

## DALLAS CEC MEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Monday, November 22, 2010

Cityplace, 2711 N. Haskell Avenue, Dallas

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

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Lunch, Board Elections and Presentation

### Topic

***“US Army Corps of Engineers Update”***

### Guest Speaker



**Lieutenant Colonel Matthew S. Orenstein** assumed the duties of Deputy Commander on July 14, 2008 following an assignment with the Huntington District where he served as the Deputy Commander/Deputy District Engineer, Operations Program Manager, Deputy Resident Engineer and Project Engineer.

Lieutenant Colonel Orenstein's civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Syracuse University, and two Master's Degrees (Master of Science in Industrial and Management Engineering and Master in Business Administration) from New York's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is also a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia.

Lieutenant Colonel Orenstein has held assignments in the United States, East Asia and Gulf Region including Combat Engineer Platoon Leader in support of the 24th Infantry Division during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and as Deputy Area Engineer and Resident Engineer with the Gulf Region Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has served 2 combat tours in Iraq and 2 months on disaster relief duty as Liaison Officer (LNO) to coordinate U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) response and recovery efforts in St. Bernard Parish following Hurricane Katrina. His other military assignments include Director of Public Works and Garrison Command Engineer for Area IV, South Korea; Math Instructor and Automations Officer for the United States Military Academy Preparatory School in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey; Company Commander with the 1st Battalion - 28th Infantry Regiment, Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Company Executive Officer, and Platoon Leader with the 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat, Mechanized), Fort Carson, Colorado.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation and Achievement Medals. He has also been awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Engineer Regiment's Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal. Lieutenant Colonel Orenstein is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia.

**Cost to attend is \$30. RSVP by noon Friday, October 19 to [Vicki@cectexas.org](mailto:Vicki@cectexas.org).**

Cancellations must be made **72 hours** in advance and no shows will be charged for the meeting.

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## DALLAS CEC SEMINAR— SOCIAL MEDIA 101: MAKING BUSINESS SENSE OUT OF TWEETS, GROUPS, & FRIENDS

Monday, November 22, 2010

Cityplace, 2711 N. Haskell Avenue, Dallas • 10:30 a.m. to 11: 30 a.m.

**Presented by Paige Dawson, Principal & Founder, MPD Ventures Company**

As social media has expanded beyond personal use, businesses are left trying to determine how to capture and use the networks for business value. Many consumer-based companies have quickly rallied around the networks to engage consumers, but business-based companies have struggled with how to tackle social --- or, if to tackle it at all -- and to develop a way to interact that offers business value.

**There is no charge to attend this meeting.** You can make a reservation to attend this meeting by responding to Vicki Reece at [vicki@cectexas.org](mailto:vicki@cectexas.org) **by noon on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.**

*Dallas CEC Member Meeting Reservations MUST be made separately.*

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## COMMITTEE REPORT CITY OF DALLAS BUILDING INSPECTION AND ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE

October 14, 2010

### 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:

A purpose of the Building Inspection and Enterprise Committee is to build support for increasing fees for the Building Inspection department. The Building Inspection department receives no funding from the General Fund. Some of the proposed fees are significant and most will impact contractors and owners. Two areas in particular could represent a financial impact to all of our CEC members.

One of the main areas of concern for many CEC members is the proposed hourly charge for determining zoning and for consultation which includes zoning, code interpretation, etc. These are typical activities performed by Engineers as part of the design – especially for a building renovation since it is not usually practical to bring a building up to current code. Consultation is required for determining which building code, fire code, etc. will be used for renovations, etc. Owners typically consider code review part of basic services. Passing these costs on will be difficult especially since the city proposes hourly rates which will be hard to quantify at the design fee proposal stage.

At the last meeting Building Inspection staff proposed that the committee endorse the proposed fee increases with a plan to revise them later after the committee has more time for review. This seemed to garner some industry support especially from the developer representatives who were more concerned about the time for reviews and permits vs. the price. A move will be made to push this forward at the next meeting scheduled for November 2, 2010.

**Please call or email Joe Campos at (214) 696-6291 ext. 235 or [jcampos@camposengineering.com](mailto:jcampos@camposengineering.com) if you have questions or would like an email copy of the proposed fee charges for each of the services.**

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

### DALLAS ISD 2007 BOND PROGRAM

October 13, 2010

#### Overview

The DISD 2007 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 and agreed upon:

Project Closeout was discussed. DISD listened to the Committee feedback and combined the various project closeout process used during the previous bond program. Two projects have been closed out and the process seems to be working well. Issuing separate contracts for each school increases the administration burden but does improve the timeliness closeout of payment. Some Phase I contracts have been slow to start so there have been fewer contract closeouts.

Contractors have reported that the Test and Balance (TAB) 3rd party contracts hold up the payment process. When the TAB firm does not complete work then the closeout/payments are delayed.

DISD established a new document retention storage and software training system. Documents are stored in two separate locations. The system has been tested and DISD is committed to maintaining the system.

Contractors reported that there are issues with the competitive sealed proposal process. Some examples are:

Equipment vendors typically will not submit pricing until one hour before bids are due. This contributes to the challenge of developing competitive alternate pricing.

Alternate pricing varies and sometimes results in a contentious negotiation with the selected contractor. Good pricing is the hardest to obtain for subcontractor alternates with a busy bid deadline.

Typically the scope for lead paint remediation is not identified in the bid documents so contractors must guess at the scope. This causes a swing in pricing which is not in the Districts best interest.

DISD is now tracking time between contractor selection and actual award. This has improved the time focus.

DISD now has a template for expediting additional A/E services for alternates. If the requested alternates are within budget the A/E is paid per the A/E contract percent fee. If the alternate is not part of the budget and not accepted then the A/E will be compensated as an additional service.

Approximately eighty eight of one hundred Phase I Bond projects are under construction. Seven of the Phase I projects are complete. Thirty nine Phase II projects are under construction of the eighty nine Phase II projects that have been issued for design.

The Bond Program so far is on budget. Phase II projects are bidding slightly higher. Phase I contractors probably bid below market due to the economy. General Contractors for Phase II projects are more discerning when subcontractors are using below market pricing and they are refusing bids from subcontractors that are not stable.

Sometimes A/E's identify additional services or task orders and must proceed because the design completion date does not change. A/E's understand they proceed at their own risk. Sometimes getting approval for additional services is a problem depending upon the experience of the program manager.

**The next meeting will be held April 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Any CEC members that have concerns or comments should contact Joe Campos at (214) 696-6291 ext. 235 or [jcampos@camposengineering.com](mailto:jcampos@camposengineering.com).**

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## PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 21, 2010

### **NCTCOG Public Works Standards Update**

Jack Tidwell with the NCTCOG staff presented their plans to evaluate any deficiencies in the current standards and set up a plan to update the standards in the deficient areas. No actual update is planned next year but a subcommittee will be formed to investigate which updates are needed. The subcommittee will set priorities, list vendors and work on a realistic and cost effective strategy to update the standards. Chairman Lowry asked for volunteers for the subcommittee consisting of a mix of public and private participants. Brad Tribble, representing the Dallas CEC mentioned that his firm (Kimley-Horn) was currently developing similar standards for Fort Worth and Frisco. Brad was nominated as a subcommittee co-chair representing private interests. Terry Hafer with Alvarado volunteered to be the public interest co-chair. It was mentioned that contractor and legal representatives should also be included, if possible. Lyndon Cox with TCEL volunteered to be a contractor representative. Some other comments from those in attendance included the need to update material specs and that standard details did not need to be a priority since many were "city specific".

### **iSWM Project Update**

Jack Tidwell presented the status of the iSWM Manual update. The 2010 iSWM Criteria Manual and Technical Manual are now complete. Freese Nichols has completed their tasks but the NCTCOG staff is working on the Licensing Agreements, iSWM Tools and training needs. Jeff Rice is now the iSWM Coordinator since Audra Valamides has left NCTCOG for the City of Arlington. A presentation of the iSWM concept at a future PWC meeting was discussed. This presentation should be fairly basic and focused toward newer members of the PWC.

### **Sustainable Public Rights of Way**

A brief presentation covered the work of the Sustainable Public Rights of Way (SPROW) committee headed by Ron McCuller of Grand Prairie. The points discussed were:

A recent presentation in Arlington

Upcoming focus is on the economic implications of this approach.

Program for the next year will be "discussion" rather than "product" oriented.

The impact of the SPROW approach on property adjacent to the public ROW also needs to be addressed.

### **2011 Public Works Roundup**

Next year's Public Works Roundup is planned for the March-May timeframe. Chairman Lowry asked for volunteers to help in the planning and coordination of this event. He also asked PWC members to spread the word more widely to try to get a more varied attendance.

**Roundtable Discussion** – Opportunity for attendees to inform other members of local activities.

- T.S. Kumar with Lewisville asked which of the represented governmental entities installs utilities themselves rather than "outsourcing." McKinney does some of each. Grand Prairie and Arlington outsource all. (Arlington emphasized "robust inspection"). Arlington also does ALL signal design and construction themselves. North Richland Hills installs smaller lines.
- Ron McCuller with Grand Prairie mentioned having to replace signage to meet new reflectivity standards. He also mentioned problems complying with changing ADA criteria.
- Jim Dulac with Richardson mentioned problems with foreign made products not meeting specifications. Some of these had to be removed from the construction site. He emphasized that the "date of the test" should be confirmed.
- Bob Kopp with Carrollton mentioned that his city was looking into complete outsourcing of all storm drainage and street maintenance.

**For any questions or comments, please contact Joe Barrow at [JBarrow@Halff.com](mailto:JBarrow@Halff.com).**

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## 2011 Economic Outlook, High Speed Rail Update Coming Up Online

### **Nov. 16—Systematic Client Feedback: How to Get It, Use It, and Benefit From It** **Ten usable criteria for monitoring your firm's ongoing performance...**

Presenter **Mike Phillips**, DesignFacilitator, walks seminar participants through a quantifiable system for collecting feedback from clients that is designed to help firms "reduce mistakes and project liability, reduce wasted time and effort, increase firm profitability and contribute to employees' professional satisfaction.

To read more and to register visit <http://www.acec.org/education/eventDetails.cfm?eventID=1221>

### **Nov. 17—Short-Term Economic Outlook: What Are the Near-Term Economic, Political and Global Forces that Will Affect Your Business? Examining the forces and recent events that will shape the business environment in 2011...**

**Greg Ip**, the U.S. Economics Editor for *The Economist*, will provide key insights on the current economic indicators that will shape the business environment into 2011. He'll examine the economic recovery, interest rates and inflation, taxes, stimulus and government spending, government regulation and more in the wake of the midterm elections. The session will be invaluable in helping firms to navigate the uncertain economy going forward

To read more and to register visit <http://www.acec.org/education/eventDetails.cfm?eventID=1225>

### **Nov. 18—High Speed Rail: Outlook, Opportunities and Obstacles Including potential impact of 2010 elections on projects and funding...**

With funding already in the pipeline, and continued strong backing from the Obama Administration, high speed rail is emerging as a major new business market for the engineering industry.

ACEC's panel of leading experts updates market opportunities including what projects will look like and where future funding is likely to be directed. Participants will hear Federal Railroad Administration guidelines on project development and delivery from **Donald M. Itzkoff**, Executive Counsel, Public Policy and Government Relations for North America, GE Transportation; **Jeffrey Boothe**, Esq., Holland & Knight; and **David J. Carol**, Market Leader High-Speed Rail, Parsons Brinckerhoff.

To read more and to register visit <http://www.acec.org/education/eventDetails.cfm?eventID=1226>



## 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	Legislative Update	.5
March 28	Monday	11:30 a.m.	Cityplace			
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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### Dallas Council of Engineering Companies

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