

- 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

September 2, 2004

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of the Corps of Engineers in Kansas City, Missouri. In attendance:

K.C. Corps:

Col. Mike Rossi
Steve Iverson
Lee Fuerst
Larry Myers
Jim Turner
Mike Whitacre

ACEC/Missouri:

Peter Green
Jim Waller
Clarence Munsch
Steve Wells
Tapan Banerjee
Bob Goodwillie
Bruce Wylie, President

ACEC/Kansas:

none

1. Review Draft Partnering Agreement: A copy of the ACEC/Nebraska partnering agreement w/COE was handed out for review. All were asked to review and provide any comments.
2. Discussion of Procurement Process For Various Project Delivery Methods: Regarding Design & Build procurement, there have been no issues with contractors. The Corps splits out design from construction with plans that are 30% complete to Design/Build Contractors for a bid that is a maximum not to exceed. A/E's are then paid at that point for the 30% construction plans. There has to be more of a culture shift for COE to use more D/B. Also most a/e's don't want to be D/B subcontractors. DBIA doesn't think the Corps d/b process is true design/build. Jim Turner described the current Corps design-build process in which qualifications were the criteria for contractor selection. Corps can't separately rate designer in d/b process, so nothing will show up in ACASS, while some comment allowed in CCASS.

Corps analysis: The designer's cost for a D-B job should not limited to be less than the cost for a conventional project: it should be more, because of the extra work involved, and because design time spent during the early stages has much more impact the construction cost than effort to make changes later (where you are limited to changing room finishes and landscaping, for example). The return on spending extra money on engineering early is much greater--it is a good investment. There are offsetting opportunities for savings, such as the reduced need to design and and specify in as much detail to protect yourself from the contractor.

Design-build trends notwithstanding, the majority of Corps contracts are still awarded through invitations for bids.

3. ACASS Update Using a Handout from Mike Whitacre: For review, the Corps gives the consultant a one page checklist of what is expected at the initial meeting. If a multi-page checklist is used then the Corps will go over it with the consultant in advance, emphasizing up front communications. ACEC needs to provide feedback on the use of this checklist. Currently the KC District is requiring LEED certification on all projects, with an emphasis on sustainable design. But how the consultant performs is more important than if the consultant is LEED certified. Corps is striving for consistency in consultant ratings.
4. Kansas City District Update: Handout of Colonel Curtis's briefing at the ACEC meeting in Branson. Highlights: Fort Riley is going to get an additional brigade in 2006 so need for new construction. Base Realignment & Closure (BRAC) – next round is still being put off,

probably until after November elections. Fort Wood should gain and KC District should be safe. Trends for MILCON, CIVIL, and HTRW were reviewed. Should be some performance-based contracting for HTRW. HTRW will go out w/ a/e procurement in next year. An small business procurement will be out in November. The new Installation Management Agency (IMA) will take over many base operations and installations and could compete with existing Army Contracting Agency (ACA).

5. Top 10 List of What A/E Consultants Need to Improve - from Colonel Curtis Presentation: Designing to budget, initial proposals are too high, quality control, finding innovative solutions, communications, meeting deadlines and schedules.
6. Corps Expectations of Themselves: Understanding our customers, responsiveness, proactive (not reactive), value-added, solution-oriented.
7. Speaking of proactive, the KC District plans to visit area consultant offices to find out how its going from both sides. What are other Districts doing? Louisville District has an annual a/e quality workshop. Huntington District has a facilitated partnering meeting.
8. KC District Liaison Committee needs to look at a possible facilitated partnering session, possibly at two levels – top management & project managers.
9. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for **January 20, 2005**, at the offices of Black & Veatch.