

DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

DALLAS CEC MEMBER CHAPTER MEETING



Monday, February 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 Speakers

Topic

82nd Legislature Update

Guest Speaker

Steve Stagner, President, Texas CEC

AND

Topic

Renew Houston

Guest Speaker

J.R. (Bob) Jones, P.E., Chairman, Jones & Carter, Inc.

Cost to attend is \$30. RSVP by noon Friday, February 25 to Vicki@cectexas.org.
Cancellations must be made **72 hours** in advance and no shows will be charged for the meeting.

2011 TEXAS CEC ANNUAL MEETING SPOTLIGHT

New this year, recording artist, songwriter, cowboy poet, TV and motion picture personality Red Steagall will entertain attendees at the 2011 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala, to be held in Austin's Four Seasons Hotel April 8, 2011.



Steagall's syndicated radio show Cowboy Corner is heard in 170 markets and is beginning its 17th year of production. The author of multiple books, Red has been inducted into the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Westerners and the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame. In 2006, he was the poet laureate of Texas. So be sure to mark your calendar now for this celebration of engineering excellence highlighted by entertainment by a Texas legend.

To register online for the 2011 Texas CEC Annual Meeting, please click on this link:
<http://cectexas.eventbrite.com>

For those of you needing accommodations, a block of rooms is being held at the the Four Seasons at a rate of \$219.00 per night for a City View Room. To make your reservations, please be sure to call the hotel directly at (512) 685-8100 and refer to the Texas Council of Engineering Companies. **The room block will be held until Monday, March 14th**

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to call Michael Hancock at (512) 474-1474 ext. 2.

FEATURED DALLAS CEC BOARD MEMBER



Robert K. Franke P.E.

Vice President, HW Lochner, Inc.

Director, Dallas Council of Engineering Companies

Rob Franke, P.E. is a principle and Vice President in HW Lochner, Inc. following the merger of BWR Corporation and HW Lochner. As an office manager, Rob is responsible for all aspects of the business development, project execution and office operations. His office performs transportation and municipal engineering services throughout Texas.

Rob Franke is also the Mayor of Cedar Hill, Texas. He has served the city for over 20 years in one of several forms of service to others. He is in his 6th term (14th year) as Mayor and has also served on the City Council. This includes two years as a council member and one year as Mayor Pro Tem. His community service in Cedar Hill includes service to the Northwood University Board of Governors, the Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Board, Community Development Corporation, Economic Development Corporation, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Best Southwest Board of Directors, Human Relations Committee, the committee for the formation of two sales tax corporations, the All Sports Board, President and founding member of the Cedar Hill Soccer Association, a youth sports coach, and various special committees.

In the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, Mr. Franke serves as chair of the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition and has served as Chair of the Legislative Committee, he also serves on the NCTCOG Regional Transportation Council representing Cedar Hill, Duncanville, DeSoto, Lancaster and Glenn Heights. Rob has also been a member of the Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the Regional Director for Region 13 of the Texas Municipal League and served as president of Region 13 from 2004-2005.

Professionally, Rob has a degree in Chemical Engineering from Kansas State University and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas and Kansas. While with BWR Corporation, Rob was an Executive Vice-President, Principal and served on the Board of Directors providing professional engineering, planning, and architectural services. Rob managed three offices located in Dallas, Cedar Hill, and Anna, Texas. Prior to merging with BWR in 2007, Rob partnered in the formation of his own engineering company, R&B Associates, Inc. performing civil, environmental engineering and consulting services. Rob has experience as a project manager and office manager with Fluor Daniel, Inc. and a supervisor with the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

PAYMENT POLICY CHANGE FOR DALLAS CEC MEMBER CHAPTER MEETINGS

Effective on March 1, 2011, the Dallas CEC will move to an online registration system for the Dallas CEC Member Chapter Meetings and other programs that require payment.

In an effort to transition to the new system, invoices for January and February will be issued soon after the February meeting so that invoices can be made by member firms before the end of our fiscal year on March 31, 2011.

Prior to the March meeting, you will be sent an email detailing information regarding the new system. We will do our best to make this change as convenient as possible.

For questions, contact Vicki Reece at vicki@cectexas.org or (214) 923.2920.

COMMITTEE REPORT

CITY OF DALLAS BUILDING INSPECTION AND ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE

February 10, 2011

Overview

When adopting the FY 2011 Budget, the Dallas City Council expressed a desire to receive additional stakeholder input regarding appropriate performance standards, process improvement strategies, customer service levels and fee adjustments for the Building Inspection and Permits Office. The Building Inspection Enterprise Fund Committee has been established to make a recommendation to the City Council. It is comprised of representatives from contractor associations, architectural and engineering organizations (including CECNT) developers, building owners, historical preservations, the City Manager's representative, and key decision makers from the City of Dallas Building Inspection staff.

The following items were discussed:

19 building inspection positions have been authorized. 12 positions have been filled, 7 are in the hiring process and additional funding has been requested for 1 additional position.

Several positions were filled by promotion. There have been several excellent private industry applicants. Some personnel were brought back from the previous reduction in force (RIF). It was noted that several of the people that were not the most productive were not brought back or chose not to come back.

Building inspection is working to reduce backlog. Some industry representatives reported that there has been a noticeable improvement.

The Committee of the Whole elected to form four subcommittees comprised mostly of industry committee members. For example, the Privatization Subcommittee's role will be to develop recommendations for improvement based upon what other cities are doing to improve effectiveness. Additional subcommittees will be Performance Metrics, Budget, and Zoning.

Committee members volunteered for the subcommittee chair and member positions. Each subcommittee will report to the main advisory committee.

There were no volunteers to chair the Privatization Committee. Therefore, the Privatization and Metrix Committees were combined.

The Advisory Committee requested that the city value the subcommittee work by providing staff attendance and support as required. The city representative affirmed this commitment.

The city requested that the Advisory Committee prioritize the goals and criteria for each subcommittee. The city staff has limited time. City staff will try to attend the subcommittee meetings but the subcommittee meetings should proceed with or without city staff.

The industry advisory committee identified a list of concerns to be addressed by the subcommittees. These are:

- Length of time for the process.
- Lack of a hearing schedule.
- Long term budget issues caused by "non paying cases" directed by council.
- Prioritization of cases.
- Length of complexity of application.
- Communication.

A copy of the subcommittee chair person and members is available from Joe Campos upon request.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

City staff provided a report detailing the progress of the recommended changes in the zoning process and the zoning department. In summary, the City has made significant improvements. The typical zoning process time frame recently has been between 6-12 months. The time has been reduced to 3-4 months. New staff has been added. Non-paying cases have been reduced or eliminated by directive from the City Manager. The City is currently evaluating how to improve and streamline the application process. Detailed listings of the changes are available by contacting Joe Campos.

Staff presented a proposed ordinance that lists the new building inspection fees that will be presented for approval by council. The fees were adjusted up or down to reflect the actual staff time. In some cases several fees were combined into a single fee. The city staff plans to present these fee adjustments to council as an interim funding adjustment. These can be readjusted during the next budget cycle starting in September 2011. A copy of this document is available from Joe Campos.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please call or email Joe Campos at (214) 696-6291 ext. 235 or jcampos@camposengineering.com.

ACEC ACTION ALERT

URGENT: FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FACES SHUT DOWN

Contact Your Representative Today to Support Extension

The federal highway and transit program is set to expire in a matter of days. Unless Congress acts, payments to states for surface transportation projects will stop on March 4, 2011.

The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee has approved legislation (H.R. 662) that will extend the existing program through September 30, the end of the federal fiscal year. Passage of this legislation is essential to keep federal funds flowing to states and allow State Departments of Transportation to implement their 2011 plans without further disruption. Without the extension, federal project reviews will cease, new lettings will undoubtedly slow and contracts could go unpaid. House Leaders have asked for our help in reaching out to Members – especially freshmen Members – to educate them on the need for this legislation and to support its passage.

ACEC Members are strongly encouraged to contact their Representatives to support H.R. 662. Congress is in recess this week, and many Members of Congress will be in their districts and making public appearances. ACEC Members are encouraged to participate in town hall meetings and other events to engage their representatives on this issue.

ACEC Members are also encouraged to fax a letter of support to congressional offices. [Click here](#) to go to ACEC's Legislative Action Center. After logging on with your e-mail address, you will be taken to a page with simple instructions for sending a letter to your congressional offices. Fax numbers will appear in the address block at the top of the letter.

ACEC members are encouraged to print the letters on their company letterhead, include firm-specific information, and FAX the letters to the congressional offices.



Coming Up Online

March 2—FAR Overhead Rates

Gaining Fair Compensation Under the New Policy

Firms all too often focus on the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) overhead rate only at year-end, instead of managing it year-round according to the firm's established policies.

Many potentially allowable costs are not included in the overhead rate due to lack of documentation or inadequate firm policy. This online seminar discusses these types of often missed allowable costs, offers suggestions for adequate documentation, and how to establish the necessary firm policies to maximize the FAR overhead rate.

Wayne Owens, T. Wayne Owens, CPA, LLC, presents a special online seminar on managing potentially allowable costs which may be left out of overhead rate due to lack of documentation or inadequate firm policy.

FAR Overhead Rates: Gaining Fair Compensation Under the New Policy will explain documentation requirements for meeting state DOTs' overall allowability criteria on bonus amounts; detail the documentation necessary to support marketing costs as allowable; and establishing policies to limit documentation requirements for travel expenses.

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

March 16—DOE Energy Efficiency Block Grant Funding

Market Opportunities in a \$3 Billion Program New Policy

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided nearly \$3 billion for the Department of Energy's new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. DOE has already awarded more than 1,700 EECBG grants ranging from energy efficiency and conservation plans to energy audits and conservation-oriented transportation programs. Many more are in the pipeline.

Mark Johnson, the EECBG lead for the Department of Energy will present an inside look at the program in a timely online seminar. He'll walk through the program, outlining details of how a community applies for funding, the types of projects that are eligible, reporting requirements, and other critical information.

As firms look for new market opportunities, and Congress continues to place new emphasis on funding programs to promote energy efficiency and sustainability, this session will help you position your firm to take advantage of this expanding sector.

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



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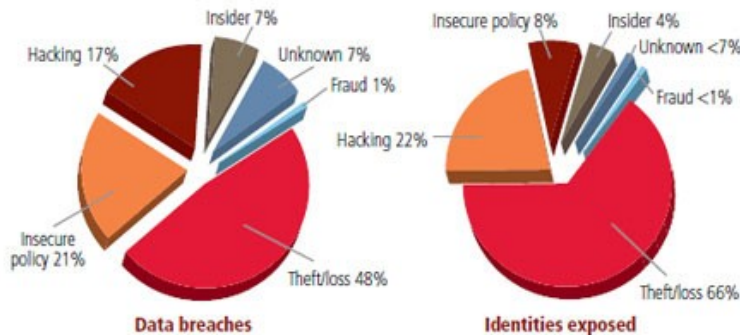


Protect and grow YOUR Business...

Ways to protect your company against Identity Theft

Identity Theft resulting from theft/loss out of businesses is big news. The extensive media coverage and damage to organizations involved in recent security breaches has brought identity theft detection and prevention to the forefront of corporate America's concerns.

Given the amount of sensitive information in personnel files alone, businesses have unique challenges. Awareness of data breach methods and ways to thwart an identity theft situation are key to reducing exposure.



Identity Theft Victims

Businesses need to be concerned about those who will become victims of identity theft. According to the Federal Trade Commission, over 27,000 victims of identity theft occur each and every day. Employees who become victims will take an average of 175 hours of work time during the business day to try to restore their identity. This lack of productivity has been labeled 'presenteeism' (being at work but **not** working on work issues).

Safeguard Employees Against Identity Theft

Organizations are discovering that adding an 'all inclusive' identity theft protection plan to an existing benefits package adds value, even if offered on a voluntary basis. This allows employees to have identity theft and legal services to assist them if or when their personal information is breached - whether at work or home.

Security mindful companies enact proper identity theft policies to protect employee data and keep their company safe. They also offer protection options for their employees to demonstrate smart data security and promote employee appreciation and satisfaction.

Protect and Grow your Business

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America. The responsibility falls on the businesses who house sensitive employee and client information to improve their data protection by:

- employee awareness education
 - identity theft protection policies and procedures
 - employee mitigation services
 - a plan of action if a data breach occurs.
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE DALLAS CEC 2011 MEMBER CHAPTER MEETINGS

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	SPEAKER	TOPIC	TOTAL PDH CREDITS
January 24	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace	Dr. Mark G. Dotzour, Chief Economist, Real Estate Center , Texas A&M	Economic Outlook	.5
February 28	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace	Steve Stagner, President, Texas CEC Bob Jones, Chairman, Jones & Carter, Inc.	Legislative Update And ReNew Houston	.5
March 28	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace	Former Dallas Police Chief David Kunkle and Dallas Councilmember Ron Natinsky	Dallas Mayoral Race	.5
April 25	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace			
May 23	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace			
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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