Notes from the 3/8/2016 ACEC/AIA/OFPM/OSFM/KBR Partnering Committee Meeting

The meeting was attended by Scott Heidner (ACEC), Brad Austin (ACEC), Frank Burnham (OFPM), Randy Riveland (OFPM), Gary Nevius (AIA), Greg Hoffman (KBR), Terry Humphries (AIA), Doug Everhart (ACEC), Bruce McMillan (AIA), and Scott Murray (OSFM).  The meeting began at 3:00 PM and concluded at 3:50 PM.  The meeting was held at the ACEC Offices.

Introductions were made.  Bruce McMillan is a new AIA rep on the committee.  Bruce works for McMillan Architects, P.A. in Manhattan.  Scott Murray is the new OSFM rep on the committee.  He is a Fire Prevention Supervisor for OSFM.

The minutes from last meeting were approved (motion by Austin, second by Burnham).

Updating the Partnering Agreement and the Partnering Committee Name were tabled until the next meeting.

Due to time constraints on Heidner and Humphries, Legislation was discussed first during the meeting.

Legislation Update

* The recent efficiency study conducted by A&M is the key focus for ACEC at the present time.  ACEC is working against some of the recommendations from the Transportation Section of the report, but those aspects are also applicable to other industries.  The two key items ACEC is focusing on currently are:
  + KDOT adding 20 engineers and doing more work in house.
  + Abolish QBS – ACEC gained support from committee leader to not push this recommendation forward.
  + All aspects of the study will end up in bill form at some point this year, so nothing is considered a done deal yet.
* SB463
  + Sweeps all funds into the general fund for re-appropriation.
  + ACEC testified against this bill on 3/8/16.
  + KBR is also in opposition to this bill.
* School Finance Case
  + Court ruling that legislature must find $50M to go to schools, then revenue was $56M lower than planned, creating a $106M shortfall.
  + Legislature immediately cut $17M from higher ed’s current budget (this year’s budget).
  + Nobody knows what is going to happen to make up the other $89M.
* ESCOs
  + Rep. Hutton is unhappy with the legislature’s oversight on them and the payback terms that have been approved in the past.
  + An amended version of this bill will probably be introduced soon.
* HB2703
  + Prohibits state agencies from entering into contracts that would put the state in debt without legislative approval.
  + Appears to potentially impact P3 projects because that would put the state in debt without appropriate approval.
  + AIA suggested the house table the bill and put together a group to study the issue, then bring back a revised bill next year based on the findings of the special committee.
  + Bill scheduled for a hearing in Commerce on 3/9/16.
  + AIA asked the group if there is anything we can do as a group to combat legislation in current form.
    - The group offered no ideas.
* HB2677
  + Weakens authority of licensing boards to deny licenses to felons.
  + Bill is not currently moving and is not scheduled for any hearings.
* Other
  + Nevius noted that imposing limits to caps on property tax by local units of government could significantly impact funds available for projects.
  + OFPM and OSFM are not pushing any legislation this year.

OFPM Update

* Starting to look at minor revisions to their manual.  Expect their update to go live on July 1.
* SBAC
  + Will meet 3/9/16 to short list a landscape on-call for Ft. Hays State University and a Locking and Controls project for Larned State Hospital.
  + They will also discuss HB2703 during the meeting.
* Staffing
  + They currently have 3 reviewers on staff with a back-up plan to use a private consultant if they get over-run.
* Burnham indicated that they have found a problem with some of the graphics on code footprints lately, and they will be working with OSFM to revise the standards.  Some of it is due to the descriptions associated with the various symbols.

OSFM Update

* Staffing
  + They are fully staffed with the exception of an Education Consultant.
  + They are doing Code Footprint reviews now instead of OFPM, so they are very busy.
* 2012 IBC/IFC Update
  + The attorney general’s office is still reviewing the change.  They are hopeful to get it made by July 1 (that is what they had hoped last year too), but it is in the AG’s hands.

KBR

* Campuses are gearing up for a busy construction summer.
* 5 year capital improvement plans are to be submitted and presented in April.

AIA Update – None (nothing of note to report to the committee).

ACEC Update – None (nothing of note to report to the committee).

KAN-STRUCT Conference Update – None (nobody present knew anything about what was happening with this event).

Other – None.

Next Meeting will be scheduled depending on progression of various legislation.  It is possible that the group will need to meet again within the next couple weeks.  If this happens, the meeting will likely be via teleconference.  Otherwise, a meeting will be scheduled for some time in April or May.