

The Voice

OCTOBER 2011



THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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TDEC Experts Scan the Tennessee Regulatory Horizon

by Amy Spann, PE, EnSafe
Chair, ACEC Environment and Energy Committee

Liz Porter, PG, S&ME
Co-Chair, ACEC Environment and Energy Committee

The first ACEC Environment and Energy Committee meeting for 2011/2012 was held during the recent ACEC/TSPE Annual Meeting at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. The successful meeting was preceded and followed by a variety of presentations covering a wide range of regulatory topics. In planning the Annual Meeting agenda, efforts were made to provide something for everyone.



Amy Spann



Liz Porter

The ACEC/TSPE meeting kicked off with a standing-room-only presentation by Bob Martineau, the seventh Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Prior to his TDEC appointment, Martineau was a partner at the Nashville firm Waller Lansden Dortch and Davis, LLC, practicing in the area of environmental law. As one of Tennessee's foremost experts on environmental regulation, Martineau regularly evaluated the impacts of proposed fed-

eral and state legislative or regulatory initiatives. This background and regulatory expertise provides Martineau a unique perspective as the new TDEC Commissioner, creating an opportunity for a renewed spirit of cooperation among regulators and the regulated community.

Common Interests

Regulators, business owners, community advocates, industry representatives, developers, and the consulting community often find themselves on opposite sides of the table

(continued on page 2)



A biologically-enhanced high rate clarification process solved a storm water treatment problem for the Knoxville Utilities Board and won the Grand Iris Award for CDM in the 2011 Engineering Excellence Awards competition. Entries for the 2012 competition are due November 4 (see page 3).

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ARCADIS, Chattanooga

ACEC STAFF**Candy Toler**

Executive Director

Judy LogueManager of Member
Services

Let's Ask Questions, Offer Ideas & Get Things Fixed

*by Mike Pohlman, PE
President, ACEC of Tennessee*

I have spent the last several months in discussions with engineers across the state to learn how they are dealing with the challenge of facility and infrastructure projects that are

**Mike Pohlman**

being delayed due to either economic conditions or governmental bureaucracy. It's a situation common among many Tennessee firms, as is the approach taken to deal with it. I've heard some amazing comments: **We just grin and bear it. What can you do?**

Our hands are tied!

The economic challenges have gone global and beyond most engineers' "circle of influence," so we just accept them as our clients' prerogatives and move on as directed.

On the other hand, the project effects brought on by governmental bureaucracy and conflicting policies are something that we as engineers should, can and must have a say.

The conclusion to most of my discussions was that our system is broken and in need of some repair. We need to do a better job educating our political leaders on the challenges that we face as we lead our clients through the maze of various agency-required obstacles which are causing excessive time delays both in the design and construction processes.

Before we can educate our political leaders, we first educate ourselves and find out how we got where we are. We need to ask the hard questions pertaining to conflicting policies and work to get them corrected.

Engineers **fix and improve things** every day. I encourage you to get motivated and involved. Don't be afraid or intimidated; agency leaders are challenged by many of the same issues that we face and may like some recommendations, suggestions and understanding. If we can streamline our governmental agency processes and eliminate the "us versus them" attitude, we will make great strides.

Let's ask questions, get things fixed and be a part of making Tennessee **the place** to work and live.

TDEC Experts (continued from page 1)

when dealing with environmental regulations. But at the end of the day, as residents of Tennessee, we all have an interest in the natural resources that surround us, and we all recognize a sense of responsibility in protecting and preserving those resources. The different interests listed above may have varying opinions on the value of specific resources, and the level of effort that should be put forth to protect those resources. These varied perspectives present an opportunity to come to the table in a spirit of cooperation, negotiating a solution that respects the input of all stakeholders. During these negotiations, it might be helpful to keep in mind that ultimately, as residents of the beautiful state of Tennessee, our common interests are larger than the issues that separate us.

In every area of regulatory jurisdiction presented during the annual meeting, TDEC representatives demonstrated a willingness to educate stakeholders on the underlying regulations, and presented current TDEC policies and procedures regarding those regulations. Updates on storm water, stream classifications, solid waste management, Brownfields redevelopment, greenhouse gas regulations, and the state revolving loan fund were presented by TDEC representatives willing to share their time and expertise to give attendees

a glimpse of their current day-to-day focus in each of these disciplines.

Energy topics

In addition to these varied presentations, the committee last year expanded its focus to include recent trends in the energy sector, and, therefore, three energy-related presentations were also included. Geothermal, solar and nuclear energy topics were well received, and generated interesting discussion in the follow-up question and answer sessions.

There are a multitude of opportunities for the ACEC Environment and Energy Committee in the upcoming year, from the continued understanding of the regulatory process, to ongoing interactions with regulatory personnel, and the effective application of these rules and regulations as we strive to make wise use of our resources. New members are always welcome; please contact Candy Toler, ACEC executive director, for additional information.

One final note, if you're interested in energy and the environment, check out the variety of positive energy or environmental-related impacts currently being recognized across the state, through the recently awarded Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards (www.tn.gov/environment/awards).

Entries Due November 4 for 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards

The work of your engineering firm deserves recognition, applause, and time in the spotlight! The 21st Annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition offers Tennessee engineering firms this opportunity. Friday, November 4 is the deadline to submit entries and take the first step toward receiving statewide and regional attention for projects that demonstrate a high degree of achievement, value and ingenuity.



“Thirteen awards will be given: one Grand Award for each of the 12 entry categories and one Grand Iris Award, the ‘best of competition’ from any of the 12 categories,” said Greg Brubaker, PE, EEA program chair and Vice President, K. S. Ware & Associates.

The 12 entry categories are: A) Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services; B) Building/Technology Systems; C) Structural Systems; D) Surveying and Mapping Technology; E) Environmental; F) Water and Storm Water; G) Water Resources; H) Transportation; I) Special Projects; J) Small Projects; K) Energy; and L) Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities.

The award winners will be announced at a Gala celebration attended by clients and federal, state and regional officials. The 2012 EEA gala will be held on March 6, 2012 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs noted Kim King, PE, EEA co-chair and transportation engineer at AECOM, Nashville.

Last year, more than 250 attended the event including TDOT Commissioner John Schroer.

Don't miss this opportunity; enter by November 4. Visit www.acectn.org/CallEntry.htm for details. Questions? Contact Judy Logue at 615-242-2486 or e-mail jlogue@tnec.org.

Engineers Host U.S. Rep Diane Black



Congressman Diane Black, who represents Tennessee's 6th Congressional District, spoke to more than 75 engineers on September 27 at a joint breakfast meeting of the Nashville chapters of ACEC and the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE). Welcoming Congressman Black to the event were Bob Murphy, president of the ACEC Nashville Chapter, RPM Transportation Consultants (left) and John Cole, president of TSPE, Eastern Engineering, Inc. During her remarks, Congressman Black touched on many issues of concern to engineers including transportation infrastructure funding and math & science education.

2011 EEA Winners

Grand Iris Award
CDM

Grand Award Winners
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
Special Projects

Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.
Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services

CSR Engineering, Inc.
Small Projects

EnSafe Inc. (2 awards)
Surveying and Mapping Technology & Environmental

Gresham, Smith and Partners (2 awards)
Transportation & Water and Storm Water

Ross Bryan Associates, Inc.
Structural Systems

S&ME/PDC Consultants, LLC
Water Resources

Candy Toler Named Association Executive of the Year

Candy Toler, executive director of ACEC of Tennessee (ACEC) and the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE), was recently named Association Executive of the Year by the Tennessee Society of Association Executives. This is the highest honor awarded by this statewide organization whose membership includes 300 leaders of Tennessee professional, trade and nonprofit associations.

Candy has served as executive director of ACEC and TSPE since 1999. Congratulations!

CALENDAR

OCTOBER
19 - 22

ACEC Fall Conference
Caesar's Palace,
Las Vegas

NOVEMBER
4

Deadline to Submit
Entries for *Engineering
Excellence Awards*

Information:
jlogue@tnec.org

NOVEMBER
30

Professional Liability
Seminar
Knoxville

Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

DECEMBER
1

Professional Liability
Seminar
Nashville

Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

DECEMBER
2

Professional Liability
Seminar
Memphis

Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

Q

Qualifications Based Selection

QBS encourages competition among qualified firms, rather than cutting scope to artificially lower cost.

Tennessee Engineering Center
800 Fort Negley Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37203

Return Service Requested

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MEMBER NEWS

- Thompson Engineering has named Mack McCarley, PE, its Director of Tennessee Operations. In his new post at Thompson Engineering, he will direct a staff of 40 and be directly responsible for quality management of the company's Tennessee projects. The firm's Tennessee operations are based in Chattanooga.
- Carey S. Hayo, AICP, has joined Littlejohn Engineering Associates (LEA) as Senior Planner and Director of Sustainability. From the firm's office in Orlando, she will work with LEA offices in Tennessee, Alabama and Arizona.
- Steven Edwards, PE, has been promoted to firm-wide manager of structural services for the industrial and building services group at Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon (BWSC).

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cause for Applause: Grants Awarded to Engineering Schools

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

We are pleased that the Tennessee Board of Architects and Engineers was able to give a total of \$200,000 to seven state universities again this year. The money, appropriated by the state legislature, comes from the Board's reserve fund. The grant program began in 2002 to help meet the equipment needs of state schools with accredited programs in engineering, architecture, and interior design. The Board has awarded over \$1.8 million in grant funds since the program was established.



Candy Toler

"Education lays the foundation to developing the knowledge and skills needed to practice a profession and protect the public, so this program is an integral part of the Board's mission to protect the public's health, safety and welfare," said John Cothron, executive director of the Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners.

Engineering schools receiving grants this year are:

- Tennessee State University - \$18,110 to the

College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science for a printer for large-scale drawings, technology equipment and a phone conferencing system to equip an "intelligent classroom;"

- Tennessee Technological University - \$33,178 to the College of Engineering for a heat transfer service unit and service extension to measure thermal conductivity, a moist cabinet to cure concrete and masonry specimens, and an advanced programmable logic controller lab for a new course;

- University of Memphis - \$20,697 to the College of Engineering to purchase a 3D printer;

- University of Tennessee-Chattanooga - \$20,120 to the College of Engineering and Computer Science for equipment to enhance the Electrical Engineering lab;

- University of Tennessee-Knoxville - \$41,488 to the College of Engineering for a fuel cell test station, which will be used to develop a laboratory component for two new courses;

- University of Tennessee-Martin - \$16,407 to the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences for equipment to enhance the electrical laboratory.

We are grateful for the Board's continued support of engineering education by making up-to-date laboratory and computer equipment and instructional material available to educate future engineers.