

The Voice

JUNE 2011



THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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These companies provide Tennessee engineering firms with products and services and support the activities of ACEC of Tennessee through participation in the Partners Program. Additional information about these Partner Program participants is available at www.acectn.org.

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Tennessee Works with Partners to Achieve Effective Stormwater Management

by Bob Martineau, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Environment
and Conservation

Effective stormwater management is now a state and national priority. Stormwater runoff is known to carry a multitude of pollutants to storm drains, leading to pollution of our streams, lakes and wetlands. The long term water quality degradation of our nation's waters caused by untreated stormwater is readily apparent: the high bacteria levels found in flood waters; the sediment accumulation in our reservoirs; the nutrient loading and the resultant



Bob Martineau

anoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

The erosive impact we see along our stream banks from increased velocity of stormwater discharges and the cumulative loading of sediment, metals, nutrients, bacteria and trash is accentuated as we look downstream from our urbanized areas. Although the impact by an individual stormwater source may be small, the cumulative effect can significantly degrade water quality. These pollutants can kill aquatic life

and limit the use of our waters for recreational or other purposes.

Stormwater experts now recognize that land use and development practices known as Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development can reduce stormwater pollution. These techniques restore natural watersheds by slowing stormwater down and allowing it to soak in—rather than rush off—land surfaces.

Role of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)

EPA's recently released *MS4 Permit Improvement Guide* recognizes the value of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development and encourages permitting agencies to consider incorporating requirements and incentives in permits for stormwater programs. Over the last

two years, TDEC communicated and discussed the proposed Green Infrastructure requirements with MS4s at quarterly regional meetings held across the state by the Tennessee Stormwater Association,

a non-profit, state-wide organization of designated MS4s working together to comply with clean water laws and stormwater regulations to protect and improve the waters of Tennessee (www.tnstormwater.org).

... land use and development practices known as Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development can reduce stormwater pollution.

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Many Accomplishments; Some Challenges

by Steve Bostic
President, ACEC of Tennessee

As my term as president of ACEC of Tennessee draws to a close, it is time to say “thank you.” I look back and appreciate all the hard work that Board members, committee chairs, and other volunteers put in to make the organization work. **Your accomplishments are impressive.**



Steve Bostic

While the past year had its ups and downs—as most years do—the “ups” certainly outweigh any “downs.” Some of the highlights include record attendance at the EEA banquet, record attendance at Engineers’ Day on the Hill, and a very successful Legislative Reception, all the result of hours of hard work by volunteers and staff. I applaud your efforts and enthusiasm.

However, as is always true, challenges are ahead for our organization and profession. One issue that is impacting ACEC of Tennessee and other state member organizations across the country is the number of mergers and acquisitions that are occurring within the

engineering community. As a result, some national and multi-national firms are dropping their state level memberships. This is short-sighted and ill-advised, in my opinion, since a lot of legislation that would have a negative impact on firms’ bottom lines is being fought at the state level, not at the national level. This is evidenced by the number of hours that our executive director Candy Toler spends on Capitol Hill during the legislative sessions. *(Editor’s note: see Candy’s article on the back page of this newsletter.)* **I urge you to continue supporting ACEC of Tennessee and communicating with your representatives in the General Assembly.**

I leave you in the able hands of in-coming president Mike Pohlman, who I am confident will provide excellent leadership. I reiterate my appreciation for everything that all the volunteers have done to assist me during the past year. In addition, I recognize the efforts of Candy Toler and Judy Logue, our organization’s staff. Their contributions are invaluable to the viability of the organization. **I ask that members take the time to thank Candy and Judy for a job well done.**

I look forward to seeing you in August at the Annual Meeting where I can extend my thanks to everyone in person.

Annual Meeting Set for August 24-26: Essential Information & Trivia Facts

Essential Information: August 24, 25 & 26 are the dates for the joint Annual Meeting of ACEC of Tennessee and the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs.

Trivia: *The city of Franklin, established in 1799, was named after Benjamin Franklin. Franklin is one of the most common city names in the U.S.*

Essential Information: The Annual Meeting will include professional development seminars; you can meet your Tennessee professional development requirement for the year. Plus the meeting includes the legendary PAC auction, installation of new officers, networking opportunities, award presentations, and a few surprises.

Trivia: *The city of Franklin is located in Williamson County which was named after Dr. Hugh Williamson, a member of the Continental*

Congress and a close friend of Benjamin Franklin.

Essential Information: Rather than the traditional Golf Tournament to support the Tennessee Engineering Foundation, there will be a special fund-raising luncheon on August 25. The speaker has not been confirmed yet.

Trivia: *Several well-known companies are based in Franklin including Nissan’s North American headquarters, Community Health Systems, Healthways, Magazines.com, the Provident Music Group, and World Christian Broadcasting.*

Essential Information: The Annual Meeting Flyer with agenda details and registration information will be included in the July/August issue of The Voice newsletter.

Reserve August 24 – 26 on your calendar now.

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They Braved the Storms to Meet

Members of ACEC's Memphis Chapter braved a stormy night to meet on April 26 at the Racquet Club of Memphis. More than 40 people—including ACEC Executive Director Candy Toler—enjoyed a reception, dinner and presentation by Tom Needham, PE, Shelby County Director of Public Works. Tom is a Past President of both ACEC of Tennessee and TSPE.



▲ Left to right: Memphis Chapter president Tim Verner (Fisher & Arnold); Bill Kerr (AFRAM); Emily Speakman; Carol and Craig Wise (EnSafe); and Robert McIvor (Parsons)

◀ Among the attendees were (left to right) Walter Blalack (Smith Seckman Reid); Jon Montgomery (Smith Seckman Reid); guest speaker Tom Needham (Shelby County Director of Public Works); Tim Verner (Fisher & Arnold); Tommy Dunlap (Burns Cooley Dennis); and Al Marioni (Burns Cooley Dennis).

Stormwater (continued from page 1)

TDEC also held specific meetings with MS4 representatives to discuss the feasibility and timelines for implementing these new requirements.

TDEC's new MS4 permit includes six minimum measures, the last of which includes requirements for Green Infrastructure; Permanent Stormwater Management; and the development, implementation and enforcement of a program to reduce pollutants in permanent (i.e., post-construction) stormwater runoff to the MS4 from new development and redevelopment projects. MS4s must adopt ordinances with requirements for a combination of structural and/or nonstructural permanent runoff control practices; requirements to establish, protect and maintain water quality buffers in areas of new development; and plans to ensure long-term operation and maintenance of controls. The performance standards for permanent stormwater management include runoff reduction design for infiltration, evapotranspiration, and reuse of the first inch of every rainfall event.

Information resources are available to assist stormwater programs. Last summer, TDEC and EPA held three well-attended Green Infrastructure Workshops across the state. We encourage participation in educational webinars on Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development hosted by various groups such as Center for Watershed Protection, Water Environment Federation, and EPA. TDEC will also provide additional training workshops in the near future.

More information is available at www.tn.gov/environment/wpc/stormh2o or contact Robbie Karesh, TDEC's statewide stormwater coordinator, at 615-532-5402.

Stormwater Discharges from MS4s

Polluted stormwater runoff is commonly transported through Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)—including ditches, curbs, gutters and storm sewers—owned by a state, city, town, village, or other public entity that is designed or used to collect or convey stormwater. The U.S. EPA established an MS4 stormwater permit and management program to reduce the quantity of pollutants that stormwater picks up and carries into storm sewer systems during rain events. TDEC administers the MS4 permit and oversight program in Tennessee. There are more than 100 designated MS4s in the state. Each regulated MS4 is required to develop and implement a stormwater management program (SWMP) to reduce the contamination of stormwater runoff and prohibit illicit discharges. More information is available at www.tn.gov/environment/wpc/stormh2o

CALENDAR

JUNE 24

Tennessee Concrete Association

Previous Experience Seminar

MTSU, Murfreesboro
Information & Registration:
www.tnconcrete.org

AUGUST 24 - 26

ACEC of TN/TSPE Joint Annual Meeting
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin

Member News

- Alan Sparkman, executive director of the Tennessee Concrete Association, an ACEC Partner organization, recently received the Tennessee Sustainability Award from the Tennessee Environmental Council.
- Michelle Kendall, Tennessee area manager for Parsons Brinckerhoff; Jim Morinec, PE, vice president of AECOM; and Jerry Stump, PE, COO and executive president, Wilbur Smith Associates, were recently named to the Board of Directors of the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, a non-profit organization that encourages private and public sector support for new investments in mass transit in the 10-county region of Middle Tennessee.
- William W. Reid, PE, has joined Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon, Inc. (BWSC) as senior transportation manager in the firm's Nashville office.
- Littlejohn Engineering Associates, Nashville, completed its second acquisition of 2011 with the purchase of Evans Kuhn & Associates, Phoenix.
- Fisher & Arnold, Inc. announced that Michael Ray, PE, has joined the company to serve in a senior engineer role and assist in operations, primarily from the Nashville office.

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You Should Know

- ACEC offers a wide variety of seminars and webinars. For information, visit www.acec.org and click on Education at the top of the page.
- TDOT has posted its Materials and Tests Technician Certification Course information on its website. For information, go to www.tdot.state.tn.us/materials/fieldops/training.
- New A/E Board Rules go into effect June 7. For details on the rules go to state.tn.us/sos/rules_filings/03-08-11.pdf
- ACEC will present its Annual Fall Conference, October 19 – 22, at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Legislative Roundup, Recognition & Reconnection

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

The General Assembly has finished its primary business, which is adoption of the budget for fiscal year 2012, and adjourned until next January. Several significant issues impacting engineers were passed:



Candy Toler

- continuation of the State Engineers' and Architects' Board;
- the Governor's initiative on tort reform; and
- limited liability for engineers and contractors on TDOT projects.

ACEC opposed legislation that will be studied this summer or carried over to 2012, including limiting state contracting for services, changing the composition of environmental boards, establishing purchasing preferences, allowing interior designers to do non-structural plans, and allowing contractors to revise engineering plans for state facilities to reduce future energy consumption. For more information, send an email to me (ctoler@tnec.org).

ACEC joined other associations in the design and construction industry to sponsor a reception wel-

coming Bob Oglesby, Gary West, and Peter Heimbach to their new roles. Bob is the State Architect, who was named earlier this year by the State Building Commission. Gary is the Assistant Commissioner for Fire Prevention (including Codes Enforcement) in Commerce and Insurance. Peter is the new Assistant Commissioner for Real Property Administration in Finance and Administration.

Annual Reconnection

The ACEC/TSPE Joint Annual Meeting will be August 24-26 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. Professional development will be offered, including TDEC and TDOT Updates, FAR Accounting Requirements, and more. This year—rather than a golf tournament—there will be a luncheon to raise money for the Tennessee Engineering Foundation to fund scholarships and the state MATHCOUNTS competition. The Annual Meeting would not be the same without your PAC Auction on Thursday evening, August 25. Your personal checks or contributions of items to be auctioned are needed.

Join in the activities in Franklin, August 24-26. Details will be available soon. Come reconnect with colleagues and support your professional association.

P.S. Don't make me call you to beg for your support of your PAC!