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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Tennessee



The Voice

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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TDEC Announces New Program to Fund SRF Watershed Enhancement Projects

by Paul Sloan, Deputy Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Environment
and Conservation

Tennessee's state, county and municipal officials recognize the connection between infrastructure costs and water quality. A healthy watershed not only enhances quality of life, but it reduces the cost of treatment for public water systems and helps rivers support industrial and recreational uses. To assist local governments, the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has created a two-year pilot program to help Tennessee communities fund 'watershed enhancement projects' as part of the Clean Water State Revolv-



Paul Sloan

ing Fund (CWSRF) Loan Program - at no additional cost.

How It Works

For the past 19 years, TDEC and the Tennessee Local Development Authority (TLDA) have administered the CWSRF Loan Program and provided more than \$950 million in low interest loans to 99 communities to fund more than 250 projects across Tennessee. These projects have been primarily for wastewater collection, pumping, rehabilitation and treatment improvements aimed at prevention of point source pollution. Revenues to fund the CWSRF loan program come from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and from repayment of previously issued loans. Repayment terms have been even monthly payments, over 20 years, with fixed interest rates set by reference to the

(continued on page 2)

TTU Outreach Programs Stimulate Interest of High School Students in STEM Subjects

by David H. Huddleston, PhD, PE
Interim Dean, College of Engineering
Tennessee Technological University

Kenneth W. Hunter, Sr., PE
Associate Professor, College of Engineering
Director, Governor's School for Emerging
Technologies
Tennessee Technological University

During the past decade, numerous studies have documented a pending national shortage of engineers and the resulting adverse consequences for a 21st century society and economy in a rapidly changing world. The expectations of the engineering profession and, consequently, the expectations of an engineering education are

rapidly evolving to meet these challenges.

At Tennessee Technological University (TTU), we place a lot of emphasis on programs that stimulate the young scholars in our state and attract them to STEM- (science, technology, engineering, and math) related disciplines. Our outreach focuses on high school and middle school students, as well as their teachers in STEM disciplines.



David Huddleston



Kenneth Hunter

(continued on page 3)

TDEC Announces New Program *(continued from page 1)*

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Ability To Pay Index (ATPI) developed by the University of Tennessee Center of Business and Economic Research.

With the concurrence of TLDA, TDEC's new two-year pilot program now offers communities applying for CWSRF loans an opportunity to increase the principal of their loan up to 10% (to a maximum of \$500,000) in order to finance watershed enhancement projects. With an approved watershed enhancement project, the principal amount is increased and the interest rate is decreased (no lower than 0%) so that the monthly and total loan payments are no greater than they would have been prior to the increase in principal. Therefore, up to \$500,000 can be added to a CWSRF loan at no additional cost to the borrower. The maximum total principal amount to be used for this pilot program is \$2 million per year. If this offer is well received, the department anticipates increasing the amount and establishing it as a permanent feature of the CWSRF Loan Program.

Eligible Projects

An eligible "watershed enhancement project" can be any project that is designed to improve water quality in the watershed where the primary CWSRF project is located. Examples might include:

- Restoration of an impaired section of a stream within the watershed;
- Acquisition of conservation easements that protect riparian buffer areas;
- Source water protection;
- Completion of low impact development projects resulting in greater stormwater infiltration or filtration in public buildings and spaces such as

green roofs, permeable pavement, vegetated swales and rain barrels; and

- Any effective "green infrastructure" project that improves the management of wet weather runoff.

Since we anticipate great demand for pilot program funding, potential projects will be evaluated for their impact on water quality within the watershed, educational value and community support. If requested, the department will assist communities in identifying possible projects. Another source of information is www.tn.gov/environment/srf.

Emphasis on Green Infrastructure

This pilot can specifically benefit the stormwater management programs required of towns and cities across the state by their MS-4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) permits. Tennessee has aggressively supported the deployment of green infrastructure techniques in our communities. These type projects can now qualify for the CWSRF watershed enhancement funding. More information on green infrastructure possibilities is available at www.epa.gov/npdcs/greeninfrastructure.

TDEC is indebted to two non-profit citizen groups, the Cumberland River Compact and the World Wildlife Fund, that originally suggested we develop this program. This collaboration and the resulting pilot program have certainly demonstrated the benefits of new ideas and partnerships. I look forward to working with Tennessee communities and their partners as we implement effective watershed enhancement projects through this innovative CWSRF pilot.

TDOT Awaits News of Obama Stimulus Plan

by Bill Moore, PE
Chair, ACEC of Tennessee Transportation Committee, Gresham Smith & Partners

The Transportation Committee met with state transportation officials on December 9, 2008, for an informative update on plans and projects. Paul Degges, PE, TDOT's Chief Engineer, led a lengthy discussion focused on the proposed Obama Economic Stimulus package and what it might mean for Tennessee and TDOT. TDOT has a list of "shovel ready" roadway construction projects



Bill Moore

totaling around \$850 million which could be let to contract within 4 - 6 months. Ed Cole, Chief of TDOT's Environmental Bureau, said there should be no problems obtaining the water quality permits required for the projects. If the Stimulus package passes, TDOT would need consultant help with construction, engineering and inspection activities related

to the many projects that would be let.

Mr. Degges also discussed TDOT's proposed Bridge Bonding program that would provide \$350 million to replace/repair around 200 structurally-

deficient bridges on the state highway system over the next two years. If the Bridge Bonding program is approved by the General Assembly, TDOT would need consultant help with both planning and environmental activities to get the projects ready for bid.

Jeff Jones, PE, TDOT's Design Director, reported that TDOT should soon advertise about a dozen roadway design projects with the majority (8) being for sections of the proposed I-69 north of Memphis.

TDOT has implemented the Edison Project for accounting. Effective April 1, 2009, all consultant procurement will be handled through the Edison system. All consultants are encouraged to register as vendors with the Department of Finance and Administration by contacting Robert Pack at 615-253-3998.

TDOT's Design Guidelines are being reprinted; they are also available on TDOT's web page. TDOT's Height Modernization activities were discussed. It was reported that the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Reference Network is now available.

The next TDOT/ACEC partnering committee meeting will be held on March 3, 2009. Specific questions or topics of concern can be submitted in advance of the meeting to bill_moore@gspnet.com.

EEA Winners Will Be Announced on March 3

Twenty-eight projects. Twenty-two engineering firms. More than 300 engineers, public officials, business leaders, and guests. It all adds up to a gala evening on Tuesday, March 3, when the winners of the prestigious *Engineering Excellence Awards* are announced during a banquet at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, Tennessee.



Matt Kisber

Guest speaker will be Matt Kisber, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Develop-

ment. Commissioner Kisber was appointed to his position in January 2003 by Governor Bredesen. Since then, he has worked to strengthen domestic and international business partnerships. He has particularly focused on leveraging the state's technological resources to attract technology-based businesses and encourage entrepreneurial growth.

Invitations to the EEA banquet were mailed in mid-January. Tickets must be purchased by February 28. For additional information, contact Judy Logue at jlogue@tnec.org. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the Tennessee engineering community's event of the year.

TTU Outreach Programs *(continued from page 1)*

The goal is to attract students to these careers by introducing them to the engineering applications that motivate the study of science and mathematics.

Governor's School Launched in 2008

For several years, the TTU College of Engineering has hosted a variety of programs for students and teachers. In 2008, this experience led to the formation of *The Governor's School for Emerging Technologies*, jointly hosted by the Office of Extended Programs and Regional Development and the College of Engineering at Tennessee Tech. *The Governor's School* is a summer enrichment program for rising high school juniors and seniors designed to stimulate interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through the study of current topics in biotechnology, nanotechnology, information technology, and other emerging technologies. *The Governor's School for Emerging Technologies* is one of twelve such programs established in Tennessee through funding provided by the Tennessee Department of Education. Fifty-four Tennessee high school scholars selected from 151 applicants participated in the inaugural session held May 26-June 27, 2008. Participants represented 26 counties distributed across the state.

Partnership with Technology Groups

In this program we capitalize on partnerships with a unique array of high technology research and

development organizations located across Tennessee to provide students with the opportunity to learn from leading researchers and experience cutting-edge research facilities through weekly field trips. Typical partners include Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Vanderbilt University Institute for Nanoscale Science and Engineering, Arnold Engineering and Development Center, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the University of Tennessee Space Institute.

On the Tennessee Tech campus, students engage in traditional classes, discussions, laboratory exercises, team projects and individual research projects. Students have the opportunity to earn a total of six college credits in introduction to engineering, computer programming, and a new emerging technologies course. The program is designed to provide students with a complete college experience to help facilitate their future transition from high school to college, hopefully, engaged in STEM-related disciplines. Students reside in a university residence hall, dine in the university cafeteria, and have access to university recreational facilities.

President's Academy Also Offered

The precursor of the *Governor's School* program was a *President's Academy* established at TTU in 2005. During the summers of 2005-2007, 190 middle school and high school students from across the state participated in multiple sessions of the program, ranging from four to thirteen days. In a compressed format, students were introduced to many of the same concepts as in the *Governor's School*. This program was so popular, that we were asked to continue offering it to students from the Upper Cumberland in addition to the *Governor's School*. In the summer of 2008, 36 students from 12 Upper Cumberland counties participated in the *President's Academy*. The students were nominated by their teachers and guidance counselors and selected by Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency and TTU personnel.

The second *Governor's School for Emerging Technologies* will be held May 24-June 27, 2009. TTU looks forward to welcoming these students who will "engineer" the future of our state and nation. For more information about the *Governor's School*, visit www.tntech.edu/et.

SPECIAL EVENT on February 16

Congressman Jim Cooper will be the featured speaker at the Monday, February 16, meeting of the Nashville Chapter of ACEC of Tennessee at the Tennessee Engineering Center. Congressman Cooper will discuss **The Infrastructure Economic Stimulus Package**: What is it? How will it be implemented on both a local and national level?

The luncheon meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m.; Congressman Cooper will speak at 12:30 p.m. Cost to attend the meeting is \$25.00. Pre-registration is required by February 10. For more complete information, contact ctoler@tnec.org, jlogue@tnec.org or call (615) 242-2486.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 15-21

Engineers' Week

FEBRUARY 16

Nashville Chapter Meeting

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tennessee Engineering
Center

Information: ctoler@tnec.org

FEBRUARY 27-28

ACEC Small Firm Council
Meeting, Nashville

Information: ctoler@tnec.org

MARCH 2

Legislative Reception

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sheraton Nashville
Downtown

MARCH 3

Engineers' Day on the Hill

9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., State
Capitol

Information: ctoler@tnec.org

Transportation Committee
10:00 a.m., TDOT 7th Floor
Conference Room

Information:
bill_moore@gspnet.com

Engineering Excellence
Awards Banquet

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Franklin Marriott Cool
Springs

Information: jlogue@tnec.org

MARCH 4

Board Meeting

Franklin Marriott Cool
Springs

8:00 a.m. to 12 noon

APRIL 14

Memphis Chapter Meeting

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.,
Racquet Club

Information:
smorris@eticorp.com

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Tennessee

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FEBRUARY 2009

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Congratulations, New PEs!

The following people, associated with ACEC member firms, have received their professional engineer licensure in Tennessee:

Jordan H. Bledsoe, The Reaves Firm
Russell L. Carter, IC Thomasson Associates, Inc.
Michael B. Clay, SSR Ellers, Inc.
Matthew J. Coulter, Allen and Hoshall, Inc.
Joseph P. Crowe, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.
Zackary J. DuFour, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Christopher E. Eggleston, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
Patrick J. Fiveash, Wilbur Smith Associates
Joseph A. Griffey, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.
Jason R. Hunt, Cannon and Cannon, Inc.
Roy D. Lamica, Allen and Hoshall, Inc.
H. Ross Lucas, Littlejohn Engineering Associates
Diane Regensburg, Gresham Smith and Partners
Kristi M. Schnell, Gresham Smith and Partners
Dylan T. Tarr, Gresham Smith and Partners
Christopher J. Ward, Brown and Caldwell
N. Robert Whitson, Gresham Smith and Partners

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amazing Events & Important Opportunities

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

“You can’t make this stuff up!” These are the words of Lois DeBerry, State House Speaker Pro Tem, in describing the election of House Speaker Kent Williams, a Republican, by the Democratic members of the House. Sometimes fact is stranger than fiction.



Candy Toler

Why does this matter? It matters because ACEC of Tennessee will host a legislative reception on March 2 and *Engineers’ Day on the Hill* on March 3. The political sands have dramatically shifted beneath our feet since these events were held last year.

About the time that you receive this newsletter, the General Assembly will have just returned from recess. Governor Bredesen will present his doom-and-gloom budget to legislators on February 9. Only a few bills had been introduced as this newsletter went to press, however, there was one to expand the kinds of projects that might be considered for the new tollway program. ACEC of Tennessee’s Government Advocacy Committee, chaired

by Jerry Stump, Wilbur Smith Associates, Franklin, will review proposed legislation this month and make recommendations to the Board. The issues that bubble to the top will be discussed by engineers during *Day on the Hill* visits to legislators on March 3.

Important Opportunities on March 2 & 3

ACEC’s responsibility to impact legislation may not be obvious to the public, but it is very important that someone watch out for legislation that will impact public health, safety, and welfare; that’s the reason engineers are required to get a license in the first place. I urge you to attend the legislative reception on March 2 and participate in *Engineers’ Day on the Hill* on March 3. Both events are important opportunities to inform legislators about your role in communities across Tennessee.

Now is the time to register for the legislative reception and E-Day. Simply email ctoler@tnec.org to tell me that you plan to participate. Please include the names of your State Senator and State Representative. I will inform you about the issues as legislation is introduced in the next several weeks.

Important days are ahead! Check out the complete schedule of events on the calendar on page 3 of this newsletter. We look forward to your participation.