

NEHERSA Monthly Board of Directors Call

Date: November 14, 2007

Attendees: Frank, Mark, Adam, Chris, Jim, and Kevin Stack, and Ed Minch, with Peggy taking notes. Kevin Harrison emailed Peggy that he had a conflict)

1. Roll Call
2. Agenda Review - additions, changes
3. Minutes approval for August 8th meeting
Frank made motion to approve, Jim seconded. All approved
4. Officers Reports
 - a. President – Chris announced he will not run for the 2008 Board, and expressed he is willing to help in transition.
Bylaws: Did not receive many votes on revisions. Asked attendees to approve as submitted as this is an “as-is” vote we are trying to move forward. Vote count: Adam-approve; Frank- approve; Jim- approve.; Chris-approve; Mark-approve; previous approval vote by Ed Minch; Kevin voted his approval after he joined the call late. Chris will send revisions out to the members, and will announce that it’s coming at today’s meeting. Adam recommended we give members until Tuesday after Thanksgiving to vote yeah or nay.
Review of timelines revealed that Peggy sent out an invitation to members to make petitioned nominations on 10/29, asking them to be returned by 11/3. Chris said that we might still be open to a member petition for nomination at a later date.
ACI – Chris has an email from AC asking whether we wanted to hold a room to give the rater exam on the Tuesday night. Peggy commented that the current requests for testing via proctoring is working well, and might be a reason not to take on testing at AC. Adam said offering a test would be a hassle. Everyone agreed, and Chris is working out with Bruce Harley on offering a technical training at AC.
 - b. VP- Kevin S. did not receive any comments for the letter he sent on green raters for input. The letter was suggesting that USGBC/Jay Hall recognize currently certified raters and the RESNET infrastructure, and only require one 4 hour training class (to be taught by Bruce Harley) and not make certified raters go through a basic class to become a green rater. Chris thinks the letter could be stronger to make that point. A discussion ensued regarding the several levels of training that are being planned by the USGBC. Kevin agreed to redraft the letter to reflect these comments. Jim stated that the designation “green rater” will open up opportunities for raters in NY State.

ASIDE – Jim expressed that he has no way to prove that he is a rater when appearing at a home for testing/inspection. He suggested an identification card both nationally and for NE HERS. Comments about wondering whether RESNET would be interested in this. Peggy might be able to come up with a laminated card. If people want a card – they can send a picture. Card would have their provider information on it...green card if a green rater. Mark: all MaGrann employees have an ID and have to wear in the field. Adam –

RESNET wouldn't be interested, as they are not involved directly in certification. Frank: after passing the test under the Alliance banner, why not give trainees a card? Providers working with independents need to verify that the independent coming to them have passed the test. Providers issue rater numbers. Chris: ID is an employer issue. Frank: RESNET says a test pass is a minimum of 80, but EAM wants a higher score for re-certified raters.

- c. Treasurer
 - Tax Filing!!! Alliance is done with our tax filing. Champaign and scotch all around.
 - Financial Report (below)

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- o The balance in the checking account as of November 1st was \$45,095.30
 - o Deposits during the month of October were \$8,140.00
 - o Bills approved for payment at the last meeting were paid in the amount of \$6,082.95

Regular Expenses:

- o Peggy MacLeod – expenses per list \$ 3,774.30
 - Base Salary \$750.00;
 - \$1,125.00 Training Salary 18.75 hrs
 - \$195.00 HERS Manual 3.25 hrs
 - \$302.52 Expenses (Postage = \$0.0 – Staples Supplies for Manuals = \$155.82
Free Conference = \$146.70)
- o RLM Associates - \$116.25 –
 - Web update - update home page added Call downloads 0.25 hrs. at \$80.00 = \$20.00
 - Web update - update database 0.25 hrs. at \$80.00 = \$20.00
 - Register & Renew Domain 0.25 hrs. at \$80.00
- o Daryl Polansky and John Howell – each \$625
 - Refund of two training registration fees
(they couldn't reschedule to new November date)
- o Gale Turner - \$638.96 -
 - 20.75 hours at \$25.00 = \$518.75
 - Mileage 52.0 miles at \$0.480 = \$24.96
 - Mailing cost: \$95.25
- o Michael F. Friedman - \$1,000.00 – We will be making changes to this spreadsheet, for 2007 we will explain expense categories instead of bundling.
 - Review of Financial Records/Spreadsheets
 - Preparation of Federal Tax Filing Form 9990 & extensions

Anticipated November Checking Account Balance: \$46,184.62 after paying bills

Pending Accounts Receivables Total: \$215.00

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- Frank asked Peggy – to get a W9 form for Gale. Peggy will get another one and mail to him.

- Questions from Chris: No bill was received yet from Mark Hutchins for the September training. Noticed that non-members are purchasing manuals. Peggy explained that most of those are future trainees or people from out of the region
 - Motion to pay the bills: Adam motioned, Frank 2nd; The ayes were unanimous.
 - Frank will send Peggy copy of 501(c)(6). And approval letter. Comment – bylaws will be sent out for approval at December’s meeting, and we must send revised bylaws to go on file with IRS. If we are setting a November 27 date for member approval, Chris suggested we put December 1st as adoption date.
 - Richard’s staff assistant will be changing and he is worried that with a new assistant, something may slip through the cracks. Frank is not sure whether our articles of incorporation will allow an address in Massachusetts to be used. Richard is pretty sure Optimal will still take this on. They would get things like responding to the receipt of our filing. If they are looking for information from us, the request from the IRS or State of VT would be sent to Optimal.
 - d. Secretary - absent
5. Rater Trainings
- a. November 26 class is going to have 9 students; MaGrann staff is working on internet connection, food, equipment, and test houses. Ethan will be the trainer.
 - b. Curriculum (Adam),
Developed jointly by VEIC and CSG (Bruce Harley/Dave Keefe); Ownership has never been an issue because typically the trainers were from CSG and VEIC. Lately there have been new trainers added to NE HERS (Mark Newey – CET, Ethan – PSD). That’s where the MOU came from. Chris: does the MOU say how they can use the curriculum? Adam – yes, and says if used outside the NE HERS they need permission from CSG/VEIC to use. We are trying to make sure the NE HERS curriculum is only used for NE HERS trainings. No action is needed, Adam just wanted to clarify the MOU.
 - c. Trainer Selection – the issue is a challenge to scrounge up trainers, so at this time Adam isn’t concerned with having an official selection process.
 - d. February, May, and Fall 08 trainings – Peggy will start getting venues after Thanksgiving.
6. Monthly Training Topics
- a. Webcast – CEU’s – Jim discussed the possibility of getting Joe Lstiburek for one of our open dates. Peggy will follow up. Also – potential topic is cogen system for homes. Jim will listen to presentation in NY and let us know if appropriate.
7. ’08 Elections – Nominations Committee Report
Adam explained the committee activity; The Slate includes:
Providers (2): Ed Minch; Mark Newey; Robb Aldrich; Bruce Bennett; Pat Haller

Raters (1): Kevin Stack (NY); George Mullikin (PA); Jeff Dawson (PA), Glen LaMay (LI)

Associate (1): Matt Anderson; Glen Hayes (NY), John Mazur (CT)
Chris will circulate the spreadsheet listing these candidates to the Board.

OTHER:

Chris will announce upcoming bylaws and next meeting “meet the candidates”, and the raffle for the 5 ACI tickets.

Chris: Will there be a member call in February, or just the annual meeting? [I didn't get the answer] Chris is hoping for a good turnout. 5-6-7th of February is the AC conference

9. New Business

Jim Hammell: On Long Island, some builders have taken the rater training. What are our thoughts on conflict of interest when builders rate their own homes? Mark MaGrann has his field staff doing his inspections, then has a third party do the final. Rater disclosure allows this, as long as properly disclosed. Frank looked into it, RESNET says they allow builders to certify their own homes; Sam Rashkin says they don't like the idea, but were asked to allow it by RESNET. A third party is needed to be able to apply for the EE mortgages and tax credits. LI building association agrees with builders being their own certifier. Jim Hammell is very concerned about the conflict of interest. Thinks we should discuss at a meeting and let the membership make a decision. EAM is concerned because in 08 certain municipalities will be required to have E* certification. So quality control is being compromised. Chris – will take this up at a further meeting; we also need to keep abreast of what RESNET is doing about it. Jim suggested it be part of our annual meeting discussion, that we should protect our interests. BPCA has taken a position that it will not allow a builder rater to rate his own homes. Maybe Frazer could handle this that could fill us in on the details. Chris mentioned that Jonathan Passe is always interested in comments about similar issues. Do raters have an obligation to report violations we see? People agreed. Maybe a future member meeting topic.

Online Voting – Peggy suggested that this would be a better way of tallying annual votes and will try to get some information by the end of week.

Jim suggested that the Board consider sending someone (ie, the next President) - could get some subsidy for going to RESNET. Chris mentioned that Darren asked for assistance going to last year's RESNET because he was going to be accepting an award. Chris said this could be on our agenda for next month.

NEXT meeting is December 12 at 1 PM

Dial in number: 712-580-8020 code: 634377

Meet the candidates will happen that day at 3:30 – plan to be on the call.