

## - MINUTES -

Liaison Committee  
KC District USACE of Engineers • ACEC/MO • ACEC/KS  
September 30, 2015  
Kansas City, MO

The Kansas City Corps of Engineers / ACECMO / ACECKS Liaison meeting was held at the Richard Bolling Federal Building from 10:00AM until 1:00PM on September 30. Present at the meeting were:

### KC Corps of Engineers

John Holm  
Jake Owen  
Michael Coates  
Tim Kurgan  
Steve Iverson  
David Matthews  
Jim Turner

### ACEC/MO

Richard McCollum, HDR  
Tony Kreutz, SCI Engineering  
Dave Kocour, Hg Consult, Inc.  
Tom Poer, HNTB Corporation  
Ted Hartsig, Olsson Associates  
Tony O'Malley, Larkin Lamp Rynearsen

### ACEC/KS

Eric Reed, Poole Fire Protection  
Jason Sweet, Stantec  
Jason Davis, Affinis  
Les Hamilton, Affinis

Following introductions, Tim Kurgan briefed the Civil Works, MILCON, and HTRW programs and distributed a document summarizing the status of these programs. Overall, program budgets are down following the ARRA and BRAC funding stimuli, and returning to pre-ARRA levels. The projected load for the next two or three years is steady or trending downward, although there is an expected upturn in funding for MILCON related to the NGA facility design and construction. In addition, it is expected that the HTRW program will have an increase in USEPA Region VII work, keeping funding at a relatively steady level.

The Corps is assessing its year-end Small Business Enterprise goal achievement. Not all of the goals were achieved. There may be an increased emphasis on achieving the small business goals this FY. It is also anticipated that A/E work will remain steady, with more feasibility design projects as well as large construction projects.

### **Corps Summary Highlights:**

**Civil Works:** The Civil Works budget is trending downward for FY 16 and 17. Most work will be operations and maintenance related.

**MILCON:** Much of the focus and funding for MILCON projects are with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency facility to be designed and built in the St. Louis area. New projects will primarily use existing SATOC and MATOC contracts, with OMA and OMAF work being much of the project load. It is expected that there will be an increase in funding for construction for the KC-46 facilities. There are likely to be 50 SRM actions in the next one to two fiscal years, including historic renovation, repurposing, and maintenance of facilities. These will be contracted through existing SATOCs and MATOCs. The KC District will also continue in support of the Japan District and the TransAtlantic District on potential new projects.

HTRW: No changes are expected for HTRW, with most work being focused toward FUDS, FUSRAPS, and Superfund projects. These projects will be awarded through existing MEGA contractors.

CONTRACTS: There will be new IDIQ contracts solicited in the coming 3 years (a list of anticipated solicitations was distributed), with contracts for construction management services, and contracts for NGA design services. There is also a potential for contracts in support of the Louisville District through the KC District during this time period. Jim Turner reported that there will potentially be new Private-Public Partnership projects coming, with emphases in water resources and water infrastructure needs (including maintenance).

New Planning Division starts will include completion of engineering legacy studies for the Lower Missouri River. Degradation studies of waterways will not likely be supported in the coming 2 to 3 years. New starts planned include the Lower Missouri River, Grand River, Kansas River, and re-authorization of projects on Turkey Creek, Swope Creek, and Dotson Creek.

### **ACEC Initiatives Summary**

Rich McCollum noted that there is no formal ACEC report to summarize for the meeting. There was a general discussion of ACEC functions, including ACEC lobbying of Federal and State legislatures, and continued ACEC and Corps of Engineers coordination. Rich McCollum took the action to get Bruce Wylie, President & CEO, ACEC of Missouri to brief the committee about the ACEC's mission and functions.

### **Corps Reports**

WRDA Implementation – Jennifer Switzer, Chief of Planning

- There are 150 provisions for WRDA implementation, of which 97 have implementation guidance documents completed
- Priorities are dams and levees, and safety
- Section 103 of WRDA increases CAP funding to \$10M per project
- Potential for re-authorization of or a new WRDA in the coming 2- to 3-years

Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) – April Fitzner, CENWD Program Manager for the MRRP

- The KC and Omaha Districts continue to team in implementation of MRRP
- Primary objective remains the replacement of wildlife/aquatic habitat, especially Threatened and Endangered Species habitat
- The FY15 workplan has been executed with \$47M in projects
  - o Much of the project work has been completed in-house by the Corps
- Habitat Assessment and Monitoring Program (HAMP) is being evaluated.
  - o A solicitation for monitoring of Deer Island will be coming in May
  - o Erosion monitoring will be included.

Section 404 Permitting – Justin Hughes, Regulatory Specialist, Regulatory Branch

- The new Waters of the US Rule became effective on August 28
  - o Does not include Missouri or Nebraska, but does include Kansas and Iowa
- With implementation of the new rule, there is hope to reduce case-specific wetland determinations
  - o A-1 through A-5 Waters of the US will be regulated (as they are now)
  - o A-6 waters are wetlands adjacent to A-1 to A-5 waters (but not connected) will be regulated.

- A-7 waters are prairie potholes that will be regulated
- A-8 waters are outside of A-6 waters, but subject to regulation.
- NOTE: An October Federal Court ruling has suspended the new Waters of the US Rule
- The Rappanos rule will still be followed until the Federal Court suspension on the new rule is resolved
- A question was asked about possible delays with implementation of the new rules. The new rules are intended to reduce delays.
- There will be a new form for Jurisdictional Determinations.
- Missouri dredging permits are ending at the end of the 2015
  - NEPA is needed for re-authorization
- The East Locust Creek and Little Otter Creek water supply projects NEPA studies are continuing in Missouri. The Corps is a cooperating agency.

#### National Levee Safety Program (NLSP) – Jacob Owen, Chief, Geotechnical Branch

- The NLSP mirrors the National Dam Safety Program
- Work in the NLSP will be in collaboration with FEMA
- Program structure and details are still being formed
  - There could be a state levee office in each state
  - A/E community to have a significant role in program implementation, including risk screening.
    - Use of the Levee Screening Tool. Training will be needed
- Program is coming in the FY16/FY17 timeframe
- CENWD's Regional Levee Safety Center was established as of September 30, 2015.
  - This program is being led by USACE Kansas City District.

#### Contracting

- The move has been made to electronic payment submittals, and the Corps is trying to respond to pay requests within 2 days of receipt.
- The Corps has completed the ACCAS-CPAR merger. There has been a spike in overdue evaluations, but there are 42 firms under contract in 25 contract pools to be evaluated. On average, most evaluations are very good or better.

#### Other Reports

A report about Universal Fire Code (UFC) 3-600-01 was made by Eric Reed (Poole Fire Protection). In his report, Eric noted:

- The UFC 3-600-01 is a total rewrite and is currently at the 95% development stage, and follows UFC 100-0-21
- The code is being reformatted for quickly finding specific information
- The new code includes:
  - Delays of 18 months between design and construction bidding will require a re-evaluation of the design.
  - There is no reference to Fire Protection Specialists
  - Water supply information for fire protection is to be reviewed every 6 months
  - Requirements for projects that must have a UFC review
- The Army wants qualified Fire Protection engineers to review and stamp all fire protection plans.

The meeting concluded at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held in January 2016 at Olsson Associates in North Kansas City.