

- MINUTES -

Liaison Committee
KC District USACE of Engineers • ACEC/MO • ACEC/KS
July 29, 2014
HNTB
Kansas City, MO

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. In attendance:

K.C. USACE

Steve Iverson
David Mathews
Jim Turner
Jason Leibbert

ACEC/MO

Terry Flanagan - HNTB
Tony Kreutz - SCI Eng
Dave Kocour – Hg Consult, Inc
Rich McCollum - HDR

ACEC/KS

Randy Gorton - Rhodes
Ted Hartsig - Olson

1. **USACE Program Review** - *Briefing by Steve Iverson (Briefing handouts (PowerPoint and program summary) were provided)*

Future funding for USACE KC District's mission in civil works, military construction, and environmental programs continue to be a challenge. Highlights of the programs include:

Civil Works - Highlights discussed include:

- Without a budget in place USACE is working under continuing resolution, which, as a positive, allows the District to continue under funding that was established from past years (shielding from cuts that could possibly occur from a new budget)
- Reviewed status of funding for the District's top levee program priorities

MILCON - Highlights discussed include:

- Kansas City District's program for SRM (Sustainability / Readiness / Maintenance) projects has grown significantly through the year, much more than had originally been anticipated.
- The District continues to focus on the KC-46A Beddown
- Future District areas of focus includes a new National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Campus.

2. **AE Contract Administration (open discussion) – Feedback from ACEC on - Briefing by Dave Mathews**

(1) New ACASS system (CPARS)

- The District has been focused on insuring consistency with QBS including handling project debriefs, negotiations, ...
- ACASS and CCASS (USACE's A/E and Contractor performance evaluation systems) have merged/transitioned to CPARS. Highlights include:
 - Ratings are on the basis of Quality, Schedule, Cost Control, Management, Small Business, and Regulatory Compliance
 - There will no longer be an overall rating for the project. Ratings will be in 6 areas as noted above. As we report on performance (for example in a SF 330) we will have projects that are pre-CPARS reported based an overall rating and project for CPARS with performance reported in the 6 categories
 - Contractor response time has changed from 30 to 60 days
 - Contracts that are greater than 1 year now include an interim annual evaluation

(2) Updating SF 330's for on-going IDIQ contracts

- Updates annually to SF330's for "MATOC Pools" (competitive qualification IDIQ's) are now being required. The District is reviewing methodology for updates – ACEC members provided the following input:
 - Focus on changes – not a complete redo of SF330 (which could bring into question original quals and selection of a consultant, example allowing more than 10 projects (Section F))
 - Updates to Part II's would be appropriate to reflect staffing updates
 - Consideration of developing a form or format that would address desired updates for consistency, such as changes in team members, additional project experience, ...

(3) Any other contracting issues

- An ACEC member identified a concern with contract language that required 30 day advance notification of a modification of policy or change in insurance – this can be an issue if the insurance company initiates the action (Jim Turner was going to check on it for the group)
- An ACEC member asked USACE to consider releasing available electronic (CADD) files for D/B projects to save firms proposing on projects from having to recreate the available information. As there is no official policy, USACE plans to review and consider, recognizing the benefit to proposers with the caveat as to the source and reliability of the information
- USACE provided an update on Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) (or CM at Risk). There had been proposed updates to DFAR that would enhance the utilization of ECI that USACE HQ has decided not to advance

3. Overview of Other NWK Missions (recreation, regulatory, etc.) - Briefing by Dave Mathews

Dave Mathews reviewed District's missions (outside of Civil, MILCON, and Environmental) including Regulatory, recreation, navigation, dam safety, levee, and water management.

4. USACE / ACEC Student Outreach - Discussion by the group

The group reviewed the history and status of outreach that has included ACEC and USACE volunteer's visiting schools to make presentations on engineering. USACE shared that they have a STEM team and program for outreach. Other ACEC members shared that they are also involved in outreach within their firms or in conjunction with professional societies. The group agreed that in the near future that a joint program would not be pursued, but that ACEC members are a resource to USACE as may be needed.

5. Congressional Engagement Strategy - Discussion by the group

Terry Flanagan reviewed the following ACEC Federal Agencies & Procurement Advocacy Committee 2014-2015 GOALS:

1. Promote ACEC's business and legislative objectives with federal agencies to enhance and protect the industry.
2. Promote enhanced infrastructure financing at federal agencies as appropriate.
3. Establish and/or maintain communications and partnering agreements as appropriate with federal agencies regarding procurement, contracting and best practices.
4. Pursue liability mitigation legislation and actions.
5. Promote the use of QBS at all governmental levels, challenge attempts to limit or weaken its use, and work with related associations with common goals.
6. Pursue measures to have federal small business goal requirements count the value of all tiers of engineering small business performance rather than just prime contracts, along with other Small Business Program improvements.
7. Propose, review, comment, and/or appropriately react to federal legislation, regulations, procedures and documents affecting design and construction, to enhance or protect the industry.

Steve Iverson shared several areas that legislation has caused inefficiencies for the Corps to deliver projects in a timely and cost effective manner, including: mitigation requirements, incremental funding requirements (Dodson Project is great example of a system that is partially built, but has no benefit until completed), and requirements associated with post authorization change requests.

6. **Potential for Diversity Accounting on Federal Projects** - *Discussion by the group*
A shared interest by ACEC and USACE is the current policy that small business involvement on projects is not accounted for in SB goal rollups if the SB is not the prime on a contract
7. **ACEC/KS and ACEC/MO Emerging Leaders Program** – *Presentation will be rescheduled in the future based on availability Scott Heidner*
8. **Other Items** – two items were discussed:
 - USACE's interest in expanding utilization of alternative financing for Civil Works projects (there is new direction as part of WRDA). Steve Iverson is planning a presentation on the topic in the coming weeks that he can share with the Liaison Committee at our next meeting
 - Terry Flanagan share copies of the July/August Issue of Engineering Inc. (ACEC's Magazine) that included a cover article with the Chief of the Corps of Engineers General Bostick
9. **Future Meeting Topics** – topics identified for future meetings included:
 - USACE Program Review
 - Anticipated USACE Initiatives / Programs, such as BRAC
 - Regulatory Trends - Upcoming changes (Mark Frazer)
 - Contracting Issues
 - ACEC Emergent Leaders Program – Scott Heidner
 - Alternative Funding USACE Program Review (Tim Kurgan)
 - AE Contracting - Response to 30 day insurance notice question (Jim Turner)
10. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is set for **November 6, 2014** at the offices of HDR.