

Minutes
International Loran Association
146th Board of Directors Meeting, October 23, 2006
Groton, Connecticut, USA

1. Call to Order: President Langhorne Bond – 1330 hours

Present: Langhorne Bond, Bob Lilley, Durk van Willigen, Dave Diggle, Tom Gunther, John Beukers, Sally Basker, Gerard Offermans, Bill Brogdon, Tamptsu Ikeda, Bill Roland, Erik Johannessen

Observer: Al Frost, “Loran Lines” Editor

2. Attendance and Quorum: Thirteen members present; no proxies

3. Agenda Additions and Approval of Agenda: Approved without objection.

4. Approval of 144th and 145th Meeting Minutes: Moved, seconded and passed (MS&P). Mr. Bond thanked Bill and John as consulting PPs – thanks for coming back! A constitutional breakthrough.

Treasurer’s Report and ILA 34 (Santa Barbara) Review: Erik Johannessen’s Treasurer’s report indicated that on paper, the Association had a 2005 loss of about \$6,700. However, the Association is really on an “even keel” with the paper loss the result of convention income appearing in 2004 and most expenses appearing in 2005. The ILA needs about \$18,000 per year, of which \$11,000 must come from the convention.

Bob Lilley reported 64 registrants at Santa Barbara in 2005, and that the convention showed a \$12,700 bottom line. The convention report has been given to Erik. One expense item (~\$300) is still being researched by the Operations Center and will be resolved.

The treasurer’s report was MS&P.

5. Committee Reports:

GAUSS: Chairman Gerard Offermans reported that the 15th meeting was held today. Sixteen people participated. Gerard thanked Erik Johannessen for chairing and Tom Gunther for taking minutes for the 14th meeting, in Santa Barbara.

- GAUSS originated as a standardization group. There has not been much standards work lately, with the group largely in general discussion, awaiting a U.S. decision on Loran.
- A working item was introduced during the 15th meeting: A high-level definition of what e-Loran *is* (not what it does) will be prepared.. [*Later referred to as an “eLoran System Characterization”*]
- The GAUSS Loran Technical Information Paper will then be updated.
- Schedule – the working group will meet 29 November – 1 December in Washington, DC. Goal is a 15-page document. Sally Basker and Tom Gunther are leading this item.
- The next GAUSS meeting is planned for Geneva, Switzerland, 29 May to 1 June 2007.

Nominations and Elections: Report is attached. Mr. Bond welcomed Sally Basker to the Board. There are two more openings, and Mr. Bond asked the Board for suggestions – decision makers -- Ours is not just a technical organization! Let's emphasize international representation.

Congressional Liaison:

Larry Barnett is our leader here. Mr. Bond gave the report in Larry's absence. The U.S. Coast Guard stirred the pot by "offering" to terminate the system. Remember that CDR Merrill showed in his Santa Barbara briefing the Secretary of US DOT making this decision after consultation. So why zero the budget?

"That's what they tell me", said CDR Merrill at Santa Barbara. He is apparently caught in the middle.

President Langhorne Bond began a letter campaign to put our concerns on record – "staked out the agenda". There are many inconsistencies. For example, Erik Johannessen's report on costs – a paper this 35th ILA meeting, shows less than \$60 M needed for capital improvements to dLoran, eLoran. The Coast Guard says \$250M.

In the U.S. Congress, the House Appropriations Committee carried forward the original language in the Homeland Security appropriation – Loran to be continued.

In the Senate committee – DHS termination or Loran was approved, but Sen. Ted Stevens with Sen. Robert Byrd (a Democrat) said DO NOT turn off the system. On the floor of the Senate there was another fight. Sen. Coburn tried to kill it, and Sen. Stevens again intervened. The Conference committee came out our way – continue loran, let the executive branch make the decision as previously described, provide reports, provide signatures of those who said to terminate if that decision is recommended to the Secretary of DOT, and other provisions.

We have scrambled to analyze the consequences of turning off. The staff at USCG is NOT safety-minded, it emphasizes economics. Bill Brogdon's paper says that they are wrong. Earl Waesche will also say so at this meeting on behalf of millions of boaters.

At RTCM, Mr. Bond encountered Brad Wheeler, who is a ship captain and also VP for Operations at the International Registry of the Marshall Islands. They are a co-sponsor of the "E-navigation" initiative. In Reston, Virginia, this group offers a "flag of convenience" – safety inspections for 1300 ocean-going vessels (twice as many as the Coast Guard). They strongly oppose turning off Loran.

Can you revert to traditional means and be safe? All people agree NO. Most have lost backup skills when the reversion is to older, traditional systems (celestial, etc.). We are building a case that says we cannot meet requirements safely without radio-navigation.

DHS Deputy Undersecretary Jeff Shane has the IAT established, and ILA is providing testimony. The Executive Director is Jim Doherty, and the Chairman is Brad Parkinson, "father" of GPS and supporter of Loran. Their report is due in early December, to Jeff Shane.

DHS's, Rob Zitz, and Admiral Bone of USCG chair a PNT group within DHS. Curt DuBay is providing staff support. Quoting Zitz, "I hope we don't have to talk about money in this discussion."

Gerard: What ought the Board do in the rest of the world re: Loran?

Bond: I have done all this without implicating other Board members. Work is going forward also internationally.

Erik Johannessen: The Far East looks to the U.S. decision for guidance.

Sally Basker: In Europe, stations were generally in danger of turnoff in the recent past. Much lobbying by the U.K. and French governments reversed the Norwegian position, resulting in operation through 2009. An expected increase in maritime traffic was given as the reason. The German station is on the air, but with an intricate funding agreement.

We probably are in a better position now than for some time. The Galileo community realizes the need for backup.

Mr. Bond suggested the need for a European Loran Association. Similar to European aviation associations? Institution - Can it get people mad, without fear? Can RIN do that like ILA does in US? Maybe we need a commercial outfit, whose only life is to get Loran going.

Sally Basker: But there are three states in the Royal institute of Navigation (RIN) who are specifically pro-Loran. That connection may be more powerful.

Gerard Offermans: It will be the same people who work in ILA. Very few people are working this area.

Erik Johannessen: You need champions, to convince Brussels (the EC). RIN's three current supporters (plus Germany, Italy, Spain?) would be a large factor. NELS is administratively gone. All the stations are the same, but they are managed differently. Now ironically, the UK is back and stronger than ever, after initially withdrawing from NELS.

Sally Basker: Germany is not turned around yet. Note also that the Saudis are returning a fourth station to on-air.

Constitution: Updates have been delayed, but Bob Lilley will add the John Beukers award and some other Bylaws changes that have been suggested in the past.

Awards: Bill Roland reported that Board participation has been rather less than in previous years. A request will be sent out this coming year, to Board and membership.

Awards to be given in 2006:

Medal of Merit – Bob Wenzel

Beukers Award – Ben Peterson – 9th pulse, etc.

President's Award – Al Frost / Otis Philbrick

Service – Bob Lilley, 2005 Convention Chair; Greg Johnson, 2005 Technical Chair; Chuck Schue, Sponsor Chair

Best paper – Mike Lombardi, Tom Celano, Ed Powers on timing

Student paper – Wouter Pelgrum

Awards were MS&P

7. ILA35 (Groton) Convention Issues: None was introduced

8. Appointed Directors for 2007

Prior to this Board meeting, the Board concurred by e-mail with the appointment of Sally Basker to a one-year term as Director. Two positions remain open. Suggestions were solicited during this convention, and the subject will be revisited at the 147th Board meeting.

9. New Business

What is the future – heading determination for inputs to head-up displays, radar plotting, etc.? What about ADS-B and AIS? Requirements are there for a second position or surveillance input. Should the idea of an ensemble of ALL Loran cesium clocks be pursued?

10. Adjournment 1504 hours

Results of the ILA Election, 2006

President: Re-elected to a 1-year term

Hon. Langhorne Bond - Bond and Associates

Directors: Elected to three-year terms:

Dr. Robert Lilley - Aviation Management Associates, Inc.
Dr. Durk van Willigen - Reelektronika
Dr. Paul Williams - Trinity House
Mr. Jacques Manchard - French Aids to Navigation

Langhorne Bond remains President, so his Director position becomes vacant for the current year. Under ILA bylaws, the candidate next in line for a Director position fills the vacancy for this year. Elected to this one-year term is

Dr. David Diggle - Ohio University

Leaving the board this year as elected directors are Thomas Celano and William Roland

The president and directors take office at the close of the 2006 Convention and Technical Symposium in Groton, CT, October 23-25, 2006. See www.loran.org (EVENTS) for information.

The ILA thanks its membership for participating in the election as candidates and as voters. We look forward to a successful 2006-7!

The full board for 2006-2007 is:

President

- Langhorne Bond 2007

Past-President

- Linn Roth 2007
- John Beukers (consulting)
- William Brogdon (consulting)

Elected Directors

- Marc Clerens 2007
- David Diggle 2007 (filling 1-year Bond vacancy)
- Thomas Gunther 2008
- Tamotsu Ikeda 2007
- Erik Johannessen 2008
- Bob Lilley 2009
- Sherman Lo 2008
- Jacques Manchard 2009
- Gerard Offermans 2007
- Douglas Taggart 2007
- Paul Williams 2009
- Durk van Willigen 2009

Appointed Directors

- Sally Basker 2007

Plus two appointed directors, not yet identified, to serve 1-year terms ending in 2007.