

MINUTES
ACEC/KDOT PARTNERING
March 12, 2014
TOPEKA, KANSAS

Present were Greg Allison, Michael Bowen, Ron Seitz, James Dietzel, Dennis Slimmer, Catherine Patrick, Michael DeBacker, Tyler Glissman, Brett Letkowski, Tim Ross, Brent Terstriep, David Nagy, Jim Kowach, and Scott Heidner.

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2013 committee meeting. Motion carried.

Ron Seitz gave an update for the Bureau of Local Projects. Ron gave an update on the progress setting up an on-call consulting engineering program for federal aid project construction inspection. KDOT is still working on the agreement. Ron discussed an upcoming local bridge program to be announced in early summer. The QC/QA bridge inspection consultant selection is currently underway. Ron announced that the Bureau of Local Projects has three new engineers. They are Nelda Buckley, Darvin Carlson, and Bill Legge.

Michael Bowen indicated that the federal funding program was still pending, and that the highway trust fund would go in the “red” before the end of this federal fiscal year. He did expect some sort of extension to be announced at or near current federal funding levels.

David Nagy gave a contracts update. Two consultant projects were recently advertised. They were a US-83 project in western Kansas and a study of west leg of K-10 in Lawrence. The US-83 project will be advertised with a budget for the Preliminary Engineering. The scope on the US-83 project is well established for this project, the alignment and grade have been established, and the public involvement has been performed. These factors reduce the risk for consultants as well as eliminate some of the iterative tasks typical on a road design project. David listed some of the issues that the ACEC task force will be working on with KDOT in the near future. These include; contract language, lump sum contracts, and the time limits for consultant overhead audits. The task force members from ACEC include: Troy Eisenbraun, Kenzil Lynn, Scott Uhl, Chris Price, and Tim Ross. KDOT membership to the task force includes: Jim Kowach, David Nagy, Susan Darling. Kris McKinney, KDOT attorney has also been active advising KDOT on contract issues.

Jim Kowach gave an update for the Division of Engineering and Design. Jim informed the group that Scott Vogel, Chief of Environmental Services, and Bill Vicory, Chief of the Bureau of Right Way have announced their retirements. Vogel retired in March, Vicory retires in July. Jim also indicated that Calvin Reed would replace Terry Fleck on the committee as a KDOT member representing the Bureau of Structures and Geotechnical Services. KDOT did review SB 54, and had worked with Board of Technical Professions and ACEC on some language that appeared the limit the work that could be performed by Professional Engineers. The legislature is in the process of debating how to fund the \$129 million shortfall for educational funding. Impact to KDOT is unknown at this time. Jim indicated the division continues to integrate the geology, geotechnical and pavement design functions into their division's organizational structure. It is still unknown if KDOT will pursue authority to perform additional Design Build projects next legislative session.

Scott Heidner gave a brief legislative update. The major issue still pending is the school finance issue and how it would be handled by the legislature.

Dennis Slimmer gave an update on the Annual Partnering Conference. The planning committee for 2014 will include Dave Hubbard, Mike DeBacker, James Dietzel, and Dennis Slimmer. Dennis Slimmer chair's the effort.

The next meeting will be held June 23, at the MKEC offices, 411 Webb Road in Wichita, followed by the August 26, 2014 in Lenexa at GBA's offices. The October 30, 2014 meeting will follow the ACEC/KDOT annual Partnering Conference October 29, 2014, at the Manor Conference Center in Topeka.

Action items: The ACEC/KDOT task force is scheduled to meet regularly this summer to resolve some of the outstanding issues.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.