

May 13, 2009
Chapter Meeting
Rock Salt, Seattle
5:30 – 8:30 PM

Andrea Ball (S), Anna Bremmer, Tricia Butler (D), Harvey Childs, Dan Clancy, Laurie Dennis, Gene Haba (D), John Langer (T), Blane Long (VP), Rahul Nagalkar (D), Don Owings, Steven Paget (P), Ken Smith (D), Ken Snider, Marlo Stebner

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. A special welcome to Marlo Stebner's guest and colleague, Ken Snider, and to Don Owings who joined in via phone from Portland, OR.
- II. Board meeting review
 - a. New officers: President – Rahul Nagalkar; Vice President – Blane Long; Secretary – Andrea Ball and Treasurer – John Langer
 - b. Board meeting dates have been set for September 9, 2009, February 10, 2010 and June 9, 2010.
 - c. Committee membership for Directors was reviewed – see May 13, 2009 Board Meeting minutes for further details.
 - d. SAVE 2011/2012 Conference update – no word yet which year Cascadia will host but a committee, chaired by Andrea Ball, has been formed and will keep the chapter apprised of the situation as it develops.
- III. Committee reports
 - a. Communication / Outreach (Ball) – No new members since the April meeting. Membership rebate from SAVE should arrive shortly.
 - b. Programming (Long) – Blane will continue to chair this committee, with support from Rahul and Ken. Be sure to email programming ideas to Blane over the next couple of months so we can set the presentation schedule for the coming year.
 - c. Treasurer (Langer) - \$1,000 was donated to SAVE in support of the Wednesday morning networking break at this year's SAVE conference. The Chapter has \$2852.69 in the account, and the membership rebate is expected to be \$1,500.
 - d. Community Outreach (Langer) – Continuing to work with Solid Ground and Tonkin Hoyne to identify a project where we could offer pro bono VE services. There's a possibility of working on a low income housing project based at the former Sand Point Naval Station in Seattle. Laurie reminded everyone that working on this study counts towards you Lead VM points for certification. Dan and Anna mentioned that this would be a great opportunity for publicity.
 - e. Government Affairs (Haba) – A letter promoting VM and highlighting past VM benefits to the State was sent to approximately 150 members of the WA State Legislature. No response has been received to date. Harvey recommended following up in six months.
 - i. The list of recipients is available from Andrea.
 - ii. It was requested that the letter be posted on the Chapter website.
 - iii. Gene suggested trying to attend various committee meetings in order to further promote VE.
 - iv. Ken recommended sending a similar letter to various agency heads. Blane supported this idea and noted that all agencies are being asked to cut 10-30% from their budgets.
 - v. It was noted that we need to be sure the message is not just project based – that it needs to show applicability to business processes and other uses as well.

- vi. Steven suggested perhaps the committee could meet or teleconference regularly to keep the momentum going and ensure follow up.
- vii. Gene emphasized the need to show results. Laurie mentioned the business process studies done by CalTrans and pointed out that the results do not need to be WA-based to illustrate the value of VE. Blane agreed, suggesting examples from other states, including how VE is used within their governments and their success stories. Dan mentioned his recent Alberta Infrastructure value scoping sessions, and Laurie brought of the NYC OMB studies, including some that are for business processes.
- viii. Steven asked that everyone send ideas to Gene.
- f. Metrics Tracking (Haba) – As a follow on to the Government Affairs discussion, Steven queried about the status of the metrics tracking project.
 - i. He mentioned that this showed data for Washington but perhaps it needed to show other areas, as well. It's a way to illustrate the activities of local practitioners and their impact in the region, country and internationally.
 - ii. Gene noted the need to get the metrics data posted to the web site. He further emphasized the challenges of obtaining implementation data from clients.
 - iii. Andrea expressed concern over the emphasis on cost savings in these metrics and a desire to somehow show the greater value of using the methodology. Blane mentioned WSDOT's use of performance metrics to address this issue. Gene suggested including a project narrative that includes functional improvement along with the metrics.
- g. SAVE 2011/12 Conference (Ball) – Andrea is chairing this committee and will keep in touch with SAVE and the VP Conferences. No word yet from SAVE about which year Cascadia may host the conference. The committee will follow up during this year's SAVE conference and later in the summer. Blane, John and Ken have all volunteered to be on this committee.
 - i. All were reminded that the idea of hosting a future SAVE conference was in large part driven by a desire to engage the members and encourage broader membership around the region.
 - ii. Don noted that, being a large chapter both in numbers and geography, Cascadia could probably hold a regional conference. Andrea noted that this was not a bad idea and could actually serve as a planning retreat for the forthcoming conference hosting.
- IV. Presentation: The Capital Budget Process by Harvey Childs, Capital Budget Assistant, Office of Financial Management, State of Washington
 - a. Harvey provided the members with an overview of the Washington State budget process with a particular emphasis on capital projects. He noted that a VE study and a constructability review were required on all major capital projects (those with a budget >\$5M).
 - b. He noted that his office ran two BEST studies in the past year with great success.
 - c. Harvey can be contacted at 360-902-0384 if you have questions or comments.
- V. Next meeting – The Cascadia chapter is on hiatus until September 2009, but will have an informal breakfast meeting at the SAVE conference in Detroit this summer. Watch email/website/message board at SAVE for specific details.
- VI. Adjourn