

## Public Relations Committee

ACEC Indiana is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2009 and significant effort is being made to showcase the impact that professional consulting engineering had on the quality of life of Hoosiers over the last half-century. Work projects were included in a commemorative publication, which was sent to local and state officials and media. Supported efforts to produce a video about the profession targeted to high school and college students.

## Education Committee

**University Relations** Enhanced visibility of ACEC Indiana with university contacts, leading to greater involvement in “guidance” activities and a record-high number of scholarship applications, 17 in total.

**High School/ Middle School Outreach** Promoted “Project Lead the Way” to ACEC Indiana firms in an effort to gain industry support of the program.

**College Scholarships** A total of \$10,000 was awarded to six students this year. Indiana’s top scholarship recipient competed at the national level, and won \$7,500 from ACEC National.

## Membership Committee

Conducted a “networking” tour of Indianapolis International New Terminal for all member firms and prospects.

Refined the prospective member list to focus on the “Top Ten” firms and hosted an exclusive Membership & Networking Event for these firms.

Efforts resulted in 7 regular and 4 associate new member firms.

## QBS Committee

Recognized four projects that successfully used the process of Qualifications Based Selection at the Annual QBS Coalition Banquet that featured Allison Melangton, President of the 2012 Super Bowl Host Committee.

Created and distributed new trifold informational publication to over 1,200 local officials and clients in conjunction with the ACEC Indiana Directory.

## Government Affairs Committee

ACEC Indiana strongly advocates adequate funding for local roads and bridges, and it was more prominent on the legislature’s agenda in 2009, but federal stimulus funding clouded the picture. With state revenues in serious decline, the timing was not right and legislation died in conference. Transit legislation died in the end, too.

Despite this setback, its higher profile was considered a success as we prepare for the next session of the General Assembly. Of concern will be the funding mechanism, and ACEC Indiana, along with Build Indiana Council (BIC), worked to keep the Major Moves program whole and not divert its future funding to other users. Rather, we seek to find a new funding source dedicated to locals.

Another significant goal for next year is to seek a stable and dedicated funding source for water and wastewater projects as municipalities’ inability to maintain or increase capacity in their current systems poses an increasing public health risk and deterrent to economic vitality.

## Political Affairs Committee

With 2009 being a non-election year, the Committee focused on distributing state PAC funds for the 2010 elections and strengthening relationships with state legislators and statewide officials to educate them on the issues and concerns of the Professional Consulting Engineering industry. Nationally, ACEC Indiana raised \$13,000 for the federal PAC of ACEC National that supports candidates for U.S. Congress.

## Engineering Leadership Program

Graduated the fifth class of participants in this in-depth management training program for PE’s interested in firm management, which included 20 individuals from 14 firms.

Participants attend four two-day sessions throughout the year that cover a wide range of industry and business-related topics. These courses are led by individuals from both the academic and business world in the areas.

If you are interested in recommending a candidate in your firm for the leadership program, contact the ACEC Indiana office.



Annual Report 2008-2009



**ACEC Indiana is a trade association representing the business interests of the consulting engineering profession and offers knowledge and services to enhance the quality of life for every citizen in Indiana.**

**Professional Consulting Engineers design roads and bridges, clean water and waste water systems, redevelopment of brownfields and more.**

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## Year in Review

Maintaining a high-level presence with state and local officials was essential to advancing the interests and concerns of the Professional Consulting Engineering industry.

ACEC Indiana's member-led liaison committees continued to meet with the key state and local government agencies. This is a summary of each committee's important accomplishments on behalf of all ACEC Indiana member-firms.

## INDOT Committee

ACEC continues to work with INDOT through Team Indiana and many task groups.

- ACEC members were tasked with the writing of the new Local Public Agency process contributing thousands of volunteer hours.
- Began work on a new Change Order policy to keep the EOR involved in construction to ensure effective and economical constructability solutions.
- Began assisting INDOT with the Design Manual rewrite effort.
- Compelled INDOT to update its "boilerplate" contract to conform with the new indemnification law.
- Continue to work with the INDOT Audit department, encouraging them to comply with the FAR in areas such as overhead, benefits and compensation.
- Conducted a successful three-day seminar for PE/PS training.
- Guided the County Bridge Inventory Scope Development.

## Indy DPW Committee

Built productive relationships with new decision makers and with DPW on a number of issues. The subcommittees were successful in their areas of expertise:

**MBE/WBE** Added veterans to the City's "MBE/WBE/WVE" list and certification process and worked with the City to create a mentor protégé program.

**Standards** Gave input on new transportation standards and currently assisting on stormwater standards to incorporate green issues.

**Professional Development** Conducted training on sustainability and green design.

**Utilities Subcommittee** Collaborating with the City and utility "locator" companies to develop a process to improve the location of utilities earlier in the design process.

**Construction Inspection** Developed guidelines for best

practices for construction services. These guidelines are now available to member firms.

**Electronic Submittal** Worked with DPW on process for electronic submittals, which resulted in successful launch of an "e-plan room."

**Public Awareness** Promoted National Engineer's Week with 28 volunteers and 720 students and will help DPW in the upcoming Public Works Week.

## IDNR Committee

The Floodplain Modeling Guidelines Committee began a major update and expansion of "General Guidelines for the Hydrologic – Hydraulic Assessment of Floodplains in Indiana."

Worked to shorten early coordination reviews by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, as well as the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

ACEC has requested that review times be limited to a maximum of 30-days per SAFETEA-LU, resulting in some improvement, but still has some progress to be made. The next goal is to reduce overall environmental schedules.

Completion of the Floodway Habitat Mitigation Guidelines is nearly complete. Meetings between INDOT, IDEM and IDNR have occurred to resolve issues and create a better congruence between IDNR and IDEM.

## Environmental Business Committee

The 2008 Environmental Business Conference had a record-breaking attendance. Major topics included issues on sustainable designs and round table discussions with IDEM personnel. Planning is underway for the 2009 conference with a goal to surpass the success of 2008.

During an IDEM briefing meeting that coincided with a conference call, the states learned about plans to involve the SRF programs the federal stimulus program, which lead to ACEC's help in disseminating information regarding stimulus funding for water and wastewater.

Initiated writing a guideline document for the design of CSO abatement facilities, which now includes: ACEC Indiana, Indiana Water Environment Association, IDEM, Indianapolis Chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers, and Water Environment Federation Collection Systems Subcommittee. A completed document should be final in three years and may involve multiple states who have an interest in establishing guidelines for such facilities.

## Diversity Committee

Hosted the third Annual Diversity Networking Fair and Luncheon Aug. 12, 2008, which included 37 exhibitors and a record 170 attendees. Plans are underway for the next annual fair, with the primary goal to promote positive relationships with minority, women and veteran-owned businesses and partner with both the Education and Indy DPW committees in their efforts in promoting diversity within the professional consulting engineering industry.

## Funding Sources Committee

Met jointly on a regular basis with representatives of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) and USDA Rural Development. This resulted in improved coordination and understanding of the funding program requirements, including the CDBG Disaster Recovery Money and stimulus funding.

Continued refinement of a "critical path" timeline for typical water resources infrastructure projects based on funding source.

## Fire & Building Safety Committee

Met regularly with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Code Compliance Officer and State Building Commissioner, and the State Fire and Building Code Enforcement Director on issues of mutual concern.

- Continued formulating a strategy for adoption of International Building Code Chapter 17 "Structural Tests and Special Inspections" into the Indiana Building Code.
- Advocated for design professionals to attend building code training seminars administered by International Code Council instructors and traditionally available only to Building Officials.
- Participated in the IN-SAVE (Indiana Structural and Visual Evaluation) Disaster Response Task Force Advisory Committee. Recruited volunteers to participate in the first ATC-20 pre-requisite training session and assisted with the implementation of the IN-SAVE program formed to provide technical support and evaluation following disasters.
- Helped develop a process for the Dept. of Fire & Building Safety to directly notify the Indiana Department of Natural Resources of projects submitted for review that are located in either a flood plain or floodway.
- Advised the Dept. of Fire & Building Safety on an automated process linked directly to the Professional Licensing Agency to verify registration status of design professionals sealing construction documents; working on completion.