

July 28, 2020

Doreen Johnson
Executive Director, Board of AELSLAGID
85 East 7th Place, Suite 160
St. Paul, MN 55101-2113

Re: Charles L Marohn, PE # 40142
Board File # 2020-0043

Dear Ms. Johnson:

I received your letter dated July 24 detailing the complaint made against me. I respect the Board, the Complaint Committee, and this process. The following is my response.

I acknowledge that I failed to renew my license when it expired on June 30, 2018. My family and I moved in July of 2016 and I did not update the Board regarding my new address. I did not receive the reminder that is generally sent regarding expiration. That is no excuse as maintaining my license is my responsibility, but I want to make clear that it was never my intent to allow my license to expire.

I became aware on June 9 of this year that my license was expired when I was alerted by my colleague, Michelle Erfurt. I have included our message thread on Slack with the date stamp included.

On that date, I filled out a reinstatement form and mailed it to the Board. I included the late penalty in my payment. I also filled out a renewal through June of 2022. I have included a photo of those submissions.

My reinstatement check (#7903) cleared my bank account on June 19. My regular renewal check (#7902) cleared my bank account on June 29. I have not received any other written acknowledgement from the Board on my license, but the Board's website lists me as licensed through June 30, 2022.

In summary, I did not intend to let my professional license expire. When I discovered my error, I took immediate steps to address the situation, including paying a penalty. By all appearances, this has been acceptable to the Board as my license is now listed as current.

In response to your specific questions.

1. Copies of the position description(s) you held in Minnesota from July 1, 2018 to June 17, 2020.
2. A listing of all Minnesota projects and the number of hours spent on each project that you worked on from July 1, 2018 to June 17, 2020.
3. Copies of any and all plans, drawings, reports, etc. that you signed and/or certified as a Minnesota P.E. during the lapse between July 1, 2018 and June 17, 2020.
4. Please state the corrective steps you took to rectify the matter once you were aware that your Minnesota P.E. license was expired.

In my biography, I describe myself today, and during the period in question, as a “professional engineer licensed in the state of Minnesota.” Being a licensed engineer is not a condition of my employment.

I do not have any projects, plans, documents, reports, or other such work to report. I did not perform any such work during the period in question. I did not sign any documents that required an engineering license.

I have listed, in the above, the steps I took to immediately rectify the matter once I became aware my license was expired. I will reiterate that it was not my intention to allow my license to expire. When I represented myself as being licensed in the state of Minnesota, I believed I was.

I apologize that the Board and the Complaint Committee has been burdened with this. I believe in the Board’s mission and the vital role the Board serves in ensuring that our critical infrastructure is designed, built, and managed by qualified individuals. Even so, I have concerns over abuse of this process.

This is the second time my license has been under review by the Board. In both instances, the motivation was clearly not concern over any work I have performed (none is cited) but merely disagreement with the advocacy I do as part of the non-profit organization Strong Towns, which was cited extensively in both cases. This is unbecoming.

If a professional colleague were genuinely concerned that my license had lapsed, they could easily have contacted me and let me know. That would be a professional and respectful thing to do, but that was not how this was handled. As a result, we have all now been forced to spend time, and witness a process we mutually respect be denigrated, solely as a means to intimidate a colleague and silence critical opinions. This is not what professional licensing should ever be about.

I realize the Board is in a difficult position and must follow established protocols, but I urge you to give consideration to clarifying how you interpret Minnesota Rules 1805.0200, Subpart 1(A), which states:

A licensee or certificate holder shall avoid any act that may diminish public confidence in the profession and shall, at all times, conduct himself or herself, in all relations with clients and the public, so as to maintain its reputation for professional integrity.


The case law nationwide where disputes over such rules have been litigated clearly favor 1st amendment protections for free speech and an open exchange of ideas. A licensed engineer must be able to speak openly regarding their professional opinion without fearing being discredited through the complaint process or even losing their professional license and ability to legally practice. We owe our colleagues, the profession, and the public at large a greater degree of clarity on this point.

I value my colleagues in the engineering profession and the work of the Board. Please let me know if there is any means I can be of service to you.

Thank you for your consideration.



Charles L. Marohn, Jr. PE
License # 40142

 Yep, I should have mentioned that -- I got it

Tuesday, June 9th ▾

merfurt 9:18 AM

It's outside of usual office hours (well, maybe not for you), didn't want you to forget

merfurt 10:42 AM

Did Hamilton ON send you a link for tonight's webinar? It might have come from Stephanie.Hilson@hamilton.ca

merfurt 2:13 PM

your links for tonight's webinar should have come from ward1@hamilton.ca

chuck 2:14 PM

Just got it

merfurt 2:25 PM

ok. thanks. you are all set for tonight, then!

merfurt 3:18 PM

Urban 3 is asking for your PE registration number for an application they're filling out (if they get it, you're going to be presenting in fate, Tx again). But when I look you up on the MN engineer website it says your license has expired.

<https://mn.gov/aelslagid/roster.html>

chuck 3:23 PM

No way, but I just looked and I don't have one beyond 2018. I swear I paid for it. 🤔

Tell them 40142 - I'm going to submit the renewal form now. I'm still eligible.

merfurt 3:28 PM

Got it.

That's your only professional designation, right? You're not w APA, correct?

chuck 3:29 PM

yep

Wednesday, June 10th ▾

merfurt 9:16 AM

I need to have a check-in call with you today.

chuck 9:16 AM

How about right now?

merfurt 9:17 AM

ok

Paul G. of AGS REALTY
65 East 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55102



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GEO SURVEYING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
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7/27/2018 - 6/30/2020

LICENSE/CERTIFICATE RENEWAL APPLICATION

1. Personal Information: The address below is my (check one): Home Business

My initial MM license/certificate was issued on or after July 1, 2016: (automatic exemption).
 (requested and was granted an exemption by the Board.) I have enclosed the Approval Document.

Business Name: Charles J. Marohn, Jr. License/Cert # 40142

Street Address: 616 N 4th St State: MI Post/Zip Code: 48106 Phone #: 248-330-6694

City: Farmington Profession: Architect Country: USA

2. Renewal Fee: (Check ONE box based on when your completed application was postmarked.)
 \$130 on or after 7/28/2018
 \$130 on or after 7/28/2015

3. PDH/Continuing Education: (Choose the applicable option.)
 I am exempt from reporting continuing education for this renewal (select reason):
 My initial MM license/certificate was issued on or after July 1, 2016 (automatic exemption).
 (requested and was granted an exemption by the Board.) I have enclosed the Approval Document.

4. PDH earned between 7/28/2015-7/27/2018: 482

5. PDH earned between 7/28/2018-7/27/2020: 0

CHARLES J. MAROHN, JR.
KURTIL MAROHN
518 N 1ST ST
FARMINGTON, MN 56010

Charles J. Marohn, Jr.
The name of one family member

BLACKRIDGEBANK
WWW.BLACKRIDGEBANK.COM

1071942864 53000P

Swearing In: I have read the foregoing license/certificate rules and the statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Date: 6-4-20