

ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies
of Mississippi

January 2021
Volume 26, Issue 2

825 N. President Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Tel: (601) 420-2002

craig@acecms.org • www.acecms.org

“The Voice of Mississippi’s Engineering Companies”

Engineering Excellence Awards and Annual Assembly Announcement

This year’s Engineering Excellence Awards Ceremony will be taped in advance and uploaded on our website. Due to COVID-19 concerns, we will not be having an awards banquet. An email will be sent out to inform all members when it will be uploaded to our website (acecms.org). Our Annual Assembly will be held via Zoom.



Lake Harbour Drive Project
Waggoner Engineering, Inc.



**Three Rivers Solid Waste Management
Authority Landfill Leachate Evaporator
Project—FC&E Engineering, LLC and
Mid-South Consulting,
Quality Engineering Solutions**

**“Field of Dreams”
Baseball and Softball Complex**
Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc.



**Obstacle Course
Shows, Dearman &
Waits, Inc.**



**UMMC Children’s
Hospital Addition**
Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc.



NEW MEMBER

Cook Allen Engineers & Surveyors

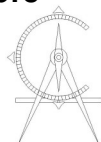
1636 Veterans Memorial Blvd

Eupora, MS 39744

Phone: 662-769-3108

Email: TALLEN5891@GMAIL.COM

Principal: Thomas Allen, PE, PLS



Cook - Allen

Engineers & Surveyors

Dates to Remember:

- EEA Judging—TBD
- EEA Awards and Annual Assembly—TBD

MESSAGE FROM LINDA DARR, CEO, ACEC

As difficult as 2020 was, the year ended on an encouraging note for our industry as a number of our legislative priorities were included in the year-end spending and stimulus package signed into law over the holidays. We were successful in correcting one of two challenges affecting firms with Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans in restoring the tax-deductibility of expenses covered by the loans. Congress also provided additional funding for State DOTs, transit agencies and airports, passed a water package (WRDA), and made permanent the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction. For a full list of our industry's wins in the legislation, click [here](#).

While fixing the tax deductibility challenge was critical, we still need help from Congress to ensure that firms with PPP loans working for DOTs or federal agencies won't be forced to return a portion of their forgiven loan because of a provision in the FAR. We know this issue is top of mind for many of our MOs and as such, it remains a top priority in ACEC's advocacy agenda and will be front and center as we begin to work with the 117th Congress and the relevant agencies of the incoming Biden administration.

We have a full plate for the New Year and we look forward to engaging our members in advocating for action on an infrastructure agenda built around the reauthorization and expansion of the FAST Act.

The incoming Administration is expected to lead with a new stimulus initiative, which will provide us with an opportunity to correct the remaining PPP challenge, and also provide a vehicle for additional assistance to support critical infrastructure projects, provide liability protections for businesses from COVID-related claims, and other priorities.

President-elect Biden has indicated that he wants to start the process of moving a long-term bill as soon as February. As a former mayor, his nominee for DOT Secretary, Pete Buttigieg brings a local government perspective to his position and is already showing his enthusiasm for modernizing America's infrastructure. If you follow him on Twitter— [@PeteButtigieg](#)—as we do, that will soon become abundantly clear! And it was clear to us when he participated in the Presidential Town Hall on Infrastructure that we sponsored early last year.

With this new Congress and the incoming Biden administration, we have the opportunity to advance an infrastructure program that highlights the innovation and opportunity made possible through the visionary design work of our member firms. Our member firms have written the playbook on projects that bring not only jobs, but lasting value through the design of shovel-worthy projects and a new focus on resilience and sustainability that will be critical to the incoming policymakers.

We are bullish on what we can achieve in 2021 working together to turn our priorities into accomplishments.

Have a great week,
Linda Bauer Darr



BCD Acquires SoilTech Consultants

Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc. is excited to announce the acquisition of SoilTech Consultants, Jackson, MS!

**BURNS COOLEY
DENNIS, INC.**

*GEOTECHNICAL AND MATERIALS
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS*



For more information go to:

[Acquisition of the Business of SoilTech Consultants • BCD \(bcdgeo.com\)](#)

ACEC
Business Insurance Trust
Engineered for Peace of Mind

RISK MANAGEMENT

**FOR ENGINEERS
DESIGNED BY ENGINEERS**

EMAIL: acecbit@greyling.com | PHONE: 833.223.2248 | WEBSITE: acecbit.org

ACEC/MS President's Update: Kyle Wallace



It has been an eventful year that we will always remember. A time set apart from other years that have come and gone yet are engrained in our memories forever. A memory more eventful than the recent past of Hurricane Katrina, or the Great Recession of 2008. Even the events of the attacks on America in 2001 are dwindled by the current COVID-19 Pandemic. The first case in the United States was identified in Washington State on January 21, 2020 and the first case in Mississippi on March 12, 2020. What followed were work from home schedules, extended medical leave, testing, restrictions in public places, facemasks, etc., etc., etc.

Through it all, our engineering companies have continued to operate. Deemed essential to our communities, we have found a way to work from home, hold meetings through "zoom" and other electronic methods, and social distance at work sites. Engineers are not by nature a group that likes change. But engineers do have the ability to take that change and make it the most efficient and seamless as possible.

I am honored to serve as your ACEC-MS President in 2020-2021. Without a summer conference, I along with other members of the ACEC-MS Board were sworn in via a zoom conference in August. We did not honor our outgoing President Wayne Morrison, but we will honor him at our next in person conference for his commitment to ACEC with state and national commitments.

ACEC-MS continues to represent our members in these challenging times. Roosevelt Day and our Fall Meeting were held virtually. This allowed our Executive Director Craig Carter to schedule the Lt. Governor and the Speaker of the House to provide updates on the current status of the State of Mississippi, which may not have been possible otherwise. These meetings allow continued connectivity to others in the engineering profession to discuss the challenges each of us is facing along with meeting the requirements for continuing education.

As we move forward in 2021, I hope and pray that our country and state will continue to move forward through the pandemic. As essential to the health and safety of our communities, I hope and pray that each one of you and your companies meet and exceed the challenges ahead.

Kyle D. Wallace, P.E.
ACEC-MS President 20-21



AMERICA'S ROADWAY RESOURCE
is
IN YOUR BACKYARD

Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions is proud to be your go-to roadway resource. Let one of our specialized team members assist you on your next project, and find the answers you're looking for today.

 **Ergon Asphalt
& Emulsions, Inc.**

Learn more at
ErgonAsphalt.com