

ACEC Corps of Engineers Liaison Meeting June 9, 2016

The ACEC Corps of Engineers Liaison meeting was held at the offices of Affinis Corp, 8900 Indian Creek Parkway, Overland Park, KS from 10:00 until 1:00 p.m. on June 9, 2016. Present at the meeting were:

Corps of Engineers

Rex Ostrander
John Holm
Ken Stark
David Mathews

Consultants

Richard McCollum – HDR
Les Hamilton – Affinis Corp
Jason Davis – Affinis Corp
Tom Poer – HNTB
Dave Kocour – HG Consult,
David Ladd – Olsson Associates
Eric Reed – Poole Fire Protection
Michelle Chambliss – SCI Engineering

Following introductions, Rex Ostrander provided a summary of the Civil Works, MILCON, and HTRW programs, with distribution of a document summarizing the status of these programs. Overall, program budgets are down with FYs 16, and 17 relatively stable. There is an uptick in FY 19 due to the NGA West Campus design and construction. HTRW and Civil Works Programs will remain relatively stable.

Corps Reports

Civil Works:

- Relatively stable
- CG With emphasis on “completions” it is challenging to get new starts
 - The KC District has been successful with project completions
 - Received one new start – Grand River Basin Planning Study
- Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) - The district has done well on the program and has several new recent small projects but the available funding nationwide is shrinking
- Construction General (CG) – Topeka Oakland Unit construction contract is underway and design of L-385 repair is under A-E contract
- Levee Repair – funds are tight, the district doesn’t have any high risk levees needing repair, they are mostly agricultural levees – Dave Mathews provided eligibility criteria changes under consideration:
 - Emergency preparedness plan (create or be a part of one)
 - Public education and outreach with community decision makers and affected public
 - Implementation of Operations, Maintenance and Inspection Plan
 - Participation in Levee Safety Program activities (for levees)

- A-E IDIQs – district monitors capacity and replaces as needed – current contracts expected to be sufficient until FY18
- Planning Services IDIQ for work (non-A-E) being considered for possible cost efficiency

MILCON:

- Declining next couple of years with a boost in FY18 (NGA West Campus)
- SRM/Installation Support – Primarily O&M has been stable at about \$75M/year
 - Installations are approaching the district for QA, Construction Management and Contracting support
- Providing reach back support to Japan, Iraq, Afghanistan
- NGA West Campus:
 - ROD signed 2 June 2016 selected St. Louis site.
 - HQ didn't approve Acquisition Plan, wanted Design-Build
 - Preparing an RFP for Design-Build
- Northwestern Division supports NORTHCOM – district is designing Mexican Small Arms Ranges
- Supporting ERDC in upgrading and maintaining Standard Designs

VA – Requested Corps support – projects at Fort Riley and McConnell AFB

HTRW:

- Very consistent program expected that funding will remain stable
- Beginning to do more local work with FUDS plus-up (mostly MMRP using Omaha)

Small Business – The district has been historically successful in executing its SB Program and is on-track for this FY.

Change of Command Ceremony will be on July 22nd at the World War I Museum: New Commander COL Doug Guttormsen, former Honolulu District. New Deputy Commander will be LTC Legreid.

Planning Services IDIQ Agenda Item:

The district is considering issuing a Planning Services (not Architect-Engineering) IDIQ perhaps later this year. Agenda requested information on rationale for this since the district has historically been successful using A-E IDIQs for Planning Services. The district representatives responded that:

- Portland District is planning to issue a Planning Services IDIQ and that other districts have used this approach but they didn't know which ones
- The timing will be driven by district needs/workload
- Various acquisition strategies are being evaluated by the district
 - Approaches under consideration are:
 - Suite of small business A-E IDIQs and a suite of large business A-E contracts

- Suite of A-E services and Planning Services contracts
- Suite of A-E's with separate focuses – one suite focused on Planning and one suite focused on design
- Within NWD several large EIS' have strained available resources which is a driver in considering Planning Services IDIQs

ACEC Initiatives Summary

Rich McCollum reported that ACEC at the national level advocates for Qualifications-Based Selection, infrastructure projects, P3, STEM Education, and a variety of other initiatives. Recent “wins” for ACEC:

The Federal Acquisition Regulatory (FAR) Council issued a final rule on design-build that codifies a policy advocated by ACEC to limit Design-Build two-phase finalists to five teams. The change, which was prompted by ACEC-backed legislation, is in response to Member Firm concerns about the high cost of Design-Build competitions. Click [here](#) for the final rule and [here](#) for ACEC's letter to the FAR Council.

A House committee this week also cleared the Construction Consensus Procurement Improvement Act of 2016, which will limit the use of single-phase design-build to projects under \$3 million and restrict the use of reverse-auctions in construction. Similar legislation is pending in the Senate.

See www.acec.org for more information.

ACEC Missouri and ACEC Kansas focus on state-related issues. See www.acecmo.org and www.acecks.org for more information.

Eric Reed reported that ACEC at the national level is supporting legislation to allow more public buildings like schools, court houses, libraries, and other public buildings to use Public, Private, Partnerships (P3). ACEC and other organizations are also encouraging resiliency and sustainability in the design process such as using wetlands, natural floodplains, coastal dunes, or ocean reefs to reduce flood and storm damage. ACEC also recently participated in a workshop with several other organizations to discuss designing for resiliency and it was suggested that using historic data to determine design criteria will no longer be sufficient in light of global warming effects.

Topics for Next Meeting:

- Levee Safety Program Update
- USACE Authority for use of Drones
- Other topics TBD

The meeting concluded at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be scheduled in October 2016 with date and location TBD.