LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD 9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1443 (225) 925-6291

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CASE NO. 2013-68

CHARLES R. ST. ROMAIN, P.E., P.L.S. RESPONDENT

IN THE MATTER OF:

Received by LAPELS MAR 0 9 2015

CONSENT ORDER

The Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board [hereinafter the "Board"], by and through its Executive Director, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and Charles R. St. Romain, P.E., P.L.S. [hereinafter "Respondent"], hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineer, number PE-15941, and as a professional land surveyor, number PLS-4415.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of an Affidavit of Complaint which suggested that Respondent may have violated the Board's standards of practice for boundary surveys. The investigation disclosed that on or about February 25, 2013 Respondent performed a property boundary survey and prepared, signed, sealed and issued a survey map for Tom Longfellow showing the removal of Lot 2A-1 from Lot 2A and the removal of Lot 3A-1 from Lot 3A in Section 50, Township 3 South, Range 2 East, located in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, in which: (a) no bearings or dimensions were shown for the 25 foot private servitude of passage; (b) not all monumentation was shown for Lot 2A-1 or Lot 3A-1; (c) the basis of bearing was unclear and a line called for in the map was not labeled; and (d) the vicinity map did not show the distance to the roadway intersection and it was not drawn to scale.

The investigation also disclosed that on or about March 8, 2013 Respondent performed a property boundary survey and prepared, signed, sealed and issued a survey map showing the removal of 5.00 acres from Tract B-2 of the Rodney Cathey Tract in Section 71, Township 1 South, Range 3 East, located in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, in which the basis of bearing was unclear and a line called for in the map was not labeled.

Additionally, the investigation disclosed that on or about March 19, 2013 Respondent performed a property boundary survey and prepared, signed, sealed and issued a survey map for Wylie Harvey showing the addition of 0.96 acres to the Dr. William C. Roberts Estate Tract and Gaylin G. Herff property creating Tract D-1 and Tract B-2-A, in which (a) not all monumentation was shown for Tract B-2-A; (b) the basis of bearing was unclear and a line called for in the map was not labeled; and (c) the legend for symbols and abbreviations was incomplete.

La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), to wit LAC Title 46:LXI§2907(G)(3), requires that property boundary survey plats or maps show all dimensions, bearings or angles neatly and legibly with respect to each property or boundary line. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), to wit LAC Title 46:LXI§2907(G)(4), requires that property boundary survey plats or maps label monuments as "found" or "set" with a sufficient description of the monument. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), to wit LAC Title 46:LXI§2907(G)(6)(c), requires that (a) all property boundary survey plats or maps contain a statement indicating the origin of azimuths or bearings and (b) if bearings are used, the basis of bearings include either a reference to the true north as computed by astronomic observation, a reference to the Louisiana State Plane Coordinate System, a reference to the record bearing of a well-established line found monumented on the ground as called for in a relevant deed or survey plat or map, or a magnetic bearing. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), to wit LAC Title 46:LXI§2907(G)(14)(c), requires that all property boundary survey plats or maps show a vicinity map. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), to wit LAC Title 46:LXI§2907(G)(14)(i), requires that all property boundary survey plats or maps show a legend for symbols and abbreviations used on the plat or map. La. R.S. 37:698(H) permits the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), to wit LAC Title 46:LXI§2907(G)(3), 2907(G)(4), 2907(G)(6)(c), 2907(G)(14)(c) and 2907(G)(14)(i), upon a finding of guilt following the preferral of charges, notice and hearing and a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6) and (H) and LAC Title 46:LXI§2907(G)(3), 2907(G)(4), 2907(G)(6)(c), 2907(G)(14)(c) and 2907(G)(14)(i) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that Respondent performed property boundary surveys and prepared, signed, sealed and issued survey maps for property located in Louisiana which failed to meet the Board's standards of practice for boundary surveys.

By letter dated December 8, 2014, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that he may have violated La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), *to wit* LAC Title 46:LXI§2907(G)(3), 2907(G)(4), 2907(G)(6)(c), 2907(G)(14)(c) and 2907(G)(14)(i), relative to failing to meet the Board's standards of practice for boundary surveys.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further disciplinary action and to conclude the instant proceeding without further delay and expense, for the purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent and the Board do hereby enter into this Consent Order, in which Respondent of his own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent agrees to (a) pay a fine of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of one thousand thirty-three and 10/100 (\$1,033.10) dollars, (c) successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Standards of Practice for Boundar9 Surveys Quiz, (d) correct the above-described standards of practice violations on revised survey maps, provide the revised survey maps to the Board for review, submit the revised survey maps to the East Feliciana Parish Planning and Zoning Commission after Board review, properly file the revised survey maps to the public record after Commission review, and provide certified copies of the filed revised survey maps to the Board, and (e) the publication of this Consent Order on the Board's website and a summary of this matter in the Board's official journal, the *Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal*, and the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent admits that his conduct as set forth above constitutes violations of the above referenced laws and/or rules as stated herein. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that he will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of his right to appeal; and he states affirmatively that he has been afforded all administrative remedies due him under the law. Respondent further acknowledges awareness of the fact that the signed original of this Consent Order will remain in the custody of the Board as a public record and will be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by signing this Consent Order, Respondent does hereby waive his right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses in his behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent Order.

Respondent hereby represents (a) that he fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) that he has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with him by any person whatsoever to cause the execution of this instrument and (c) that the sanctions set forth in this Consent Order do not prevent the Board from taking further disciplinary or enforcement action against Respondent on matters not specifically addressed in this Consent Order.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board and Respondent agree that:

1. Respondent shall pay a fine of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

Respondent shall pay administrative costs of one thousand thirty-three and 10/100 (\$1,033.10) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

3. Respondent shall successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Standards of Practice for Boundary Surveys Quiz with a score of 90% or higher and return it to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and

4. Respondent shall correct the above-described standards of practice violations on revised survey maps, provide the revised survey maps to the Board for review, submit the revised survey maps to the East Feliciana Parish Planning and Zoning Commission after Board review, properly file the revised survey maps into the public record after Commission review, and provide certified copies of the filed revised survey maps to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and

5. This Consent Order shall be published on the Board's website and a summary of this matter shall be printed in the official journal of the Board, the *Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal*, and reported to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name; and

6. This Consent Order shall not become effective unless and until it is accepted and signed by and on behalf of the Board. Should the Board not accept and sign this Consent Order, it is agreed that presentation of this matter to the Board shall not prejudice the Board or any of its members, staff, attorneys or representatives from further participation, consideration, or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

BY: O

LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD

DATE: <u>3/16/15</u>

DATE:

Witnesses to the signature of Charles R. St. Romain, P.E., P.L.S.

Mary Development Print Name: Mary Development

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CHARLES R. ST. ROMAIN, P.E., P.L.S., Respondent

DONNA D. SENTELL, Executive Director