

DALLAS CEC MEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Texas Department of Transportation Regionalization

Presented by Lizette J. Colbert, PE, South Region,
Consultant and Design Resource Manager, TxDOT

Lizette graduated from Texas A&M in 1998 with a BS in Civil Engineering. After graduation, Lizette worked for the private industry in San Antonio for 7 years before starting her career at TxDOT. She started at the San Antonio District in late 2004 in the Consultant Contract Management Office. In 2007, she became the Consultant Manager and Supervisor for Central Design in San Antonio. In 2009, she became the Regional Consultant and Design Resource Manager for the South Region where she has been charged with leading, standardizing and streamlining the consultant management for the state.

Monday, April 25, 2011

Cityplace, Dallas

Schedule of Events

11:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Registration and Networking

12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m. Lunch and Guest Speaker

Please RSVP no later than **Thursday, April 21, 2011**. Cancellations must be made **72 hours** in advance of the meeting and no shows will be charged for the meeting. Meals cannot be guaranteed without a reservation.

TO REGISTER, [CLICK HERE](#).



DALLAS CEC MEMBERS JOIN TEXAS CEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Texas Council of Engineering Companies (TCEC) formally announced its 2011/12 Officers & Board of Directors at their 2011 Annual Meeting on April 8th at the Four Seasons in Austin, TX. Mark A. Pacheco, PE, RPLS, President, Pacheco Koch and Dallas CEC Past President and Phil Yerby, PE, Texas Civil Infrastructure Director, CH2M Hill officially began their two-year terms as Directors for the Texas CEC. Please join us in congratulating them on this new position with our state organization.

DALLAS ISD 2008 BOND PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

April 6, 2011

Overview

The DISD 2008 Bond Program Affiliated Industry Task Force is comprised of representatives from contractor associations, architectural and engineering organizations (including CECNT) 2002 Bond Program managers and key decision makers from DISD facilities, legal and MWBE departments. The goal of the committee is to conduct frank, open discussions, learn from the past, and make recommendations so that the current and next Bond Program's can be improved. The following items were discussed at the April 6, 2011 meeting:

1. The 2008 Bond Program progress to date was summarized as follows:
 - ◆ 55 of 100 Phase I projects are now under construction.
 - ◆ 31 of the Phase I projects are now complete.
 - ◆ 57 of 82 Phase II projects are now out for bid.
 - ◆ 29 of the Phase II projects are now under construction.
 - ◆ The Phase III Architect/Engineer teams have been approved by the Board.
 - ◆ \$602,000,000 or 44% of the total available bond program monies has been committed to projects.
 - ◆ MWBE participation is 41% of professional services and 38% of construction contracts.
2. All 2011 new schools are on schedule.

The Board of Trustees revised the Phase III MWBE criteria selection for construction contracts. The total points for MBWE participation remains at 20. The new criteria emphasizes joint venture partnerships instead of protégé type relationships. For example the larger the minority participation in the joint venture partnership the more points are awarded. The stated goal of the Board is to reduce/remove the subjected component in the MWBE point evaluations. These changes are expected to be in place for Phase III projects. Bidding for these projects is scheduled to begin in December of 2011.

1. The construction industry representatives commented that the Board changes will make all new construction contracts joint ventures. This new criteria needs to be monitored so that it is a true joint venture. This will required careful review or bonding, manpower, contributions, etc. so that the joint venture is truly a joint venture of shared risks and contributions.
2. Industry construction representatives voiced additional concern since some MWBE firms have the ability to bond and build most jobs. These firms will also need to joint venture in order to get a contract award. This will cause significant challenges for bonding, safety and capitalization capabilities.
3. The 2008 Bond Program identified a goal of 175 properties that needed to be acquired in order to meet the needs of the program. To date, 35 properties remain to be secured. 10 of these are under contract. 2 are pending City of Dallas Council approvals and the remainder are in condemnation/litigation. To date property acquisition is generally under the established budget for the bond program.

The Task Force discussed lessons learned by comparing the previous bond program with the current bond program as follows:

1. During the past bond program 6 AE firms were fired due to non-performance. So far none have been removed from the program.

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2. Only 1 construction claim is in mediation. This is significantly less than the past bond program. Many of the task members believe this is due to the improved selection process for contractors.
3. Overall the general contractors are doing quality work. This has significantly improved over the past bond program.
4. The overall bond program is slightly below budget. This is likely attributed to the new schools and the competitive pricing for these projects. Renovation projects pricing is still about even when compared to the last bond program. This may be attributed to the fact that some of the assessments for the renovation work were not as accurate or they were out of date by the time the program addressed the issues.
5. Contractor representatives reported that the product and materials cost are rising but bid prices are staying reasonably constant. This is likely due to reduced margins on part of the contractors due to the competitive construction environment at this time.

The impact of the school funding currently being debated by the Texas Legislature was discussed in detail. In summary DISD is in a reactive mode waiting on Austin to determine the depth of the budget cuts. The difficulty is that the Dallas ISD begins the school year in early August and the Legislature budget is not due until the end of September. This means that the District must proceed with drastic cuts based on the information available at this time. The Dallas ISD representatives reported that the money is used to bridge the gap between the August and September 30th budget window. This represents the budget difference between the Legislature's budget and the Dallas ISD's budget. All agreed these are challenging times.

Any CEC members that have concerns or comments should contact Joe Campos at (214) 696-6291 ext. 235 or jcampos@camposengineering.com.

TEXAS CEC & ACEC MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

ACEC's discount programs are designed to enhance your membership investment by helping to control your firm's costs. ACEC creates partnerships with reputable businesses that offer valuable services with quality and competitive prices. These programs can be used not only for business savings, but make an attractive employee retention program where individual employees benefit from your ACEC purchasing power.

The discount programs and services are available to ACEC member firms and its employees. Click the link below to learn more about the savings available through the discount program. For additional information on ACEC's discount programs, contact discountprograms@acec.org.

ACEC members can achieve further savings through **ACEC's Trust Programs** for business insurance, life/health insurance, and retirement plans. For additional information on ACEC's Trust Programs, [click here](#)

If you have questions concerning ACEC discount programs, **please call Ingrid Mendoza at 202-347-7474 or email discountprograms@acec.org.**

In addition, please [click here](#) to view a full list of programs that are available on the Texas CEC website through their **TEXAS CEC MARKET PLACE**. For question regarding this program, **please contact Michael Hancock at 512-474-1474 or mike@cectexas.org.**



Coming Up Online

May 3—Social Media:

What Every Employer Needs to Know

Social media has transformed our personal lives and the workplace. No employer can afford to overlook it anymore. Those that do could pay a heavy price: unchecked damage to the company brand, potential legal liability, loss of staff morale, and other potential negative effects.

To read more and to register, [click here](#)

May 4—Reigniting Your Ownership Transition Plans

Legal Issues That Put Your Firm In Hot Water

In responding to uncertainty, internal ownership transition plans have been delayed, dollar amounts adjusted, and plans overhauled. Increasingly, sellers are concerned about what they might-or might not-receive, and buyers are concerned about the overall investment.

To read more and to register, [click here](#)

May 12—2010 Legal Year End Review

The Court Decisions You Need to Know

2010 litigation-and outcomes-involving contractors and project owners against design professionals, gets a timely review from Kent Holland, Esq., ConstructionRisk LLC

To read more and to register, [click here](#)

May 24—The New Healthcare Law:

What Your Firm Needs to Know

A timely online seminar to help member firms understand and prepare for new requirements under the recently enacted health care law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This law will significantly impact the nation's health care system as well as A/E firms that offer health insurance benefits to their employees.

To read more and to register, [click here](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE DALLAS CEC 2011 MEMBER CHAPTER MEETINGS

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	SPEAKER	TOPIC	TOTAL PDH CREDITS
April 25	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace	Lizette J. Colbert, PE, South Region, Consultant and Design Resource Manager, TxDOT	Texas Department of Transportation Regionalization	.5
May 23	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace	Todd Smith, Chief of Engineering & Construction, US Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District	Improving Predictability in USACE Project Reviews (Section 408)	
June	TBD	TBD				
July 25	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace			
August 22	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace			
September 26	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace			
October 24	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace			
November 28	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace			
December	No meeting					

CONTACT INFORMATION

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