

ACEC KANSAS/KDOT PARTNERING
AUGUST 16, 2007
TRANSYSTEMS OFFICE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Present were Neil Rusch, Susan Darling, Mike Bowen, Tom Swenson, Mike Hess, Dan Scherschligt, Mel Chapman, Steve Hileman, Jim Kowach, David Church, Mike Stock, Karla Waters, Scott Uhl, and Scott Heidner. David Nagy was present on behalf of Ron Seitz.

Introductions were made and the meeting commenced.

The agenda was agreed to.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

Nagy gave a report on behalf of Seitz on BLP affairs. A committee was formed three months ago to review contract procedures and streamline how they work. They are mainly looking at CE and PE procedures. Nagy gave an update on their efforts, and said a meeting was going to be held August 24 at the Olathe construction office. Consultants and public officials are all welcome to attend. Nagy reported that LPA projects will now require people on the construction site to wear safety vests. BLP is trying to do electronic plan reviews. There are a couple projects currently where office check plans are coming in electronically.

Nagy gave a report on behalf of Seitz on the transportation revolving loan fund. 64 loans have been given to date, 17 are pending, for a total of \$84 million. KDOT is trying to expand the scope of the program to include some emergency relief funding, mostly to supplement FEMA funds.

Kowach reported on the CADD standards manual. The official draft version was published August 8. It's posted on the KDOT website and they are soliciting feedback. Kowach will send a blurb with a link to Heidner for use in the ACEC newsletter.

Kowach reported on 2007 Specification Implementation. There is a new book pending, as well as new bid items. KDOT wanted to convey that plans already submitted will not be required to go back and update to match the new specs and bid items. Starting in October, plans will be required to have the correct updated bid items.

Kowach reported on the Integrated Design Environment and the development of electronic plans. There is a work group in place, but it has not started working at this time. KDOT is still working with internal staff on this initiative, and the consultant work team will be brought in after KDOT has established the system internally. Kowach said MoDOT will go to exclusively electronic submittals as of October.

Kowach and Rusch reported on using on-call consultants to work with KDOT staff. KDOT has on-call consultants for specific projects and for rapid response needs should they arise. They have not used an on-call consultant for a rapid response need yet. They also have hourly rate on-calls, but have not yet had to use those either. Church said his Bureau has an on-call engineer that has been working 2 days a week, and anticipate using that consultant for 3 to 6 months.

Uhl asked about the speed with which contracts are being completed, as Kowach had expressed a concern at the last meeting. Kowach said Leslie Spencer-Fowler has transferred out of the Chief Council's office, and decisions are being made about who will handle contracts moving forward.

There was no report on Executive Compensation.

Scherschligt reported on behalf of Freddie Simmons on efforts of the team/committee to work on accountability issues. The group met July 18, and has three ACEC members and three KDOT staff. They will meet again September 5. The group agreed on four items that they will work on at the next meeting: 1) Should QC requirements be added to the consultant standard agreement; 2) Should the committee adopt the draft check list as requirements for all KDOT milestones; 3) Should the standard procurement policy be updated, and if so, how; 4) Is the current PET form adequate, does it ask the right questions, and are consultants pleased with the form. Team members were asked to come to the next meeting with their thoughts and possible answers to the questions above.

Mike Bowen gave the FHWA report. Bowen said emergency relief (ER) efforts are just starting for the flooding in Montgomery, Bourbon, and Linn counties. The ER program is different than FEMA. ER doesn't pay for heavy maintenance. The goal is to restore to pre-existing conditions. Bowen said FHWA has issued two technical advisories in response to the bridge disaster in Minnesota. FHWA concluded their LPA review and found no major issues.

Scherschligt reported on KDOT efforts on bridge inspections in response to the Minnesota bridge collapse. While KDOT already has an aggressive bridge inspection policy in place, some bridges were re-inspected in response to the disaster. He reported that Kansas, comparatively speaking, is in very good shape.

Swenson reported on planning efforts for the ACEC Kansas/KDOT Annual Conference. The agenda has been finalized and speakers lined up. Titles for each segment are being agreed to. The theme of the conference is "Challenge of Change".

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.