

NEWS

ACEC
American Council
of Engineering
Companies
of Oregon

August 2005

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*Member of the
American Council of
Engineering Companies
Washington, D.C.*

GOVERNOR SIGNS QBS BILL INTO LAW

by Immediate Past President Cynthia Lowe, P.E.

The past year was dominated by two issues - the ODOT/OBDP overhead cap and the protection of QBS in the Oregon legislature. While ACEC Oregon maintained its typical program schedule and continued its breakfast program series on project management, ODOT/OBDP and QBS consumed a significant portion of time from the ACEC Oregon Board and involved committees.

After ODOT's announcement in April 2004 of an overhead rate cap of 150%, the ACEC Oregon Board decided to form a subcommittee of myself, **Ken Wightman**, **George Gross** and **Mel Sears** to provide input to ODOT on their proposed procurement policy. Several months of discussions did yield a negotiated overhead procurement policy, which established FAR-compliant overhead rates as the basis for future ODOT contracts. While questions on interpretation have arisen between the two organizations with regards to details in the

procurement policy, the joint steering committee, which is being led by **Mel Sears** and **Bob Carson**, will continue the upper-level discussions with ODOT.

During the many versions of OBDP contract terms and conditions issued, **Erin Austin**, **David Evans and Associates**, **Tonya Finley**, **Otak**, and **Mike Mowatt**, **CH2M Hill**, coordinated reviews of the contracts on short timeframes and provided ACEC Oregon with valuable comments of concern for all of our members. Their contract reviews provided ACEC Oregon with justification for our position during negotiation sessions with OBDP. In the end, we reached agreement on contract language that would not invalidate a firm's insurance or create an unacceptable business risk.

One of ACEC Oregon's goals is to increase the organization's visibility, and we definitely accomplished that goal with the
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NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS SWORN IN DURING NETWORKING DAY ACTIVITIES



ACEC Oregon 2005-2006 Board of Directors. Pictured, during the Networking Day golf tournament and dinner June 29 at Langdon Farms Golf Club are, from left: Vice President **Gayle Harley**, **OBEC Consulting Engineers**; President **Ken Wightman**, **David Evans and Associates, Inc.**; Immediate Past President, **Cynthia Lowe**, **Parsons Brinckerhoff**; Secretary/Treasurer **Gregg Scholz**, **R&W Engineering, Inc.**; President Elect **Dwight Hardin**, **GRI Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants**; and Vice President **John Martin**, **Pacific Energy Systems, Inc.** Not pictured: Vice President **Jory Abrams**, **CH2M Hill**; Vice President **Mel Sears**, **Parametrix, Inc.** and Regional Vice President **Darryl Anderson**, **Anderson Engineering & Surveying, Inc.**

QBS IS NOW LAW

(continued from page 1)

Oregon legislature this session. We had a great turnout for our "Day at the Capitol" and for testifying in support of HB 3272 before the House Business Committee. Thank you to everyone who attended a legislative function, e-mailed or called your legislator.



**Cynthia Lowe
Parsons
Brinckerhoff**

Legislative efforts paid off as our QBS bill, HB 3272 was signed by the Governor on July 14. The bill passed the House 56-0 and the Senate 26-2. We garnered such strong support for QBS in part by reaching a compromise on the terms of HB 3272 with the local governments. For reference, **HB 3272 removes the 2008 sunset** from QBS for local governments, reduces the percent of state funding required from 35% to 10%, and increases the total project cost (engineering and construction) from \$400,000 to \$900,000. One additional benefit ACEC Oregon gained for future legislative sessions is that QBS received the support of some local governments in the legislative arena through HB 3272. The Legislative Committee, chaired by **Melissa Johnson, David Evans and Associates**, expended a lot of energy before the session started in developing relationships with legislators, which paid off during the session. **Marshall Coba** was instrumental in negotiating HB 3272 through the Oregon legislature, and we could not have succeeded without his efforts in such a dynamic session.

I am so very grateful for all of the support and assistance that I have received over the past year. I am gladly passing the organization's duties over to Ken, who I have no doubt will do a great job. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president, and I am looking forward to becoming, as **Ray Miller** termed the immediate past president's post, a has-been.

AMONG OURSELVES...

Affiliate member **The Mead Firm PC** has a new name and a new mailing address. They are now **Mead Smith P.C.**, 1672 SW Willamette Falls Drive, Suite D, West Linn, OR 97068, phone (503) 636-3660, fax (503) 636-2797, e-mail: george@meadsmith.com or david@meadsmith.com, web: www.meadsmith.com. Key personnel are **George Mead** and **David Smith**. Mead Smith P.C. is a law firm specializing in construction law and the legal representation of design professionals.

NETWORKING DAY HOLE SPONSORS HELP SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Hole sponsors raised \$2,700 during the recent Networking Day golf tournament at Langdon Farms Golf Course. All funds collected support the ACEC Oregon Scholarship Fund, c/o the Oregon Student Assistance Commission in Eugene.

**AMEC Earth & Environmental
Anderson Engineering & Surveying, Inc.**

Axium

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Otak, Inc.

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and special thanks to the

Daily Journal of Commerce

for sponsoring Networking Day activities.

Thank you!

COMMITTEE ROSTERS 2005-2006

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CORPS OF ENGINEERS LIAISON COMMITTEE

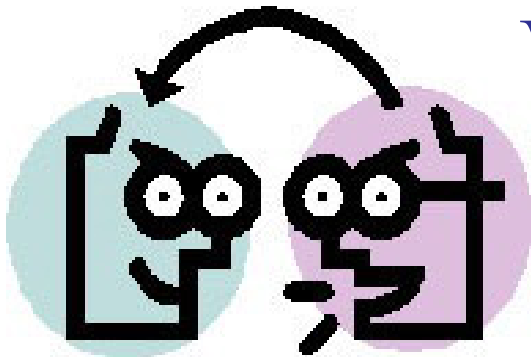
Chair: Andy Vessely / Cornforth Consultants, Inc.
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Kurt Larson / Jacobs Civil, Inc.
Frank Groznik / PBS Engineering and Environmental
Xavier Falconi / Falconi Consulting Services



Work hard, play hard at the ACEC annual meeting. September 15-17 at Skamania Lodge

ACEC *Washington & Oregon*

Learn how Gen X'ers and Nex'ers react to different management styles during the meeting's main program, **"Leaders Have Followers: Do You?"** The workshop will include a panel of Veterans, Boomers, Gen X'ers and Nex'ers that will share their views of management styles, changing expectations and needs.

Mark your calendar...

OCTOBER

■ **October 5 Wednesday**

Risk Management Seminar, **"Client Expectations of Perfection,"** presented by Jack Beemer, David Evans and Associates, Inc.
More details to come!

■ **October 17 Monday**

Lewis & Clark Dinner Program
More details to come!

Other Meeting Highlights Include:

- Welcoming dinner buffet and vendor exhibits
- Keynote address by Dick Fosbury, P.E., gold medal winner 1968 Olympics
- Champagne reception and silent auction
- Dinner, raffle drawings and entertainment
- Saturday morning program, **"What Not to Wear"**
- Golf tournament at Indian Creek
- Saturday night dinner and dancing
- Networking, networking, networking!

Who Should Attend: A/E design firm owners, senior managers and project managers.

For More Information: Visit our website at www.acecOregon.org or call (503) 292-2348.

Thank you to the **Daily Journal of Commerce** for sponsoring the annual meeting.

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