

ABCEP Incorporates

Robert A. Michaels

The Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP) registered as a non-profit 501-C6 corporation in the District of Columbia as of 31 August 1999. Formation of ABCEP, Inc. culminates efforts initiated by the NAEP in the mid-1990s to configure ABCEP as an administratively independent entity. NAEP deemed incorporation of ABCEP to be the most credible way for NAEP to comply with accreditation guidelines applicable to agencies offering professional certifications, and with requirements of Federal anti-trust law.

Federal anti-trust laws, though usually applied to larger entities than NAEP, nonetheless require that professional membership organizations, such as NAEP, and agencies certifying professionals, such as ABCEP, be administratively independent to assure that professional certification standards are applied with equal stringency to members vs. non-members. Around 1994 NAEP engaged the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) in Washington, DC to evaluate NAEP's Certification Program. NCCA wrote a report to NAEP specifying areas in which changes would have to be made, should NAEP seek accreditation of its Certification Program by NOCA.

NCCA's report recommended that NAEP configure its Certification Program in a manner assuring its independence from NAEP in areas involving certification decisions and standards. Limited financial independence also was required. That is, NAEP could continue to fund its Certification Program, but decisions relating to certification standards had to be insulated against influence by such funding, or by the possibility that such funding might be withheld. Accordingly, in a timely manner, NAEP formed ABCEP, effectively creating an ABCEP Board of Directors whose decisions relating to certification would be independent of NAEP. ABCEP's Certification Review Board (CRB) began to serve as the ABCEP Board of Directors.

Table 1. ABCEP Interim Board of Trustees

Name	E-mail address
Richard J. Kramer, CEP, Chair	cahill000@aol.com
Thomas R. Cuba, CEP, Vice Chair	delta-seven@worldnet.att.net
Michael R. Herbaugh, CEP, Treasurer	raisinb@fls.infi.net
Craig Stanley, Secretary	cwstanley@worldnet.att.net
Audrey G. Binder, CEP	binder.audrey@epamail.epa.gov
John Daugherty	johnd@ucar.edu
Kara Downey	kdowney@aepnet.org
Gary Kelman	kelman1@erols.com
Robert A. Michaels, CEP	76517.747@compuserve.com
James Spangler	jaspangler@aol.com
Ravi Srinivas	srinivas@basil.stthom.edu

ABCEP's Interim Board of Trustees

Under the new corporate configuration, ABCEP retains its CRB, but the CRB no longer serves as the ABCEP Board of Directors. Instead, NAEP appointed an Interim Board of Trustees, listed with e-mail addresses in Table 1.

The Interim Board is to be replaced by a three- to 12-person Board consisting of Certified Environmental Professionals (CEPs) who, except for the CRB Chairperson, are not CRB members. To assure the continued coevolution of NAEP and ABCEP as mutually associated organizations with compatible interests, both NAEP and ABCEP embraced the principle that each would appoint some members to the other's Board. In the opinion of NAEP's legal counsel, Ruth Flynn of the law firm of McKenna & Cuneo in Washington, DC, such interdependence is compatible with requirements for independence in areas relating to certification, as specified by Federal anti-trust law and accreditation guidelines.

The number of Board members to be appointed by each organization was determined by weighting the relative numbers of NAEP's vs. ABCEP's general membership and Board membership (excluding NAEP's numerous chapter Board members). Accordingly, ABCEP will appoint two CEPs who are NAEP members to the NAEP Board, and NAEP will appoint four NAEP members who are CEPs to the

ABCEP Board. However, this latter number will diminish to three quickly, once ABCEP discharges its modest indebtedness to NAEP, possibly before the first election.

Electing ABCEP Trustees

ABCEP's members, consisting of the population of CEPs in good standing, will elect the remaining (the majority of) members of the ABCEP Board. With replacement of the Interim Board, all elected ABCEP Board members must be CEPs. Interim Board members will be replaced in three groups, with those members lacking the CEP credential being replaced first. Those possessing the CEP credential, or acquiring it by election time, may run for election to the ABCEP Board. Elections will be held this spring. Elected Board members will begin service at ABCEP's annual meeting, which traditionally is held in conjunction with NAEP's annual conference. The first meeting involving elected Board members will, therefore, be held in June in Portland, Maine. According to ABCEP's By-Laws:

Section 2.3. Beginning with the first regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Trustees shall be divided into three classes, as nearly equal in number as possible. At the first regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Trustees of the first class shall be appointed to hold office for a one-year term; Trustees of the second class shall be appointed to hold office for a two-year term; and Trustees of the third class shall be appointed to hold office for a three-year term. Thereafter, at each annual meeting of the Trustees, the successors to the class of Trustees whose terms expire

that year shall be elected to hold office for the term of three years, so that the term of office of any one class of Trustees shall expire each year, but every Trustee shall have a three year term.

Need for Member Involvement

With ABCEP's corporate structure comes increased need for member involvement. The CRB has lost members who will serve on the ABCEP Board, including Dick Kramer (Chairperson of the ABCEP Board) and Michael Herbaugh (Treasurer). The Vice Chairperson, Tom Cuba, was not a member of the CRB. However, the CRB may lose more members, if CRB members serving on the Interim Board become members of the regular Board, either through election or appointment. As a consequence of expansion of the number of ABCEP and CRB positions to be filled, ABCEP has an especially acute need for member (CEP) involvement. Now would be a great time for CEPs to consider making a commitment to ABCEP by running for a position on the Board of Trustees or volunteering to serve on the Certification Review Board. Finally, with incorporation comes new financial responsibility. If you will be applying for Certification Maintenance Points, as required to maintain your CEP status, please consider doing so as soon as possible. We would love to discharge our financial obligations to NAEP before election time.

Thanks, and keep in touch with me and/or other Trustees or CRB members.

Address correspondence to Robert A. Michaels, RAM TRAC Corporation, 3100 Rosendale Road, Schenectady, NY 12309; (e-mail) 76517.747@compuserve.com.

New NAEP Members

Dennis Steffy, Mining & Petroleum Training Service, University of Alaska, AK
 Teresa McCaulou, Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, AZ
 Sue Stack, Department of Health, CA
 David Sox, US Coast Guard MLCP, CA

Jocelyn Swain, CA
 David Thomas, CA
 Scott Ackert, CA
 Barbara Janis, Presidio Trust-Library, CA
 Gary Hasbrouck, CA
 Lloyd Hillier, MDS Nordion, Canada
 Richard Coleman, Trigon-Sheehan, LLC, CO
 Bo Shaffer, Delta Tech, CO
 Daniel Baroody, Foster Wheeler Environmental, CT
 John Dittmeier, WMATA, DC
 Jason Milton, Environmental Resource Solutions, Inc., FL
 Robert Westly, SCS Engineers, FL
 Michael Knapp, Earth Tech, FL
 Kimberly Peace, Environmental Resource Solutions, Inc., FL
 Paula Sessions, Dames & Moore, FL
 Benjamin Bukata, Environmental Resource Solutions, Inc., FL
 Dana Gentry, FL
 Brad Burris, Bem Systems, Inc., FL
 Ginny Powell, Palm Beach, FL
 James O'Berry, Fla Rock Industries Inc., FL
 Wendy Wolfe, Environmental Conservation Labs, FL
 Kathy Lukasiewicz, Blasland, Bouck, & Lee Inc., FL
 Carlos Herd, Qore Inc., FL
 Charles Mopps, LandMark Land Consultants, FL
 Allan Nix, Environmental Advantage, Inc., GA
 Glenn Clarke, GA
 Michael Broll, IL
 Mark Thompson, TAMS Consultants Inc., IL
 Matthew Burris, Boone County Fiscal Court, KY
 James Duncan, Frederic R. Harris, Inc., MA
 Suzanne Boltz, EA Engineering Science & Technology, MD
 John DiMarzio, MD
 Terri Boschi, Gannett Fleming, Inc., MI
 Brett Gertken, WetTech Environmental, MN
 Patrick Mulloy, Mulloy Environmental Services, Inc., MN
 David Reinhold, NC
 Helen Mattioni, George H. Wood, NC
 Roxanne Dorman, George H. Wood, NC
 Terri Forsten, Laconia Schools, NH
 Michelle Paris, NJ
 Michael Ballina, Dover MUA, NJ
 Carol Schababerle, Schababerle & Assoc., OH
 Alicia Smith, PA
 Amy Balog, PA
 Ryan Miller, PA
 Scott William Cuppett, PA
 H. James Craven, ATM, SC
 Erik Skarback, Sweden University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
 Monica Kuo, Chinese Culture University-Department of Landscape Architecture, Taiwan ROC
 Thomas Fleckenstein, TX
 Dudley Burton, Baylor University, TX
 Emmett Sullivan, Metro-Houston, TX
 Patrick Woods, TX
 Robin Divine, SAIC, TX
 Robert Arguijo, US Air Force, TX
 Yvette Arguijo, US Air Force, TX
 David Mitchell, MET Associates, TX
 Lisa Barko, Burns & McDonnell, Inc., TX
 Lisa Stewart, Geo Marine, Inc., TX
 Dale Romine, SAIC, TX
 Donalds Maglienti, Horne Engineering Services Inc., VA
 LaShawn Dalton, Horne Engineering, VA
 Dwight Johnson, Raytheon Systems Co., VA
 Edgar Latham III, Platinum International, VA
 Shannon Adamson, Environmental Management Resources, WA