

National Legislative Program Evaluation Society

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2006 Nashville, Tenn.

The Executive Committee convened at 3:45 p.m. on Monday, August 14, 2006 at the Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Hermitage E room in Nashville Tennessee. Copies of handouts discussed during the meeting are kept on file with the NLPES secretary. The committee broke out into its sub-committees and reconvened as a whole at 4:40 p.m.

Attendance: Committee Members - Wade Melton (Chair), Ken Levine (Vice Chair), Tim Osterstock (Secretary), Jan Yamane, Trish Bishop, Steve Hendrickson, Joe Lawhon, Leslie McGuire, Rakesh Mohan, Ethel Detch, and Gerry Schwandt; NCSL - Bob Boerner; Guests- Martha Carter (Nebraska), John Silvia and Gail (West Virginia), Marty Harkness (Florida), and Barb Hinton (Kansas).

Yellow Book Discussion: Wade Melton lead a discussion on NLPES's response to the proposed GAO Yellow Book changes. The letter, drafted by committee members, states that the proposed changes are too prescriptive for evaluation purposes. This problem is highlighted by the use of "should" rather than "may". The changes often lack the ability to use professional interpretation and offer little benefit to evaluation agencies for considerably more work. Each state is asked to address these concerns independently.

Diversity: The committee does have a draft policy on diversity that is loosely based on NCSL's internal policy. Committee members are asked to suggest edits and be prepared for a vote on the policy statement in Utah. The addition would be a new article in NLPES's by-laws.

PEER Reviews: The chair proposes that NLPES establish an NCSL-based PEER Review system for program evaluation by NLPES member states. Florida recently got NCSL to supervise three senior staff from member states for a 4 day review of the Florida program. The end result was an hour and a half conference and a report drafted by Bob Boerner that served as a true PEER Review. The total cost was about \$15,000 that was run through NCSL. Committee members are asked to review the proposed program and be prepared for a discussion in Utah.

Committee Reports:

Communications: The NLPES website continues to have problems. Specifically, there are too many links and too poor of communication. The best way to address the problem is to have NLPES sub-committee chairs directly contact NCSL with relevant changes in their areas.

Motion by Rakesh Mohan to have committee chairs notify NCSL of relevant changes in their areas, seconded by Trish Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting: Ethel Detch gave a brief update on the Nashville conference. Steve and Ken reported that all NLPES sessions are in order and the speakers are all confirmed. Wednesday at 11:30 will be the Staff Officer Training Lunch for those who wish to attend and Thursday will be the next committee meeting.

Awards: Awards will be presented at the Tuesday luncheon. There will be a work session in Park City to critically evaluate our current award system. NCSL will e-mail all state offices for comment on the awards program. Past award judges should be contacted and encouraged to attend the session.

Training: The upcoming fall conference is under a tight budget and questions the number of NCSL staff attending. Attendance numbers may be down from earlier estimates.

Motion by Jan Yamane to allow \$4,000 of NLPES's balance to be used by Utah, Utah is encouraged to maintain a balanced budget, seconded by Ken Levine. Motion passed unanimously.

Elections: Wade is working on updating the states' staff lists.

Motion to Adjourn made by Tim Osterstock, seconded by Gerry Schwandt. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 p. m.

Submitted by Tim Osterstock, Secretary