

ILA BOARD  
127<sup>th</sup> m/c

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Subject: Minutes

Directors:-

Attached minutes of 127th meeting  
INTERNATIONAL LORAN ASSOCIATION

123RD MEETING OF THE ILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 127th meeting of the ILA Board of Directors was held by teleconference at 1330 EDT on 21 April, 1998.

1. Directors Present

Directors attending the teleconference were:

Bill Brogdon, President  
Carl Andren, Treasurer  
Walter Dean, Secretary  
John Beukers  
Dale Johnson  
Bob Lilley  
Mike Moroney  
Marty Poppe  
Linn Roth

2. Agenda and Quorum

Brogdon had e-mailed an agenda to all Board members.

The secretary determined that a quorum was present when eight board members were present at the meeting.

3. Approval of minutes

No minutes were approved

4. Treasurer's Report

No report.

5. Convention 1998

The Convention will be held the week of October 12. Lilley reported that several promises of abstracts have been received from the US, and a couple of sponsors have already signed up. Lilley has been trying to sign up some new session chairs, looking for new faces. Changes in government personnel have made the subject of plans and policies rather nebulous at the moment, but it is hoped that will soon change, and for the better.

Moroney agreed to organize a golf outing for interested participants, commending the course available there.

In the next week or two a second mailing will be made, repeating the call for papers and providing registration material. The web site will be loaded with all the pertinent information about the convention.

6. Web Site

Lilley will be putting more information on the web site, whose address has been changed to

www.illgen.com/ila.

7. Government Policy

Lilley said that there is a feeling that a policy change is imminent, but there is no present intent to change the FRP, but there is word from very high sources that loran will be continued beyond 2000 and will be updated.

The Coast Guard has made the comment that there is no requirement for a backup system. Brogdon and Lilley have talked to Langhorn, who apparently has a good view of the situation, and describes it as "out of control but going our way". Issues of jamming and interference are being recognized, and the concept of a backup is receiving greater credibility. The Coast Guard is regarding the issue as only an aviation requirement. IMO, however, has recognized the need for dual independent positioning systems. Beukers has the text of IALA recommendations for terrestrial systems and backup.

The general feeling was that ILA should go after the Coast Guard on the "no requirements" issue. The Board agreed that a letter to the Commandant would be appropriate.

The word seems to be that the new FRP will come out earlier than previously. This increases the urgency of inserting the proper changes. Somebody in high position will have to force the change to forestall the early demise of loran.

8. PIPS

Brogdon reports a new acronym, PIPS, standing for Parallel Independent Positioning System. That is what loran now is, and if it takes a new name to succeed, so be it.

9. Booz-Allen Report

The draft report has been delivered to DOT, with copies to Coast Guard, FAA and Commerce. It had previously been briefed to those customers, with only trivial changes recommended. The report is a straight cost/benefit analysis, which was about the only way they could keep it out of politics. BAH stated that it could be called the BAH report only if not a single word is changed in transmission to Congress or others. The report is apparently being briefed now at PLANS, so it will be common knowledge. The Coast Guard, upon receiving the report prepared a briefing for the Commandant. John Beukers had written some comments on this briefing.

10. Telecommunications

Brogdon was contacted by someone from Sprint who feels that the telecommunications industry has a vital need for loran as a backup to GPS as a timing source.

11. Congressional Action

About \$20M is required in the current appropriations bill to fund continuing operation of the loran system and provide the necessary upgrades. Constant vigilance will be required to assure that the money doesn't get lost or stolen.

12. CG Eurofix Tests

The Eurofix tests performed by the Coast Guard at Wildwood went well, but none of the government agencies is interested. Everybody has his own system to compete with it. It may be, however, that the CG will develop an interest in using it for interstation communication.

Mitre is doing a study for the FAA which will recommend loran as a backup system for GPS, and there should be some way to bring this to everybody's attention. Moroney says upper management at DOT does not recognize that the loran system exists.

13. Dues

A dues increase was discussed at some length, and finally an increase to \$35 individual membership was agreed upon. It was obvious to all that the money is needed, and the increase was approved unanimously. There are presently about 300 members in ILA. Lilley has nearly finished the "Facts You Should Know" brochure, which could be used in a membership drive. We can put informational material out at the ION meeting in June. Brogdon will ask for a number of copies of the report from BAH to be put out as additional recruiting material.

14. 1999 Convention

It was agreed that the meeting in Ottawa last year had quite positive results. At that time there was

discussion of conference in Europe, in Norway or the Netherlands. The season would be important, and this affects costs. Beukers suggested that the political situation in the US would make a stateside location in 1999 more appropriate. The problem of a local sponsor is a serious one, requiring further investigation. The decision on location for 1999 was delayed to the next BOD meeting

15. Loran/GPS Monitoring

Beukers is experimenting with receivers. He has GPS and DGPS operating and is getting a LOCUS receiver operating at his location in England. He expects to get a Eurofix receiver from Roland in the near future, and he has still to hear from van Willigen. The only loran chain giving useful data is the Sylt chain, which he reports giving repeatability 90% within 30-40 meters.

16. Newsletter

A volunteer is needed to edit the Loran Lines. Most of the material is generated electronically, so that the task should be relatively easy. The people at Ohio U are still available for printing and mailing.

17. Awards

Marty Poppe has tried to contact Frank Cassidy about procedures for the awards. Lilley will send copies of the papers given last year to Poppe for analysis.

18. Election

Ballots will be mailed during May. Elena Roland is presumed to have the slate of candidates ready but was not reached by e-mail.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1450 EDT.