

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the DRBF Executive Board of Directors February 20, 2009

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the DRBF Executive Board of Directors was held by conference call on February 20, 2009 with the following participants: Romano Allione, Bill Baker, James Brady, Volker Jurowich, Jack Norton, and Gwyn Owen. Jack Woolf, Steve Fox and Ann McGough participated by invitation.

Financial Report

Prior to the meeting, the budget and financial report were distributed to all Board members. Steve Fox reported that the new version of the budget breaks it into three new units. He noted that throughout the year he will make modifications as needed, as some things may need shifting as he gets used to the new system.

Romano Allione raised a concern about fluctuating exchange rates impact on the figures. Steve said he can only make projections, and he always tries to be very conservative, but the budget will be risk until the Finance Committee can open a UK based account. After some discussion, the Board agreed that there is no need to worry too much because the estimates are conservative, and looking ahead there will be a lot of changes as the new system evolves and a new account is established.

Membership

Steve Fox reported membership is down slightly by about 20 members, noting only two arrived in January. He went on to say that February numbers are looking good, in part due to conference activity, which frequently encourages membership. He stated that he believes February figures may make up for a weak January and equal out. Steve noted a few members have dropped down or out due to the economy, including one at the sustaining level, but that a few have also gone up, including one from the sustaining level to silver.

Conferences

Region 2: – Volker Jurowich reported that everything is moving along smoothly regarding the planning. He said there is still a speaker needed to address the US model, but he was not concerned about the ability to secure someone.

Region 1: – Jack Norton reviewed some of the new plans for the '09 Annual Meeting, including a plan to add a vertical construction session on Friday for an additional \$75, and a session targeted lawyers being developed by Kerry Lawrence. He noted that the DRBF asked Quijano from the Panama project to speak but that his organization would require the DRBF to pay expenses. The Board agreed that although the policy is not to pay speaker fees or travel costs, in this case an exception could be made.

Future Conferences - Bill Baker complimented Jim Brady on the effort to look ahead and schedule conference locations years in advance. Volker Jurowich noted his preference for Country Reps to send a 'proposal' for hosting the conference, thereby convincing the Board that they have the pulling power and infrastructure to host the event. It was noted that next year the International Conference is probably to be hosted in Manila or Singapore. For the Region 1 conference, many Board members liked the idea of going to Canada next time the meeting is scheduled for the West, with Vancouver and Calgary mentioned as potential candidates. The Board agreed the goal is to announce the 2010 locations at the International Conference in London.

Bill Baker reported that Caltrans has stated that now that the budget has passed they are ready to move ahead with training plans for this year. He said that current plans are for eight sessions in 2009, and Ernie Holt, Jack Feller and Bill Baker will be coordinating the effort.

Steve Fox noted the Northwest Conference will be held May 29 in Seattle, and will have a similar format as in the past with a meeting in the morning and a training workshop in afternoon.

Volker Jurowich noted there is also a regional conference being planned in Bucharest for Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Promotion for the event will begin after London conference.

Bylaws

There have been email exchanges regarding the bylaw draft distributed by Kerry Lawrence. Because Kerry could not make the call, discussion was tabled for a future meeting. Romano Allione suggested forwarding the existing document to Nicholas Gould so he can start looking at it for the Region 2 bylaws, and Volker agreed to do so.

President's List

Jack Woolf reported that the committee has sorted out the new applications; the original list had 56 names, and of those 4 have not replied that they want to stay on the list. There are 36 new applications, and Jack estimates that probably 30 of those will be added to the list. Jack noted that the President's List is growing, and he has some serious questions which he'd like to deal with offline, primarily related to a comparison of this list to FIDIC's President's List and a concern that it is perceived as an elite list. Jack asked how many requests the DRBF gets each year. Gwyn replied that he got quite a few last year, maybe because it was new and being promoted. He noted he backed off the promotion side because he thought the Board was uncomfortable with promoting the list, and he thinks the committee is going in the right direction. It was suggested that a name change (such as Referral List) might be in order and then the list could be promoted accordingly. Jim Brady reported that he has had 2 requests this year.

New Business

New Committee-Speakers Bureau Effort

Jack Woolf noted that he is hoping members will contact him about speaking opportunities when the Forum hits mailboxes. He noted the more we spread the DRB message, the more we have a chance to build membership. It was noted that Jim Haggins has said he's happy to speak about DRBs at any opportunity, and Jim Brady said that he plans to speak to his local ASCE group and has volunteered for the Fox next year.

Project Listing Effort

Romano noted there are a lot of websites where you can get information, including some that are subscription based. Ann raised a concern about whether subscription programs might be for personal use only and restrict further distribution of the information. It was decided that Ann will check resources from ENR and Romano will check resources from the Economist. At the least, they would put together an article about the different resources to publish in the Forum.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2009 at 12 noon EST by Skype conference call. All participants are urged to install Skype prior to the call.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Bill Baker and Ann McGough.