



The Dispute Resolution Board Foundation

Fostering common-sense dispute resolution worldwide

Minutes of the DRBF Board of Directors Meeting Friday June 23, 2006

A DRBF Board of Directors meeting was held by conference call on June 23, 2006 with the following participating: Romano Allione (V), Armando Araujo(V), William B. Baker(V), Peter Chapman, Jim Donaldson (V), Peter M. Douglass (V), William W. Edgerton (V), Gordon L. Jaynes (V), Jack Feller (V), Harold V. McKittrick (V), and John Norton (V). Larry Delmore, Steve Fox, and Ann McGough participated by invitation. The following BOD members were unable to participate: Bernard Becq (V), Daniel F. Meyer, Gwyn Owen (V), Marianne Ramey (V), Robert A. Rubin (V), Robert J. Smith (V) and Jack J. Woolf.

Note: (V) represents voting Board members.

Annual Meeting and Conference

A copy of the latest draft of the Annual Meeting and Conference program was distributed to the Board in the morning preceding the meeting. Jack Norton walked the Board through the agenda, seeking comments, contacts and ideas to round out the program.

It was noted that the agenda has a strong owner emphasis, and the question was raised as to whether it downplays the contractor. Most agreed that the focus of the agenda is outward and rightfully so. It was noted that the Construction Institute was invited to participate on the program, so there may be a contractor-focused section on the Sunday agenda.

Hal McKittrick asked about earlier discussions regarding involving someone from Central or South America on the program, in light of the Florida location for the meeting. The Brazilian rep, Gilberto Vaz, was noted for his involvement and cited as a potential, as well as Gwyn Owen who is active in that region.

Armando Araujo noted there is one World Bank project in Brazil with a DRB, but not many Boards in this part of the world. Although they are starting to see a resurgence, it has been slow in the past decade. Dr. Woess, the DRBF representative for Mexico was suggested as a good contact also. The planning committee agreed to contact Mr. Vaz, Dr. Woess and Gwyn Owen and try to secure someone to speak on Sunday morning.

The committee was asked about what kind of external publicity is being planned. The announcement that goes to all DRBF members will also be distributed to 15,000 members of the Construction Institute. President Hal McKittrick asked Ann McGough to draft up a short article about the event to submit to CI for their upcoming newsletter. The announcement will also be distributed to several other organizations and industry publications, including ABA, AGC and others. It was noted that we should also contact the calendar editors for industry publications like ENR and Civil Engineering magazine.

The Board then discussed avenues for publicity to those outside of the US. Steve Fox has a list of attendees from the past two International Conferences that are not DRBF members which he will send to Ann McGough. She will also contact Peter Boswell with FIDIC and request placing the conference info on their website and distributing an announcement to their members. The ICC and SECCA were also noted as organizations that might provide publicity to their members. Romano Allione agreed to send the SECCA contact information to Ann McGough.

President Hal McKittrick asked Jack Norton to send updates to the conference agenda by email for the Board to comment on as needed in the weeks ahead.



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The subject of evaluations for the presentations was addressed. It was agreed that an evaluation form will be distributed at the beginning of the meeting for people to turn it at the end of the day or when they leave. Steve Fox noted that the form should be sent to him for inclusion in the meeting packets.

Northwest Conference

Jim Donaldson reported that the conference went very well. There were 28 attendees representing several states, plus one representative from Canada and one from Viet Nam. The morning agenda featured a pros and cons panel of both users and contractors, and the afternoon session featured a training program.

Multi-National Training Status

Peter Chapman was asked to give a brief update on the committee's activities. The committee is currently reviewing a template for training, and if an organization can work within the template and guidelines, they would be authorized to do the training. There is still some concern about monitoring whether they are complying with the DRBF's model. When asked if there would be a DRB practitioner involved to lend practical experience, Peter noted that while that is certainly the idea, it would most likely need to be someone from the local area because of travel costs. Initially, it may be necessary to send people involved on an international scale since some regions don't have many DRB practitioners yet. Pakistan and India were cited as areas where the expense is too great.

Larry raised the idea of having training on a CD with an online test to be completed in order to receive the training certificate. Peter Chapman mentioned the World Bank training which utilized teleconferencing, and noted that all of these things need to be looked at, keeping in mind the need for quality and the context of cost.

These discussions raised the larger point that the Board needs to consider about whether the DRBF wants to be in the business of remote education. It was suggested that this is a cheap and effective way to get the word out on the street, and may be worth the investment. Some noted that AAA requires annual training and it is done almost exclusively electronically, and it is a tremendous revenue producer for the organization. It was agreed this needs to be discussed at length at the meeting in Orlando. Larry Delmore offered to put together a proposal for the Board to look at in Orlando.

Other Business

Larry Delmore reported that the City of San Francisco and the Orange County Sanitation District have both decided to use DRBs, so there should be more activity in California regarding training and DRB use.

The meeting concluded at 12:57. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 11, 2006 by conference call beginning at 12:00 noon EST.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Ann McGough.