

ACEC Oregon: Committee Reports from May Business Dinner....

The work carried out by committees is the backbone of ACEC Oregon. Participation in committees directly affects the organization and helps to advance the mission of the Council. Committee service provides an opportunity to interact with other members which can lead to improved business practices in their firms. Participation on an ACEC Oregon committee is also a great way to gain leadership skills and give back to the profession.

If you're interested in learning more about a specific 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>.

ODOT LIAISON COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **Karen Tatman, Quincy Engineering**

Goals:

- Improve working relationship with ODOT
- Awareness and resolution of contracting issues (processes and provisions)
- Assist ODOT with efficient delivery of professional A&E services

Accomplishments:

- Held bi-monthly meetings, 2 to 3 hours in length and attended by 30 to 40 consultants + ODOT and FHWA



- Annual ODOT/ACEC Conference in April; 2010 was fifth year. Topic was "Practical Design," and was attended by more than 200 people: 125 consultants + 100 ODOT personnel.
- Brown Bag series expanded to Salem starting in May. It was previously just in Portland. All sessions in Salem and Portland are co-sponsored with ODOT + consultants
- Provided feedback to OBDP and ODOT regarding communication/coordination with Engineer of Record during construction
- Contract provisions that have on-going discussion include: Conflict of Interest issues that could impact firms' ability to pursue projects and Profit/Fee negotiation
- Implementation of HB 2001 Jobs in Transportation Act

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

ACEC OR LOBBYIST: **Marshall Coba, CobaCo**

Objective: To promote and protect the interests of consulting engineers primarily through state legislative action, monitor legislation, initiate membership action by formulation of objectives to support and oppose legislation.



Issues for the 2011 session include:

- QBS (Qualifications Based Selection)
- Government outsourcing of engineering services
- Economic loss doctrine
- Fix SB 311 from the 2009 session
- Public investment in infrastructure

Noteworthy: Held a luncheon with former governor and gubernatorial candidate **John Kitzhaber** in May. Thank you to **HDR Engineering** for hosting this event. A similar event with gubernatorial candidate **Chris Dudley** is being planned.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LIAISON COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **Curt Bagnall, CH2M Hill**

(chair alternates every year between USACE and ACEC Oregon)

Accomplishments: Held quarterly meetings on issues of interest to the USACE and ACEC. Highlights include:

- Jul 2009 - A field trip to City of Portland's Eastside CSO tunneling work. Special thanks to **Parsons**

Brinckerhoff for coordinating the visit.

- Oct 2009 - Presentation by several Corps' Portland District Program Managers including the Willamette Valley BiOP program; Columbia River Treaty; Columbia River Fish mitigation; and Capital



Improvement Programs

- Jan 2010 - Tom VanderPlaat, Clean Water Services, talked about the Tualatin Basin Water Supply project and challenges involved with raising Scoggins Dam

- Apr 2010 - Mark Sawka with the Portland District discussed repairs and replacement of the Navlock gates at John Day and The Dalles Dam.

Noteworthy: At the April meeting the Portland District indicated they have a couple of large, multi-disciplinary IDIQ contracts that are being issues. Interested firms can check Federal Business Opportunities (www.fbo.gov) online, or contact Rowena Musser at the AE Contracting unit.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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

Activities:

- Committee will select the new scholarship recipient soon. (*Scholarship has since been awarded; see story on page 1.*)

- Update on current scholarship recipients: **Cierra Eby** is interning during the summer at ACEC Oregon member firm **Cornforth Consultants**, whom she met at the Engineering Excellence Awards dinner; she will graduate OSU June 2011. **Bradley Miller**, who will be a junior at OSU in

"Thank you for ACEC Oregon's continued financial support and investment in my education. It means a lot to me."

—Bradley Miller, scholarship recipient attending Oregon State University

the fall, is an engineering intern for ODOT in White City during the summer. **Kyle McVay** also will be a junior at OSU in the fall. **Ryan Brown** attended the Engineering Excellence Awards dinner and will be a sophomore at OSU in the fall.

- 5th 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 1.*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **Mike Meyer, Cornforth Consultants**

Goals: To increase new membership,

ACEC Oregon: More Committee Reports (continued from page 4)

foster development, and to retain existing members in ACEC Oregon.

Accomplishments: Group has remained very active this year with meetings held every six weeks. As in past years, the committee's efforts have involved recognizing potential new member firms and affiliates in the area; identifying key contacts at those firms; communicating the benefits of ACEC to them; and inviting them to participate. Surveying firms are also eligible for full membership now so that has been a recent focus. Even through the difficult economy the group was able to add nine new member firms representing 101 employees, and three affiliate member firms.

Noteworthy: The committee continues to work in close coordination with the Pacific Northwest Consulting Engineers (PNCE) Health & Welfare Trust to help support growth in both organizations. Growth in the PNCE Trust provides additional bargaining power with health care providers, which helps hedge against the dramatic rise in health insurance costs. This results in cost savings to member firms, which provides another compelling reason for joining and remaining in ACEC Oregon. The Membership Committee includes a key member from the Woodruff-Sawyer Company, who are the insurance brokers representing the PNCE Trust. With this close coordination on the Membership Committee, prospective new firms to ACEC Oregon are able to get highly competitive quotes on health insurance. This beneficial arrangement has resulted in several new firms joining ACEC Oregon.

FUTURE LEADERS FORUM (FLF)

CHAIR: **Tony Roos, Cardno WRG**

Goal: To create opportunities for "Future Leaders" to engage in ACEC and build a foundation for future leadership within individual companies. All are welcome to participate regardless of years of experience or position in firm.

Accomplishments: Presented a well-attended luncheon program in February on the "Risks and Rewards of Using Social Media for A/E Firms" in addition to a social event in April.

Noteworthy: The next FLF event is a barbecue on August 24. For more information and to RSVP, contact echurchill2@acecOregon.org or call (503) 292-2348.

"This is a great opportunity to continue building relationships in an industry that is a people business."

—Tony Roos, CardnoWRG
FLF Steering Committee

The FLF is also planning a joint meeting with AGC's CLC (Construction Leadership Council, formerly known as the Young Constructors Forum) as well as an educational program on "open houses" and public involvement. Watch for more details to come.

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Objective: The purpose of the Risk Management Committee is to assist member companies and others in understanding and managing risk and, on their behalf, to advocate changes in legislation and regulation to properly control or allocate risk.

Goals:

- Provide basic risk management and professional liability insurance information to members.
- Develop risk management programs to educate members.
- Recommend and support 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.
- Address risk and liability issues raised in public contracts.

Accomplishments: Presented two risk management programs: "Indemnification Clauses in Contracts" in April and "State of the Industry: Update on Professional Liability Insurance" in June.

Noteworthy: The Risk Management Committee also provides "Focus on Risk Management" articles, usually in each newsletter (but not this one) and also posted on the web at <http://www.acecoregon.org/riskManagement.php>. Articles



include: "Reducing the Chances of Third-Party Claims," "Working without Formal Agreements," "What's Your Risk Management IQ?" and many more.

OPERATIONS/ADMIN COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **Mike Reed, GRI**

Objective: To provide budget oversight, monitor the financial affairs of the Council, and to write and recommend sound fiscal policies and procedures, including investment strategies.

Chair **Mike Reed** presented the ACEC Oregon budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The budget was approved without a dues increase for 2010-11.

Noteworthy: We have restructured our association agreement with UPS which should be more beneficial. Member firms enrolled in the UPS Savings Program can save up to 30 percent on UPS shipping which also benefits ACEC Oregon through royalties paid to the Council. For more information about this membership benefit go to http://www.acecoregon.org/join/documents/UPS_Savings_Program_May2010.pdf or contact echurchill2@acecOregon.org or call (503) 292-2348. Members currently enrolled in the UPS Savings Program must re-enroll to take advantage of this new exclusive offer. Use promo code PAC002 to enroll. For complete details and to sign up, go to <http://www.savewithups.com/enroll/>. See details on page 8.

ACEC

Oregon and Washington

Joint Fall Conference

September 9-11, Alderbrook Resort

"Creating & Retaining Star Performers"

Plus, panel discussion, "Views of Leadership"

Save \$\$\$! Register by August 11, 2010.

For more info, speaker bios, conference agenda and registration form, go to www.acecOregon.org or call (503) 292-2348.

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