# STATE OF MINNESOTA BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

# In the matter of Beth Anderson PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER License Number 18774

### STIPULATION AND ORDER

Board File No. 2017-0018

TO: Beth Anderson 20526 330<sup>th</sup> Street New Prague, Minnesota 56071

The Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design ("Board") is authorized pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 214.10 (2016) and Minnesota Statutes section 326.111 (2016) to review complaints against architects, professional engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects, geoscientists, and certified interior designers, and to take disciplinary action whenever appropriate.

The Board received information concerning Beth Anderson ("Respondent"). The Board's Complaint Committee ("Committee") reviewed the information. The parties have agreed that these matters may now be resolved by this Stipulation and Order.

#### STIPULATION

It is hereby stipulated and agreed by Respondent and the Committee that without trial or adjudication of any issue of fact or law and without any evidence or admission by any party with respect to any such issue:

1. <u>Jurisdiction</u>. Respondent was first issued a Professional Engineer license by the Board on November 12, 1987. Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board with respect to the matters referred to in this Stipulation.

2. <u>Facts.</u> This Stipulation is based upon the following facts:

a. Respondent was first licensed as a Professional Engineer in the State of Minnesota on November 12, 1987.

b. On July 1, 2016, Respondent's Professional Engineer license in the State of Minnesota expired.

c. Respondent reinstated her Minnesota Professional Engineer license on August 11, 2016.

d. Respondent's Minnesota Professional Engineer license lapsed from July 1, 2016 to August 11, 2016.

e. Respondent sent an email message to the Board of August 11, 2016 that stated: "There seems to be an error on the AELSLAGID website. My Minnesota PE license is shown as Expired. Yet on the MSPE website and on the NSPE website it indicates that my license renewal isn't until December 2016."

f. In a letter dated September 15, 2016, Respondent stated: "The lapse was a mistake on my part, I confused the MNSPE (Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers) website with the AELSLAGID website. When I went to renew my license in June 2016, I was on the MNSPE website and noted that I was still current until December 2016. I incorrectly assumed that Minnesota had changed their licensing date to end of year."

g. With this same letter dated September 15, 2016, Respondent included a copy of her business card that was in effect during the period her Minnesota Professional Engineer license lapsed, July 1, 2016 to August 11,

2016. Respondent stated: "During the time that my Minnesota License was lapsed, I have handed out business cards (Exhibit A) that indicate I am a Professional Engineer." The business cards contained a New Prague, Minnesota business address and stated: "Beth Anderson, P.E." Respondent held herself out as a Professional Engineer in the State of Minnesota between July 1, 2016 and August 11, 2016, by using the title of "Beth Anderson, P.E." on her business cards.

h. With this same letter dated September 15, 2016, Respondent included a copy of her email salutation. The email salutation contained a New Prague, Minnesota business address and stated: "Beth Anderson, P.E." Respondent held herself out as a Professional Engineer in the State of Minnesota between July 1, 2016 and August 11, 2016, by using the title of "Beth Anderson, P.E." in her email salutation.

i. With the same letter to the Board dated September 15, 2016, Respondent attached a copy of a fire scene inspection report on a project located in Minnesota that she signed as a Professional Engineer on July 29, 2016. Respondent held herself out as a Professional Engineer in the State of Minnesota, within the meaning of Minnesota Statutes section 326,02, subdivision 1 (2016), and practiced professional engineering, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 326.02, subdivision 3 (2016), when she prepared and signed the fire scene inspection report on a project located in Minnesota as a Professional Engineer on July 29, 2016.

3. <u>Violations.</u> Respondent admits that the facts specified above constitute violations of Minnesota Statutes section 326.02, subdivision 1 and subdivision 3 (2016) and are sufficient grounds for the action specified below. Specifically, it is alleged that the Respondent: (1) held herself out as a Professional Engineer in the State of Minnesota, within the meaning of Minnesota Statutes section 326.02, subdivision 1 (2016), during the lapse of her Minnesota Professional Engineer license from July 1, 2016 to August 11, 2016, (a) by using the title of "Beth Anderson, P.E" on her business card, (b) by using the title of "Beth Anderson, P.E" on her business card, (b) by using the title of "Beth Anderson, P.E" on her email salutation, and (2) held herself out as a Professional Engineer in the State of Minnesota, within the meaning of Minnesota Statutes section 326.02, subdivision 1 (2016) and practiced professional engineering, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 326.02, subdivision 3 (2016), on a fire scene inspection report she prepared and signed as a Professional Engineer on July 29, 2016.

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4. <u>Enforcement Action.</u> Respondent and the Committee agree that the Board should issue an Order in accordance with the following terms:

a. <u>Reprimand.</u> Respondent is reprimanded for the foregoing conduct.

b. <u>Civil Penalty.</u> Respondent shall pay to the Board a civil penalty of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). Respondent shall submit a civil penalty of One Thousand (\$1,000.00) by check to the Board within sixty (60) days of the Board's approval of this Stipulation and Order.

c. Respondent shall cease and desist from violating any laws, rules or orders entrusted to enforcement by the Board.

5. <u>Waiver of Respondent's Rights.</u> For the purpose of this Stipulation, Respondent waives all procedures and proceedings before the Board to which Respondent may be entitled under the Minnesota and United States constitutions, statutes, or the rules of the Board, including the right to dispute the allegations against Respondent, to dispute the appropriateness of discipline in a contested case proceeding pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14 (2016), and to dispute the civil penalty imposed by this Agreement. Respondent agrees that upon the application of the Committee without notice to or an appearance by Respondent, the Board may issue an Order containing the enforcement action specified in paragraph 4 herein. Respondent waives the right to any judicial review of the Order by appeal, writ of certiorari, or otherwise.

6. <u>Collection.</u> Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 16D.17 (2016), after ninety (90) days of the Board's approval of this Stipulation and Order, the Board may file and enforce any unpaid portion of the civil penalty imposed by this Order as a judgment against the Respondent in district court without further notice or additional proceedings.

7. <u>Board Rejection of Stipulation and Order</u>. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this Stipulation and Order or a lesser remedy than specified herein, this Stipulation and Order shall be null and void and shall not be used for any purpose by either party hereto. If this Stipulation is not approved and a contested case proceeding is initiated pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14 (2016), Respondent agrees not to object to the Board's initiation of the proceedings and hearing the case on the basis that the Board has become disqualified due to its review and consideration of this Stipulation and the record.

8. <u>Unrelated Violations.</u> This settlement shall not in any way or manner limit or affect the authority of the Board to proceed against Respondent by initiating a contested case hearing or by other appropriate means on the basis of any act, conduct, or admission of Respondent justifying disciplinary action which occurred before or after the date of this Stipulation and Order and which is not directly related to the specific facts and circumstances set forth herein.

9. <u>Record.</u> The Stipulation, related investigative reports and other documents shall constitute the entire record of the proceedings herein upon which the Order is based. The investigative reports, other documents, or summaries thereof may be filed with the Board with this Stipulation.

10. <u>Data Classification</u>. Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, this Stipulation and Order is classified as public data upon its issuance by the Board, Minnesota Statutes section 13.41, subdivision 5 (2016). All documents in the record shall maintain the data classification to which they are entitled under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13 (2016). They shall not, to the extent they are not already public documents, become public merely because they are referenced herein. A summary of this Order will appear in the Board's newsletter. A summary will also be sent to the national discipline data bank pertaining to the practice of engineering.

11. <u>Entire Agreement.</u> Respondent has read, understood, and agreed to this Stipulation and is freely and voluntarily signing it. The Stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto relating to the allegations referenced herein. Respondent is not relying on any other agreement or representations of any kind, verbal

or otherwise.

12. <u>Counsel</u>. Respondent is aware that she may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter. Respondent is represented by legal counsel.

13. <u>Service.</u> If approved by the Board, a copy of this Stipulation and Order shall be served personally or by first class mail on Respondent. The Order shall be effective and deemed issued when it is signed by the Chair of the Board.

#### RESPONDENT

Beth Anderson, PE

Dated: June 9, 2017

SUBSCRIBED and sworn to before me on this the \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

My Commission Expires:

01-31-2020

Paula Marie Mills Notary Public - Minnesota

Commission Expires 01/31/2020

# **COMPLAINT COMMITTEE**

Robin T. Mathews, LS Committee Chair

Dated: 2017

#### ORDER

Upon consideration of the foregoing Stipulation and Order and based upon all

the files, records, and proceedings herein, all terms of the Stipulation and Order are

approved and adopted and hereby issued as an Order of this Board this the  $\frac{1/\frac{4}{2}}{2}$  day

\_\_\_\_, 2017. of \_

MINNESOTA BOARD OF+ ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

By:C uni

Dennis R. Martenson, PE Board Chair

## AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY MAIL

RE: Beth Anderson; Professional Engineer License No. 18774

STATE OF MINNESOTA ) ) ss. COUNTY OF RAMSEY )

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Sara Datko, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That at the City of St. Paul, County of Ramsey and State of Minnesota, on this the day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017, she served the attached Stipulation and Order, by depositing in the United States mail at said city and state, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped, with first class and certified postage prepaid, and addressed to:

Kristine A. Kubes Kubes Law Office, PLLC 275 Market Street Suite 566 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405

Sara Datke

CERTIFED MAIL Return Receipt Requested 7016 1370 0001 0084 8956

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the  $13^{m}$  day of 304 2017.

(Notary Public)

