

History of Information on the Montana Board of Landscape Architects

11/20/2003 – Minutes indicate the board is financially sound. The board discussed merging with another board, but determined a merger was not necessary at this time. The board decides to keep the topic of a merger on the agenda as a standard item. There are adequate funds available for a board representative to travel to the CLARB meeting in February, 2004. The budget presented for the period ending 1/31/2004 shows annual operating expenses of \$23,283, with projected expenses for FY 05 of \$23,395.

3/23/2004 – Minutes indicate the board reviewed the financial report for the period ending 1/31/2004. One board member and one staff member had attended the CLARB meeting in February in Chicago (this required departmental approval of funds). Staff indicates there are adequate funds to cover travel to the fall CLARB meeting.

4/22/2004 – Conference call addressed Rule change ARM 24.153.403

9/7/2004 – e-mail from Todd Boucher indicates financial crisis is looming.

9/23/2004 – Correspondence from staff indicates a fee increase to \$525/year will be necessary to keep board in the black.

10/20/2005 – Shelly Engler attended Board of Architects meeting to introduce the idea of the Board of Landscape Architects merging with them.

10/28/2004 – Board meeting in Helena. Staff reports indicate board is \$30,218 in the red. Total yearly expenditures are projected at \$56,054. Board agrees to pursue a merger but agrees there is not adequate time prior to the 2005 legislative session. Staff indicates there might be an opportunity for a loan to keep the board running. Board suggests to staff to terminate membership in CLARB to save costs. Board instructed staff to look at all cost saving measures. Board requests staff prepare financial projections of various scenarios (mergers).

1/4/2005 – Chairperson indicates financial information presented is the same as the October meeting. Carl Thuesen directs staff to review the budget and trim more costs. Ideas for cost cutting measures are discussed. Chair asks staff to have financial information on merger options available for January meeting with Board of Architects. Board agrees to proceed with a rule change to increase fees.

4/7/2005 – Rule change hearing. All testimony is against the proposed increase.

4/25/2005 – Board recognizes that the higher the increase the fewer renewals there will be. In an effort to optimize income and keep more licensees the board approves fee increase to \$325 for a new license and \$250/ year for renewals. Staff indicates there will be an opportunity for a loan to keep the board functioning.

7/11/2005 – Letter from the department suspending board services.

7/12/2005 – Shelly Engler received a phone message from Jill Caldwell indicating there would be no loan. 83 licensees had renewed (39 in state), down from 110 (43 in state).