

## - MINUTES -

Liaison Committee of the Kansas City District Corps of Engineers,  
American Council of Engineering Companies of Missouri,  
American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas

March 6, 2008

1. The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. at the office of Poole Fire Protection in Olathe, KS. In attendance:

K.C. Corps:

Heather Collins-Allen  
George Cornwell  
Rex Goodnight  
Steve Iverson  
Larry Myers  
Rex Ostrander  
James Rudy  
Jim Turner

ACEC/MO:

Joel Cerwick  
Terry Flanagan  
Joe Marsh  
Leon Schieber  
Bruce Wylie

ACEC/KS:

Buck Driggs  
Randall Gorton  
Jack Poole

2. Corps Customer Surveys:
  - A. Annual focus that comes from facilities using a 1-5 scale (5-best) and also includes District a/e staff. Will follow up on real high or real low scores to get debriefs.
  - B. Overall the scores of a/e services is good.
  - C. Product survey also taken – design by discipline – includes after construction, feasibility studies, and RFP packages. Cannot rate the a/e if involved in a design-build project.
  - D. Not always surveying the end user of the project.
  - E. HVAC is a big problem area for most projects. Consultants responded that there is some confusion as to which codes the designer should follow.
  - F. ACASS evaluation – handout.
    - i. Very good – trending from 2005 to 2007 shows good negotiating and scoping by the Corps staff.
    - ii. Detailed ACASS – breakdown by discipline.
      1. MEP – not getting good reviews.
      2. Cost estimating – not good reviews – what criteria for what is control of the engineer/designer? Need better risk analysis during cost estimating; customer expectation may not be real (not a \$6 million job, but an \$8 million job).
      3. Value engineering not good.
      4. Quality control not good.
      5. Scheduling not good.
    - iii. Some issue of cash-flow/budgeting with just continuing resolution for Corps budget from Congress.
    - iv. How does MILCON/CIVIL/ENVIRONMENTAL breakdown separately? Corps will breakdown some of the specific disciplines that were rated lower.
3. Briefing on System Called ProjNet Bidders Inquiry: Presentation to the group with handout. This is an internet-based secure exchange for design & construction use.
  - A. Corps uses this for past 5 years.
  - B. Also used for Bidder Inquiry.
  - C. A/E's are comfortable with using similar Dr. Checks for design review checks.

- D. Comments are more detailed than other ways for bidding process and all comments are responded to.
  - E. It is an issue of how much information does the contractor really want to share.
  - F. Other internet-based software – Sharepoint and E-Room.
  - G. This is not a Corps site – available for use by all.
  - H. Similar to Fedteds.com and fedbizopps.com.
4. 404 Permits: This is an issue between EPA and the Corps, backloging projects. Issue is at the national level. Somehow EPA needs to expedite the process. This is coming out of the confusion with the Rapanos court case. Mark Frazier of KC Corps staff was discussing that day with EPA HQ and Region 7 about this issue for the Corps guidance. ACEC national needs to send a letter to EPA – time is money and permits are being held up – please make a decision.
5. Possible joint meeting with various Corps Districts: Could discuss how to work with the Corps, regulatory concerns. Five Corps Districts touch Missouri and two Corps Districts touch Kansas. Need to get a copy of the big Illinois regional Corps Meeting coming up to see what they discuss and how productive that event is.
6. A/E Contract Debriefings: Corps always offers in-person debriefing if requested in a timely manner. There was an isolated case where an a/e wasn't given an in-person debriefing.
7. Miscellaneous Items:
- A. Can Corps issue credentials for the a/e to get government rates if working on a Corps project? Will find out.
  - B. Next Meeting agenda
    - v. Trend analysis of survey drilldowns.
    - vi. Follow up on in-person debrief denial.
    - vii. Get agenda from regional Illinois Corps meeting.
    - viii. Use of Sharepoint by consultants – Terry Flannigan, HNTB.
    - ix. Look at ACASS checklist – how do they train the evaluators and who exactly does the rating. What are the other districts doing?
8. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for May 29, 2008 at the offices of HNTB Corporation in Kansas City, MO.