

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Mississippi

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES - MS

2084 Dunbarton Drive, Suite C • Jackson, MS 39216
Tel: (601) 362-5100 • Fax: (601) 362-1005
acecms@bellsouth.net • www. acecms.org

Volume 14, Issue I

March 2008

2008 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS



Grand Conceptor Award Winner: Chas N. Clark Associates, Ltd., for Water/Wastewater Treatment Facilities at Sanderson Farms in Waco, TX. Pictured left to right: George Jones, Manager of Engineering for Sanderson Farms, Jeff Graves, Chas N. Clark Associates and James Evans, Manager of Engineering for Sanderson Farms.



Grand Conceptor Award Winner: Neel-Schaffer, Inc., CDM, Inc. and Civil Tech, Inc., for O.B. Curtis Water Treatment Plant Expansion, Jackson, MS. Pictured left to right: Slade Exley, Neel-Schaffer, Inc., David Hodge, CDM, Hibbett Neel, Neel-Schaffer, Inc., Thelman Boyd, Public Works Director, City of Jackson, Chris Jones, Neel-Schaffer, Inc., David Willis, Deputy Director of Public Works, City of Jackson, and Mark Wise, Water Systems Manager, City of Jackson.



Grand Award Winner: Mississippi Engineering Group for MDEQ Gulf Region Water and Wastewater Plan. Pictured left to right: David Hodge, Camp Dresser McKee, Barry Royals, Waggoner Engineering, Inc., Steve Spengler, MDEQ Surface Water Division Chief, Carl Ray Furr, Mississippi Engineering Group, and Jim Hust, Mississippi Engineering Group.



Grand Award Winner: Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., Birmingham, AL, for Strategic Planning, FEMA Cost Recovery, Columbia, MS. Pictured left to right: William Callender, City Attorney, City of Columbia, MS, Mayor Harold Bryant, City of Columbia, MS, Alec Van Ryan, Malcolm Pirnie, and Sam Rosania, Malcolm Pirnie.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 27-30	ACEC Annual Conference Washington, DC
July 10 -13	ACEC/AL & MS Summer Meeting Marriott Bay Point-Panama City, FL
August 29	Roosevelt Day Roosevelt State Park

The person who smiles in the face of adversity probably has a scapegoat.

Author Unknown

Excess on occasion is exhilarating. It prevents moderation from acquiring the deadening effect of habit.

W. Somerset Maugham, The Summing Up

ACEC-MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Larry Cooley

I want to thank everyone who attended our Winter Meeting and Engineering Excellence Awards Dinner at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson on February 28-29, 2008. We had a total of 95 members and friends at the dinner, and eight of our member firms won Engineering Excellence Awards as highlighted in this newsletter. A total of 29 received PDH certificates for the Friday Seminar, "Understanding the Bermuda Triangle: ADA FMLA and Workers Compensation." The seminar was presented by Tori Winfield with Phelps Dunbar LLP. We owe a thanks to Ms. Winfield for contributing her valuable time for presentation of this seminar. Following the Friday morning seminar, C. C. Lynch & Associates hosted a Lunch N' Learn at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. The lunch consisted of chicken and sausage gumbo. Both the "lunch" and the "learn" were very good. Thanks to C. C. Lynch & Associates.

With a final push during the closing days of 2007, ACEC-MS became one of 33 states to meet its 2007 PAC goal. Meeting our goal is a great achievement shared by all of our contributing members. Charles Williford, our ACEC-MS PAC Champion, is again providing leadership towards meeting the 2008 goal of \$10,505. As Charles frequently reminds us, if every principal in ACEC-MS contributes \$100 to the PAC, we will

more than double our goal. So, our goal is very achievable.

The ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit will be held April 27-30 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. Featured activities include the legislative summit, the Engineering Excellence Awards Gala, political debates/analyses by three nationally recognized political experts, and over 30 business management and technology innovation sessions. The legislative summit will focus on lobbying for water, transportation, land development, tax and other key business issues. David Compton, ACEC-MS President Elect, will lead the lobbying activities with our Mississippi congressional delegation. If you can attend the convention, please let David or Judy know as soon as possible. Also, let one of them know the congressional district that you live in.

Another important upcoming event is our summer meeting to be held at the Bay Point Resort in Panama City Beach, Florida, on July 10 through 12, 2008. Again, we will share the program with our neighbors from Alabama, ACEC-AL. A very exciting program has been arranged on the business management of engineering firms, something we all need to know more about. See you at Bay Point Resort in July.

ACEC BUSINESS INSURANCE TRUST UPDATE

The ACEC Business Insurance Trust continues with The Hartford and is pleased to announce that a new five-year agreement was approved with The Hartford Insurance Company to continue as the underwriter of the ACEC Business Insurance program. In order to fulfill its responsibilities to the Membership, the Trust performed a due diligence review of carrier options and performance. This new agreement provides an opportunity for enhanced program products and services exclusively designed for ACEC member firms. The Hartford has served as the program underwriter for over twenty-five years.

Thanks to the collaborative spirit between, the ACEC BIT, ACEC and ACEC Member Organizations, the program has grown. During 2007, \$71,000 in financial incentives were paid to ACEC Member Organizations for new business established with the ACEC Business Insurance Trust. This represents a 60% increase in financial incentives paid during 2006, at \$44,500! The ACEC BIT includes: Package (Property & Liability); Commercial Automobile; Workers Compensation; and Engineers' Professional Liability.



COUNT ON CONCRETE

Need help planning your next concrete project? We're here to serve you! The Mississippi Concrete Industries Association is Mississippi's source for concrete information.

Need professional development hours? Contact us to schedule a FREE Lunch & Learn Seminar.

**Call Us Today!
888-957-5274**

**Ready Mix
Concrete
Pervious Concrete
Roller Compacted
Concrete
Flowable Fill
Parking Lots**



www.mississippiconcrete.com

MANY THANKS to ACEC/MS Members and Affiliate Members who Sponsored the 2008 Winter Meeting and Engineering Excellence Awards.

Your continued support is always appreciated.



Chris Gill of Control Systems, Inc. Entertainer and Sponsor of Engineering Excellence Awards.

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Mississippi

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES - MS



Honor Award Winner: Allen and Hoshall for Emergency Roof Repairs Madison Square Center for the Arts. Pictured left to right: Justin Bennett, Director of Cultural Arts, City of Madison, Jimmy Nelson, All & Hoshall, and ACEC/MS President Larry Cooley.



Honor Award Winner: Williford, Gearhart & Knight, Inc. for State Route 21 Design Build Replacement. Pictured left to right: Mike McKenzie, Don Lucas, Wes McCleese, all of Williford, Gearhart and Knight, Inc. and ACEC/MS President Larry Cooley.



Honor Award Winner: Atherton Consulting Engineers, Inc., for Chilled Water Revisions UMMC. Pictured left to right: Donald Blanchard, Blanchard Mechanical Contractors, John McCullough, UMMC, and Perry Atherton, Atherton Consulting Engineers.



Honor Award Winner: Garver Engineers for I-69 Tunica & DeSoto Counties. Pictured left to right: Scot Ehrgott, Director for Consultant Services, MDOT, Steve Haynes, Garver Engineers, and ACEC/MS President Larry Cooley.



*Paving the way to
the Winner's Circle.*

You can find Ergon Asphalt & Emulsion's product on Superspeedways or the road outside your window. Cutting-edge innovation and progressive product development are essential components for any successful team and Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions has them both. Sign us up for your next project and go for the win!

**Ergon Asphalt
& Emulsions, Inc.**
ergonasphalt.com | ergonracing.com



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Mississippi

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES - MS

ACEC RETIREMENT TRUST

The ACEC Retirement Trustee's are proud to announce a new 3 year contract with Prudential Retirement and Wachovia Securities effective January 1, 2008. The renegotiated contract focuses on continuing the high level of service to the member firms and passes on even greater savings to both the firms and their employees.

The Trust retains an independent consultant, RBC Dain Rauscher, to negotiate on its behalf. Under the new contract, RBC Dain Rauscher's research shows that the average ACEC plan saves roughly 50% on its plan investment and administrative expenses. For some companies, this savings alone may be enough to offset their ACEC state and national dues. This savings, coupled with the

range of investment choices, fiduciary protection, administration, recordkeeping and education can make the ACEC Retirement Trust a tremendous benefit for ACEC member firms.

We would like to work with you. Benefits to your firm may include: savings on administrative fees, expanded fiduciary protection, lower investment fees, high quality recordkeeping, customized education and proactive plan design services. To receive a proposal, plan comparison analysis or more information, please contact Nancy Barrette at Wachovia Securities. Call (248)433-8562 or email nancy.barrette@wachoviasec.com.

UPDATE ON CLEAN WATER AND EMERGENCY STATE REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAMS

Commission Adopts Final FY-2008 Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund (WPCRLF) Intended Use Plan

On December 18, 2007 the Commission on Environmental Quality adopted the Final FY-08 Intended Use Plan (IUP) for the WPCRLF program. The Commission's adoption of the Final FY-08 IUP was based on estimated available federal funds, as outlined in the final FY-08 IUP. If actual federal funds are less than assumed in this IUP changes will be made in a subsequent IUP amendment later in the fiscal year.

The Commission adopted a loan interest rate of 1.75% for all new loans awarded in FY-08. The Commission also lowered the interest rate on all loans awarded in FY-07 to 1.75% as well.

In addition to reserving funds for all projects on the FY-08 Priority List, the Department is projecting that \$19 million in remaining funds will be available for new projects in FY-08. In accordance with Section A.1.c of the Priority System, these funds will be obligated to projects on the plan-

ning list that are ready for a loan award on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you are an eligible loan recipient (any county, municipality, public utility, authority, district, political subdivision or other governmental units created under state law) and are interested in receiving WPCRLF funding for a wastewater, stormwater, or non-point source project, which has not yet been ranked on the FY-09 and After planning list, we encourage you to submit a Request for Ranking Form and take advantage of these available funds and lower interest rates.

Copies of the Final FY-08 IUP have been mailed to all those political entities that have a project listed on either the FY-08 Priority List or the FY-09 and After Planning List and their consulting engineers. If you did not receive a copy of the FY-08 IUP you can go to the MDEQ website at MDEQ.gov and download an electronic copy.

FY-2009 Water Pollution Control (Clean Water) Revolving Loan Fund (WPCRLF) Interest Rates Expected To Be in the Range of 1.75% to 2.0%

The WPCRLF loan program, administered by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), provides low interest loan funds to public entities in the State for the construction, repair, or replacement of wastewater, storm water, and non-point source pollution control projects.

Interest rates for these loans are expected to be in the range of 1¼% to 2.0% during the upcoming FY-09 funding cycle. WPCRLF loan recipients do not incur interest during the original construction period (up to one year), and loan repayments do not begin until after project completion.

Deadlines for WPCRLF FY-09 Projects

If you are an eligible loan recipient and are interested in receiving a WPCRLF loan during FY-09, it is important that you meet the following schedule:

1. Immediately hire a licensed professional engineer in accordance with State Law and the loan program regulations, and if necessary request and attend a pre-planning conference with MDEQ staff.
2. By April 15, 2008, complete and submit a Request for Ranking and Consideration for Funding on FY-09 Priority System/List form to Tom Webb at the address shown on the request form. MDEQ has mailed copies of these forms to all eligible loan recipients, but if you did not receive a form call Sandra Davenport at (601) 961-5125, and a copy will be mailed to you.
3. By June 2, 2008 it is strongly recommended that you complete and

submit the draft facilities plan to the Inter-Governmental Review (IGR) agencies for their review and comments. You may also submit the draft facilities plan to MDEQ at this time, should you desire to expedite the review.

4. By July 15, 2008, provided you have received the IGR agency comments, it is strongly recommended that you publish the required public notice of the proposed project, giving the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed alternative and to examine all environmental review documents.
5. By September 1, 2008, you must submit a complete WPCRLF facilities plan including:
 - all IGR agency comments;
 - a copy of the public notice for the proposed project;
 - copies of any comments received from the public; and,
 - a summary of how each comment was addressed.

This facilities plan must be prepared in accordance with the WPCRLF Loan Program Regulations Effective for Loans Awarded On or After December 19, 2004.

Only those projects which meet the September 1, 2008 deadline for submitting a complete facilities plan will be considered for funding on the FY-09 Priority List.