

Committee Reports from Annual Business Dinner...

Committee involvement is always encouraged. If you're interested in learning more about a committee or volunteering for a committee, please contact ACEC Oregon at echurchill2@acecOregon.org or (503) 292-2348. Additional committee information can also be found at <http://www.acecoregon.org/committees.php>.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

During the 2009 legislative session, the committee examined many new bills and discussed how they would or would not affect ACEC Oregon members. Committee members also assisted ACEC Oregon lobbyist **Marshall Coba** when testimony on legislation was needed. The committee also participated in the "Day at the Capitol" in March. The transportation funding issue attracted more than 40 members to Salem this year.

ODOT LIAISON COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **Karen Tatman, Quincy Engineering**
Committee goals:

- Maintain open communication with ODOT by consultant community
 - Improve and streamline project delivery processes for consultant delivered projects
 - Support efforts to continuously improve consultant delivered products
 - Help ODOT improve their contracting processes
 - Share technologies
- Committee accomplishments:
- Brown Bag lunch sessions – first full year, well attended sessions in ODOT's Region 1 office in Portland
 - 4th annual ODOT/ACEC Conference: The Future of Transportation; Costs, Innovations, and Sustainable Systems
 - Helped develop consultant evaluation process (hope to further develop into 360 degree review)
 - Attended OTC Meeting to support ODOT's goals to streamline project delivery--Programmatic permits, concurrent processes, appropriate standards



Pictured during the May Business Dinner are, from left: **Doug Smith, David C. Smith & Associates; Teresa and Tim Blackwood, Pacific Geotechnical;** and **Troy Bowers, Murray, Smith & Associates.**

Other items of note:

- ACEC continues to have a very healthy relationship with ODOT
- We should continue to foster and grow this relationship.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LIAISON COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **Lance Helwig, USACE**
ACEC REP: **Tim Blackwood, Pacific Geotechnical** (*chair alternates every year between USACE and ACEC Oregon*)

Mission statement: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Portland District and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon (ACECO) commit to a meaningful partnership between our organizations in the common purpose to provide quality and responsive engineering and consulting services to the nation and the world.

Committee goals:

- Ensure a cooperative dialogue between USACE and ACECO at all levels.
- Clarify and understand the changing roles of USACE and the private sector.
- Foster an attitude that explores opportunities and resolves issues.

Enhance professionalism and integrity throughout the design and construction industry.

- Promote quality & value through improved business practices.
- Invest in the future by promoting new technology, continuing education, and research and development.
- Promote qualifications-based-selection procurement of A-E services.
- Promote the use of project delivery methods that best serve the public interest.
- Support a healthy USACE and a strong U.S. engineering industry.

Collaborate to expand U.S. business opportunities in the global marketplace.

Meeting highlights:

- Oct 2008 - **Duke Loney** and **John Etzel, P.E.**, with the Corps' Hydroelectric Design Center, presented an assessment of 8 mini-hydro projects that the Corps completed in Afghanistan.
- Jan 2009 - **Jerry Chris-**

tensen, Program Manager for the Portland District Levee Safety Program, gave a comprehensive overview of the Corps levee program focusing on policy, authorization, organizational structure, implementation, and levee database inventory and tools.

■ Apr 2009 - **Chad Croft**, Project Manager for PGE, presented an overview of the design and construction of the 273-foot underwater tower and fish collection facility that is being built at Round Butte Dam and Lake Billy Chinook.

Other items of note:

General discussion about American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - On April 28, 2009 the USACE released a list of civil works projects to be funded by the ARRA of 2009. The legislation, signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, appropriated \$4.6 billion to the Corps for its Civil Works program. More than \$131 million has been identified for Portland District projects in western Oregon and southwestern Washington. *(For a detailed committee report, including a list of the specific local projects, go to <http://www.acecoregon.org/committees.php> and then scroll down to U.S. Army*

More Committee Reports (continued from page 8)

Corps of Engineers Liaison Committee, then click on the link to the report.)

Businesses and contractors interested in contracts which the Corps has advertised in support of Recovery Act projects should visit the Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps) website at <https://www.fbo.gov>, a free online listing of government contracting opportunities. Stimulus projects are highlighted under a red “Recovery Opportunities” button on the right side of the page. If interested in an opportunity, click “Register Now” in the Vendors/Citizens block. Firms must be registered in the database before a contract can be awarded.

The lists of projects released and additional information on the Corps’ role in the Recovery Act are available on the Web at <http://www.usace.army.mil/recovery>.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **Julia Kuhn, Kittelson & Associates**
Committee activities:

- Selection of newest scholarship recipient to take place soon. (*Scholarship has since been awarded; see story on page 5.*)
- Update on existing scholarship recipients—they are flourishing. For an update, go to http://www.acecoregon.org/documents/scholarship_recipients_update_Winter2009.pdf.
- 4th Annual Networking Day Benefit Golf Tournament & Dinner (proceeds benefit scholarship fund and activities). Thank you to all the sponsors, and golfers who purchased mulligans. *See story on page 5.*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **Mike Meyer, Cornforth Consultants**

Committee goals: Increase new membership, foster development, and retain existing members.
Committee accomplishments: Group was very active with meetings every five to six weeks. Primary efforts involved recognizing new engineering firms or non-members in the area; identifying key contacts at those firms; communicating the benefits of ACEC to them; and inviting them to participate. Even through the tough economy this year, the committee was still able to add seven new firms, with a net gain of 53 employees.

Other items of note:

- Since the start of the Membership

Committee five years ago, there has been consistent positive growth in the number of member firms.

- The Future Leaders Forum, initiated by the Membership Committee, has taken root and evolved into its own entity within ACEC Oregon.

FUTURE LEADERS FORUM (FLF)

CHAIR: **Tony Roos, Cardno WRG**

Committee objectives:

- Create opportunities for “future leaders” to engage in ACEC
- Build a foundation for future leadership within individual companies and the next generation of ACEC leaders
- Provide outreach to engineering professionals and the ACEC board by creating opportunities for future leaders to create, lead, and participate in ACEC events, while connecting with industry leaders.

Additional goals:

- Build leadership skills
- Learn business development skills
- Bridge the gap between principals and future leaders
- Be a liaison to the principals and ACEC leadership

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **Jack Beemer, David Evans and Associates, Inc.**

Committee objective: The purpose of the Risk Management Committee is to assist member companies and others in under-

standing and managing risk and, on their behalf, to advocate changes in legislation and regulation to properly control or allocate risk.
Committee goals:

- Provide basic risk management and professional liability insurance information to members
 - Develop risk management programs to educate members
 - Recommend tort reform and other legislation for consideration to the legislative committee
 - Review proposed legislation and regulations as requested
 - Provide risk management assistance to ACEC Oregon committees, staff and board
- Committee happenings this last year and planned for this year:
- SB 955—codify Economic Loss Rule (in light of unfavorable ruling by Oregon Supreme Court—didn’t get out of committee, but may reintroduce next time—need a sponsor.
 - City of Springfield—Working with the City to improve or eliminate their three-party Public Improvement Project Permit agreement.
- Programs:
- November breakfast: “Your Contract: Friend or Foe?” with **Jon Larson, Marvin, Chorzempa & Larson, and Stan Austin, Miller Nash**. Good for two continuing professional development (CPD) credits; attended by more than 30 registrants.
 - February ½ day program: “Successful Government Contracting: Understanding & Applying the FAR Cost Principles for”
- (continued on page 10)



Pictured from left are: **Nancy Whitsel, Performance Resources Consulting; Mike Reed, Gene Tupper and Scott Schlechter, GRI; and Gerry Heslin, Cornforth Consultants.**

Committee Reports (continued from page 9)

& Applying the FAR Cost Principles for Improved Profitability” with **John Pruitt**. Good for four CPD credits; attended by more than 40 registrants.

■ June 8-9 two-part program, four modules: “Characteristics of Design-Build and Contracting Strategies” and “Design-Build Negotiation and Risk Management Strategies” with **Erin Austin, David Evans and Associates; Robin McKnight, Parsons Brinckerhoff; Doug Smith, AMEC Earth & Environmental; and Tom Wil-**

loughby, Parsons Brinckerhoff. Good for four CPD credits. (The program later attracted 40 registrants.)

“Focus On Risk Management” – Article in each newsletter (also archives via website button; go to <http://www.acecoregon.org/riskManagement.php>.)

National issues:

■ NCHRP/AASHTO – “Best Practices in the Management of Design Errors and Omissions.” Go to <http://design.transportation.org/?siteid=59&pageid=849> for list

of reports, presentations, and links.

- Designing for construction site safety
- Professional liability survey

OPERATIONS/ADMIN COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **Mike Reed, GRI**

Chair **Mike Reed** presented the ACEC Oregon budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year. The budget was approved without a dues increase for 2009-10.



Fifteen people and five dogs made the hike to Drift Creek Falls on September 12 during the joint fall conference held at Salishan on the Oregon coast. Pictured from left are: **Karen Wallace; Bob Galtland, Reid Middleton; Scott Wallace, Kleinfelder; Chris Quevedo; Jack Beemer, David Evans and Associates; Alison Davis, ACEC Oregon; Matthew Copus, Hall & Company; Janelle Chorzempa, Marvin, Chorzempa & Larson; Gregg Scholz, R & W Engineering; Mary Ann Scholz; Lexie Beemer; Merideth Webber, ACEC Oregon; and Robin McKnight, Parsons Brinckerhoff.** (Photo courtesy of Shawn Kolbe)

Mark your calendar...

OCTOBER

- **October 7-10 Wednesday - Saturday**
ACEC National Fall Conference
Palm Springs, California
www.acec.org/calendar/conferences.cfm.
- **October 15 Thursday**
Board of Directors Meeting
OBEC Consulting Engineers, Lake Oswego
- **October 26 Monday**
ACEC Oregon Engineering Excellence
Phase 1 “Intent to Enter” Deadline &
Phase 2 Q&A Session (optional)

NOVEMBER

- **November 12 Thursday**
Board of Directors Meeting
OBEC Consulting Engineers, Lake Oswego
- **November 16 Monday**
ACEC Oregon Engineering Excellence
Phase 2 FINAL Deadline

DECEMBER

- **December 2 Wednesday**
ACEC Oregon Engineering Excellence
Judging of Entries
- **December 8 Tuesday**
Board of Directors Meeting
OBEC Consulting Engineers, Lake Oswego

JANUARY

- **January 8 Friday**
ACEC National Engineering Excellence
Entries due, Washington, D.C.
- **January 13 Wednesday**
ACEC Oregon Engineering Excellence
Awards Dinner, Portland

ACEC Oregon

5319 SW Westgate Dr., Ste. 224, Portland, OR 97221
phone (503) 292-2348 / www.acecOregon.org

“The Engineers”