked to withdraw the motion as this change could not be treated as an amendment because it contradicted the intent of Canada's motion. Canada explained that the subject of the proposed amendment dealt with a matter internal to the representative of one of the Parties. Each representative would have its own internal process and Canada felt that it did not want to complicate the motion with internal processes of one of the representatives. The principal of one vote per country was raised. The Chair ruled that it could be an amendment and allowed the US to make the amendment. However, it failed for want of a seconder and the original motion was entertained. There was no objection and the Chair declared the motion passed. It read:

Motion No. 3

Be it resolved that the signatories are the representatives for their respective countries and each one is the legitimate representative of their sector for the practice of land surveying under a valid license to practice granted by an authorized body by law to do so.

*Mover: Wayne Brubacher
for Canada*

*Secunder: Ing. Braulio Mercado
for Mexico*

The President of the National Society for Professional Surveyors, Robert Prescott, the President of the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors, Dick Wright, and the President of the Federacion de Colegios Ingenieros Topógraphos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos A.C., was signed by Presidente Braulio Mercado. This historic document was photographed for posterity.

8. The location and date of the next meeting was set for Portland Oregon, March 13th to March 15th, 1999, in conjunction with the ACSM/NSPS Spring Meeting. Discussion about holding the meeting later and at another venue did not produce agreement. Dick Wright, on behalf of CCLS invited the members of the three NAFTA Committees to attend the next Annual General Meeting in Newfoundland in June, 1999 “and it did not have to be a NAFTA meeting”. Mexico extended its invitation for the NAFTA committee to meet in Mexico in September of 1999, in Tijuana.

9. There was no time to discuss and answer the questions circulated by the Chair but members were charged with completing the questionnaire in time for the next meeting.

10. The meeting was adjourned.

The minutes of the first official meeting of the Professional Land Survey Sector Representatives are confirmed as correct and are hereby received.

Party: The United States of America

National Sector Representative: The National Society of Professional Surveyors

Signed by: Robert Prescott, President,

Party: Canada

National Sector Representative: The Canadian Council of Land Surveyors

Signed by: Dick Wright, President,

Party: Los Estados Unidos de México

National Sector Representative: Federación Colegios Ingenieros Topógrafos de los Estados Unidos de México

Signed by: Ing. Braulio Mercado Gutierrez, Presidente