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COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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An Emerging Leader: Tennessee's Progressive Approach to Biofuels Research & Production

by Matt Kisber, Tennessee Commissioner of Economic and Community Development

At last spring's first-ever Governor's Conference on biofuels, Governor Phil Bredesen said it best: "To put it simply: Tennessee is on the move in the alternative fuels marketplace." More than 250 attendees from nine states attended the conference to take advantage of the educational and networking opportunities with a focus on Tennessee's growing biofuels industry.



Matt Kisber

In fact, Tennessee is not only on the move, but quickly charging ahead.

The state is poised to become a national leader in the production, distribution and use of alternative fuels through innovative initiatives on state and local levels, research partnerships and education and training.

In 2005, Governor Bredesen created the interagency Alternative Fuels Working Group, comprised of some of the best minds in the departments of Agriculture, Economic and Community Development, Environment and Conservation, General Services, Health and Transportation. This group gathered information from experts, private businesses and key stakeholders and devised a plan for moving forward in the realm of alternative fuels.

The Working Group's initial studies resulted in a \$4 million package that in part helped fund three new grant and low-interest loan programs: Agricultural Feedstock Processing Loans, Innovation Grants and Green Island Corridor Grants.

Agricultural Feedstock Processing Loans are designed to attract investment in soybean crushing facilities to create local markets for Tennessee-grown soybeans that supply oil for biodiesel. Innovation Grants are awarded to help governments and state-funded universities increase the use of alternative fuels in their fleets and measure positive impacts to state air quality.

Green Island Corridor Grants are used to build a network of publicly-accessible B20 and E85 refueling stations or "Green Islands" along Tennessee's major highways.

The program assists retail stations with the capital costs of converting or installing the necessary infrastructure to offer bio-fuels to the public.

For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, Governor Bredesen proposed and the Tennessee General Assembly approved another \$61 million for a comprehensive alternative fuels strategy. Combined with \$11.6 million in existing funding for an ongoing biofuels research project at Tennessee's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the total package comes to a \$72.6 million investment in Tennessee's energy future.

(continued on page 2)



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Reasons to Celebrate

by James D. Morinec, PE
President, ACEC of Tennessee

In this season of celebration, it's appropriate that ACEC of Tennessee is preparing to celebrate its 40th anniversary as an organization serving the business interests of Tennessee's engineering companies. My thanks to Lamar Dunn, PE, Lamar Dunn & Associates, Knoxville, who has agreed to head the sub-committee that will help plan events to recognize our organization's achievements during the 2009 *Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet*. Lamar will need help, so please let him know if you can lend a hand.



James D. Morinec

In 2008, ACEC of Tennessee will partner with the Associated General Contractors (AGC), the Tennessee Road Builders Association (TRBA), and other industry groups to sponsor a "Builders Ball." This is a great opportunity to foster communications and develop a better understanding of our organizations' common interests. We need a volunteer to represent ACEC of Tennessee on the event planning committee. I encourage every-

one who might be interested to contact Candy Toler.

Future Engineers

Our firm, like many others, participates in college career fairs. While there is a projected significant shortfall in engineering graduates in the next ten years, I am encouraged by the number of students that are pursuing engineering careers this year.

As an organization, we need to continually find ways to encourage students to consider a career in engineering. This effort should begin before students reach college age. If you haven't participated in Junior Achievement, MATHCOUNTS, Pencil, or other programs that expose elementary and high school students to the importance of engineering, I encourage you to do so.

I am always amazed at how little students know about the ways in which engineering impacts their lives. We do such a good job that students, like most people, simply expect water and sewer systems to be there, transportation systems to function, and homes and buildings to be safe. It's an interesting experience to see the reactions of elementary students as they begin to understand the scope and importance of what engineers do. It's another reason to celebrate.

Biofuels continued from page 1

Bioenergy Science Center

A team led by ORNL was awarded a \$125 million grant in June 2007 by the Department of Energy to build a Bioenergy Science Center. The new facility is headquartered on the campus of ORNL in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and develops processes for converting plants, including switchgrass and poplar trees, into fuels.

Extensive research by ORNL and the University of Tennessee has shown that switchgrass is perfectly suited to the southeast climate. It grows in poor soil, can withstand floods and droughts and is resistant to pesticide and diseases. UT has purchased all available quantities of switchgrass seed in the country for further research, and farmers in East Tennessee already have fields planted.

We know we can make ethanol from grassy and woody materials. The challenge is producing it in large volumes and at a price that is competitive with gasoline, and in proving we can be the ones to take the discovery from the laboratory to the marketplace.

Without a doubt, Tennessee is ready to face that challenge. The future for Tennessee in the alternative fuels sector is bright indeed.

For more information on Tennessee's biofuels initiatives, please visit www.biotenn.org.



Firms Partner with Schools

John Wharton, PE, vice president of CH2M Hill in Knoxville, explains how to determine water quality to 3rd grade students at Willow Brook Elementary School in Oak Ridge on World Water Monitoring Day in October. CH2M Hill is one of the many ACEC of Tennessee member firms that partner with local

schools to bring hands-on science programs to students. The firms also donate money for the purchase of science equipment and learning materials.



The East Tennessee Chapter of ACEC met in November in Knoxville. Loy Waldrop, Jr., B.S.M.E., J.D., discussed "Recent Developments in Tennessee Construction Law." He is a well-known defense attorney with the Knoxville firm of Lewis, King, Krieg, Waldrop & Catron, which represents several professional liability insurance carriers. Pictured (left to right) are David Harbin, Gary Norvell, Loy Waldrop, and Mike Stomer, East Tennessee Chapter President.

EEA Entries Announced

Projects located across Tennessee and in two other states will compete for the 2008 *Engineering Excellence Awards* (EEA) announced David Harrell, PE, EEA awards program chair and vice president at engineering firm Vaughn and Melton.

"The diverse project entries range from a museum to city infrastructure facilities," commented Harrell.

An independent panel of judges will convene in January 2008 to select the winners noted Paul Harris, EEA co-chair and vice president of corporate business development, at Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon. The winners will be announced on the evening of March 4 during an awards banquet at the Hilton Nashville Downtown.

Your Transportation Committee is Busy

by Kathy Ware, Chair

ACEC of Tennessee Transportation Committee

ACEC of Tennessee Transportation Committee members have been very busy. A conference call with all Committee members was held on October 9 to discuss several issues:

the signing and sealing requirements for the design and inspection of falsework on TDOT projects; the appointment of several ACEC representatives to a TDOT-requested committee on the development of Environmental Policy Making; the appointment of a single representative from ACEC to a TDOT-sponsored committee to educate the public on Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS); the creation of a National Bridge



Kathy Ware

Inspection Working Group by ACEC National (in the wake of the Minnesota bridge collapse); and finally, the recently presented Design-Build Rulemaking from TDOT and its impact on consultants in the highway design industry.

Two days later, the Committee met with TDOT officials for a briefing on the Design-Build proposals. During a presentation by Angie Duncan, TDOT, the group learned of the Departments' intent to let the very first D-B project in the November 4 letting (a signalized intersection at I-40 and Stewarts Ferry Pike in Davidson County). A formal summary of ACEC Committee members' comments was delivered to Duncan the following week by Terry Grubb, PE, Wilbur Smith Associates, on behalf of the full Committee.

After receiving the comments, TDOT conducted a follow-up meeting on November 7 to present its response to many of the concerns aired by Committee members. The meeting went well and involved a great deal of back-and-forth with TDOT officials and Tennessee Road Builders Association (TRBA) members, who were invited to participate.

The proposed D-B process includes submission of team pre-qualifications, short listing of qualified teams and a reasonable method of selection. There is another Public Hearing set for January, with the opportunity for further input.

Kathy Ware is President of K.S. Ware & Associates, LLC, Nashville

2008 EEA Entries

CTE -- *Client:* Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority; *Project:* Runway Safety Area at Nashville International; *Location:* Nashville, TN; *Category:* Transportation

EnSafe Inc. -- *Client:* Metal Management, Inc.; *Project:* Metal Management: Engineering Revitalization; *Location:* Nashville, TN; *Category:* Environmental

EnSafe Inc. -- *Client:* U.S. Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast; *Project:* Wetlands Investigation: A Study in Cost-Savings; *Location:* Pensacola, FL; *Category:* Studies, Research or Consulting Engineering Services

Gresham, Smith & Partners -- *Client:* City of Franklin / TDOT; *Project:* McEwen Interchange; *Location:* Franklin, TN; *Category:* Transportation

Hart Freeland Roberts, Inc. -- *Client:* Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation; *Project:* Laurel Snow Boundary Survey; *Location:* Dayton, TN; *Category:* Surveying / Mapping Technology

Hart Freeland Roberts, Inc. -- *Client:* City of Ashland City; *Project:* Ashland City Water Plant Renovation & Additions; *Location:* Ashland City, TN; *Category:* Water & Wastewater

K.S. Ware & Associates -- *Client:* Volkert & Associates, Inc.; *Project:* Biloxi Bay Bridge Replacement Materials Testing Management; *Location:* Biloxi, MS; *Category:* Special Projects

Lamar Dunn & Associates, Inc. -- *Client:* City of Morristown; *Project:* Morris Boulevard Program Management; *Location:* Morristown, TN; *Category:* Special Projects

Parsons -- *Client:* Tennessee Department of Transportation; *Project:* Historic Renovation of the Market Street Bridge; *Location:* Chattanooga, TN; *Category:* Structural Systems

PBS&J, Inc. -- *Client:* Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority; *Project:* Nashville International Airport Master Drainage Study; *Location:* Nashville, TN; *Category:* Small Projects

Pickering, Inc. -- *Client:* Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority; *Project:* Inbound Roadway Improvements; *Location:* Memphis, TN; *Category:* Transportation

Ross Bryan Associates, Inc. -- *Client:* McCarty Holsaple McCarty, Inc.; *Project:* Neyland Stadium-New Club Level and Concourse; *Location:* Knoxville, TN; *Category:* Structural Systems

S&ME -- *Client:* Wal-Mart; *Project:* Love Creek Realignment and Restoration; *Location:* Knoxville, TN; *Category:* Water Resources

Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. -- *Client:* Vanderbilt Medical Center; *Project:* Vanderbilt TVC Highway Generator Project; *Location:* Nashville, TN; *Category:* Building / Technology Systems

Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. -- *Client:* City of Alcoa; *Project:* Alcoa Water Treatment Plant; *Location:* Alcoa, TN; *Category:* Water & Wastewater

Vaughn & Melton, Inc. / Bullock-Smith & Partners -- *Client:* East Tennessee State University; *Project:* ETSU Natural History and Fossil Museum; *Location:* Gray, TN; *Category:* Structural Systems

Wilbur Smith Associates -- *Client:* Tennessee Department of Transportation; *Project:* Mack Hatcher Parkway Context Sensitive Design; *Location:* Franklin, TN; *Category:* Transportation

CALENDAR

JANUARY

18

Deadline to submit EEA Notebooks & Panels

FEBRUARY

17-23

Engineers' Week

MARCH

3

Legislative Reception
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sheraton Nashville
Downtown

MARCH

4

Engineers' Day on the Hill
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

State Capitol
4th Annual Senior Principals' Forum

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Hilton Nashville
Downtown

Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Hilton Nashville
Downtown

MARCH

5

Board Meeting
Hilton Nashville
Downtown

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Welcome, NEW MEMBER

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Email: tfalls@rwa.com

R. W. Armstrong is a global design and management consulting firm that provides construction management, development and finance, design, planning, and program management services. Project services and disciplines include construction, electrical, environmental, general municipal, hydrology/hydrogeology, land development, mechanical, planning, structural, transportation, utilities/energy, and water/wastewater.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2007: A Year of Accomplishments

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

December is a time for reflection and for preparation. It's a good time to remind you of some of the things that ACEC and ACEC of



Candy Toler

- Tennessee have accomplished for you recently:
- Continued to meet with state officials to improve the business climate for Tennessee engineering firms, working through your Environment and Transportation Committees;
 - Maintained an effective working relationship with the State Engineers' and Architects' Board;
 - Supported and opposed successfully, with your assistance, legislation which would have impacted the practice of engineering in a myriad of ways, including exempting engineering services from legislation that authorizes the Tennessee Department of General Services to use a competitive reverse auction process for

bidding, and prohibiting the use of toxic waste as fertilizer;

- Advocated to protect the Highway Fund; no dedicated funds were transferred to the General Fund in this fiscal year;
- Helped pass the national Water Resources Development Act and override the veto, resulting in a new law that will assist in efforts to stabilize the nation's water infrastructure in the future to protect communities from severe flooding and much more.

As we prepare for the challenges of 2008, ACEC needs your continued participation. I invite you to make plans to attend **Engineers Day on the Hill in Nashville on March 4** and **Consulting Congress Day in Washington on April 29-30**. I also invite you to celebrate **Engineering Excellence in Nashville on March 4** and in **Washington on April 29**.

Thank you to guest contributor Commissioner Matt Kisber for his informative article on alternative fuels that appears in this newsletter. *If you are interested in submitting a guest column, please let me know (ctoler@tnec.org).*

Best wishes for the holiday season and for a booming business in 2008!