

January 2015

## Upcoming ACEC/NC Events

February 10, 2015  
Bridge Workshop (1 PDH)  
Mass Concrete Special Provisions  
Raleigh, NC - NC Rural Center

February 18, 2015  
Environmental Education &  
Networking Event (3 PDHs)  
Raleigh, NC - McKimmon Center

February 26, 2015  
Social Media Webinar (1.5 PDH)  
Charlotte & Raleigh locations

February 26, 2015  
Charlotte Douglas Airport  
Tour (1 PDH)  
Charlotte, NC - CLT Airport

March 5, 2015  
Honda Aero Tour (1 PDH)  
Burlington Alamance Airport

## 2014-2015 ACEC/NC Board of Directors

**Jeff Douglas, P.E.**

*HDR Engineering, Inc., President*

**Bill Hood, P.E.**

*AMEC Foster Wheeler,  
President-Elect*

**Henry Liles, P.E.** *HNTB North  
Carolina, PC, Vice President*

**Stephanie Hachem, P.E.**  
*Kimley-Horn & Associates,  
Secretary/Treasurer*

**Valoree Eikinas, P.E.** *Mulkey  
Engineers & Consultants,  
National Director*

**Charlie Flowe P.E.**  
*Michael Baker Engineering,  
Director*

**Gary Hartong, P.E.**  
*The Wooten Company, Director*

**Scott Hinesley P.E.**  
*REI Engineers, Director*

**Monty Irvin, P.E.**  
*Ramey Kemp & Associates,  
Director*

**Kraig Kern, CPSM**  
*WK Dickson & Co., Inc.*

*Director*  
**John McAdams, P.E.** *McAdams,  
Director*

## Consulting Congress Day April 21 - April 22



ACEC member lobbying will be focused on the critical elements of an improving economy for the industry: passage of long-stalled infrastructure legislation and alleviating the burden of over-regulation and in-sourcing threats. With 64 new Members of Congress to meet and educate on these matters, your participation is vital.

The key infrastructure priority for the engineering industry in 2015 is the passage of a new long-term surface transportation bill. While Congress has passed a series of temporary extensions that continue current funding mechanisms, the existing programs are limping along as states and local governments lack the financial certainty to move forward with major improvement projects. With Republicans now in control of both the House and Senate, a more business-friendly Congress should be receptive to ACEC lobbying. The message to Congress: infrastructure is the backbone of the nation and must be a bi-partisan legislative priority in 2015.

As in the past, ACEC/NC members will travel to Washington, DC in a luxury bus on Tuesday morning, join members attending the full ACEC national conference, and attend briefings and a reception with members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation that evening. The following morning we'll "Storm the Hill" and meet with our delegation at the Capital to discuss issues vital to our industry.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to have our voices heard and help influence Congress to act on vital infrastructure initiatives. Our itinerary will conclude Wednesday afternoon with a return bus trip to Raleigh.

Full details and registration for CCD are coming soon, so stay tuned!

## New Ways to Stay Informed

ACEC/NC wants you to stay in the loop... that's why we've set up two new ways for you to stay informed!

First, Executive Director Jim Smith is tweeting on Twitter where he can provide you with legislative updates, update event, and other topics of interest. He is already tweeting, so start following him today @JSMITHACECNC.

Second, we are now keeping our Linked In Group up to date with pictures, event information and more! After logging into Linked In, search for "American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina" and ask to join.

As always, if you have questions setting up an account on any of these websites, or if you have trouble accessing the information you need please contact the ACEC/NC office at (919) 781-7934.

## CALLING WILMINGTON AREA FIRMS!

On January 15th ACEC/NC hosted a Breakfast with the Board at Dillworth Grill in Charlotte. This well attended event provided member firms in the Charlotte area with an opportunity to network and ask questions from the Board of Directors. We discussed the latest issues, challenges and opportunities the Board is facing.

Our next **Breakfast with the Board**, we're headed to Wilmington on Thursday, February 12th and will be held at McKim & Creed's office at 243 North Front Street, Wilmington, NC 28401.

Please join other local Wilmington firms to learn about partnering opportunities with other members.

Click [HERE](#) to register!

## Positions Available

For more information on these job postings and how to apply, please refer to the jobs board on the ACEC/NC website at <http://business.acecnc.org/jobs>

Ramey Kemp is looking for an **Accounting Associate**

▪

Alpha & Omega is seeking a **CADD Designer** & a **Civil/Hydraulic Engineer**

▪

Summit Design and Engineering Services, PLLC is looking for a **Traffic Engineer**

▪

Withers & Ravenel is seeking a **Project Engineer**, a **Project Manager**, and a **Transportation Engineer**

▪

Schnabel Engineering is hiring a **Sr. Hydrology** and a **Hydraulics Engineer**

▪

EEE Consulting is looking for a **Water Resource/Stream Restoration Professional**

▪

CLH Design is seeking a **Marketing Coordinator**

To have your company's open positions included in the next NC Report, email [info@acecnc.org](mailto:info@acecnc.org)

## ACEC/NC Achieves 2014 ACEC/PAC Goal !

As you know, each year ACEC/NC is charged by ACEC, our national office in Washington, DC, to solicit contributions from individuals within our membership for our national political action committee, ACEC/PAC.

Our state's goal for 2014 was \$26,594. After a whirlwind campaign, and a successful Holiday Reception and Auction in early December, we roared past the goal raising \$27,030, a record! This is the third straight year ACEC/North Carolina has hit the target!

ACEC/North Carolina members successfully contributed their fair share to allow ACEC/National to continue their influence on Capitol Hill. The work in Washington remains and ACEC/National and North Carolina will continue to defend the rights of the private consulting engineering community with diligence and determination. Our PAC campaign for 2015 has already started, but for now let us enjoy our success in exceeding the 2014 goal!

Thank you again for your contributions, and please accept our sincere congratulations for your part in this outstanding accomplishment!

Jeffrey Douglas, P. E.  
President

Henry Liles, P. E.  
Vice President/PAC Champion

Jim Smith, P. E.  
Executive Director, ACEC/NC



## Environmental Education & Networking Event

Please join us for our annual Environmental Education and Networking Event in Raleigh, NC on February 18, 2015 from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm at the Jane S. McKimmon Center. This event is offered by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and the Professional Engineers of North Carolina (PENC) and is worth 3 PDH's. This program has been designed to meet the informational and networking needs of the engineering and sciences community by bringing you current relevant information for continuing success in your businesses. Our Speakers will be:

- Keynote Speaker Secretary Donald van der Vaart giving a "NCDENR Update."
- LeiLani Paugh & Morgan Weatherford from NCDOT discussing "Regulatory Streamlining Initiatives."
- NC State Representative; Rick Catlin talking about "Environmental Issues & Topics at NC General Assembly"

Come prepared with challenging questions; there will be an opportunity for open discussion with the presenters. Click [HERE](#) to register.

## NC Legislature Kicks off 2015 Session; Major Industry Issues to be Addressed

The North Carolina General Assembly held its swearing in ceremony on January 13th, and will begin the work of addressing North Carolina's many needs later this month. There are major issues affecting our industry to be considered in 2015, including the state's transportation and building infrastructure, and continued regulatory reform efforts begun under SB 743.

ACEC/NC will be in the forefront again fighting for your benefit. To that end, the Legislative Agenda for 2015-2016 has been developed and will be posted on our website. Major initiatives include supporting the development of a sustainable, long-term funding program for transportation, supporting the State Blue Ribbon Commission on infrastructure that will focus on NC's non-transportation needs, including water, sewer, and storm-water, development of a comprehensive Energy program that considers all energy production sources, and the continued regulatory reform efforts begun in prior sessions.

How can you help? Visit your state senator and representative and inform them of the issues, and attend the joint Legislative Day on March 25, 2015. Again this year we will be teaming with AIA, PENC, and CAGC in a united effort to lobby the general assembly. Last year over 140 design and construction industry representatives met and spent the day at the legislature promoting "The Cost of Doing Nothing." This effort helped lead to a major focus of the Blue Ribbon Commission; the deplorable condition of buildings owned by North Carolina. This year's focus will again be infrastructure, and we need your attendance and your voice to be heard!

Watch for more information soon on our "Day at the Legislature!" and join us and be heard!

## Committee Happenings

**Buildings & Infrastructure Committee:** Join us Feb 26<sup>th</sup> at the Charlotte Douglas Airport for a lunch session presentation of the Airport Master Plan, 11:30am - 1:30pm. (1 PDH)

**Business Practice Forum:** The Business Practice Forum's next meeting is scheduled February 11<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Experis Office, 1122 Oberlin Rd, Raleigh, NC 27605. Join us on Feb 24<sup>th</sup> for a Social Media Webinar: *Social Media: What Every Employer Needs to Know* (1.5 PDH)

**Economic Development Committee:** Join us on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Burlington-Alamance Regional Airport for a Honda Aero Tour from 11:30am - 1:30pm (1 PDH)

**Energy Forum:** The next Energy Forum meeting is on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 at the Bank of America Bldg, 421 Fayetteville St, Raleigh, NC 27601 - 13<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

**Environmental Committee:** Join us on February 18<sup>th</sup> at McKimmon Center in Raleigh for the Joint ACEC/NC & PENC Educational and networking event 10:30am - 2:30pm ( 3 PDHs)

**Legislative Committee:** The next Legislative Committee meeting is on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 at the Bank of America Bldg, 421 Fayetteville St, Raleigh, NC 27601 - 13<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

**Marketing PR Forum:** The next Marketing Public Relations meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. - 2:30pm at CDM Smith's Raleigh office.

**Sr. Leaders Forum:** Sr. Leaders will meet April 9<sup>th</sup> at HDR in Charlotte from 1:30pm - 3:00pm.

**Transportation Committee:** The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00p.m. - 5:00p.m. at Stantec's Raleigh office.

## Member Firm Disputes Professional Service Tax

During the summer of 2013, one of our member consulting firms underwent what appeared to be a routine North Carolina tax audit. However, eyebrows were raised when the auditor arrived on site with a co-auditor who specialized in sales tax collections. The consulting firm's accountant could not make sense of the need for a sales tax auditor for a review of a professional engineering consulting firm.

One of the services that the consulting firm provides is the distribution of bidding documents to potential bidders. A non-refundable plan deposit is collected to cover the cost of reproduction, shipping, and bidder registration services.

During the audit, the auditor placed a records request for the consultant to list all revenue from bidding phase plan distribution services provided by the consultant throughout the historical 6-year audit period. Subsequently, the consultant received a notice from the auditor with a statement that the plans were a tangible good and sales tax was due on the plan distribution revenue. After discussions with the auditor reached an impasse, the consultant reached out to their attorney, who assisted in several rounds of communication with the State. The State ultimately withdrew their notice of sales tax due, but not before considerable effort and expense by the member firm.

Member firms who believe that their professional services are being taxed, which is illegal in North Carolina, are encouraged to contact ACEC of North Carolina, who can serve as a resource for education and other support.

The author of this article prefers to remain anonymous.

## Firm Qualifications Based Selection (QBS)

Through the combined efforts of ACEC/NC, PENC, AIA, and CAGC landmark legislation was passed in 2013 and 2014 that modified the state's QBS statutes. Public Entities can no longer "opt-out" of qualifications based selection and must use QBS for solicitation of professional services on all projects except for a sole-source selection with estimated fees less than \$50,000.

HB 857 and HB 1043 closed the opt-out loophole in North Carolina's Mini-Brooks Act and furthered clarified the requirements for QBS selection. Member firms who believe a public entity has violated these statutes should contact ACEC of North Carolina for assistance.

## QBS/ IT'S THE LAW

## Member Firms in the News

### Dewberry

Dewberry announced several new hires: **Elizabeth (Beth) Steffens, PE**, Civil Engineer; **Anne Burroughs**, Biologist; **Teresa Hoblitzell**, Survey Crew Leader; **Ginny Moorehead**, Marketing Manager.

### Kleinfelder

Kleinfelder is pleased to announce that **Charles M. Brown Jr., PE**, has joined Kleinfelder as the Charlotte Operations Manager. He brings more than 24-years of experience in geotechnical and civil engineering, construction materials testing, and special inspections to the role. In his new position, Charles is responsible for growing and managing Kleinfelder's Charlotte office and leading client/business development.

"We are really excited to have Charles as part of our growing team in North Carolina," says Colin Davis, Kleinfelder's regional manager, "and look forward to using his talents to support our client's needs."

### McKim & Creed, Inc.,

McKim and Creed announced **Christopher H. Seamster, RLA** has been promoted to a regional manager of the 350-person Raleigh-based firm. As regional manager, Seamster will lead all planning and land development services provided by McKim & Creed's Raleigh office. Prior to the promotion, he served as landscape architect/project manager for numerous projects in his 13 years with the firm.

### Mead & Hunt

**Rick Decola** joined Mead & Hunt's national team of highway and transportation experts as Roadway Design Manager for our North Carolina operations. Formerly with the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Roadway Design Unit, Rick brings his knowledge of the department's planning and design process to our team, with experience in preliminary and final designs for North Carolina roadway projects.

### Moffatt & Nichol

Moffatt & Nichol is pleased to announce the addition of **Paul L. Jacob, PE**, a Bridge/Structural Engineer to the firm's Raleigh office. Mr. Jacob has 10 years of structural design experience primarily focused on bridges and will lead Moffatt & Nichol's bridge group in Raleigh.

### S&ME

**S&ME** a Raleigh-based engineering, environmental and construction services company, announced it purchased **Littlejohn**, a Nashville-based planning, engineering and environmental design firm.

The two privately owned firms have complementary services, geographic markets and work cultures. By joining forces, they have created a leading engineering firm with over 1,100 employees in more than 30 locations across the U.S.

### WK Dickson & Co., Inc.

WK Dickson has is proud to recognize new leadership opportunities both inside and outside of the firm. **Brian Tripp, PE, BCEE** has been named WK Dickson's newest Regional Manager. Brian assumes responsibility for the operations of the firm's Charlotte region and will continue to play a significant role in the growth of WK Dickson's overall water resources practice.

Brian Tripp also recently took the oath as NC AWWA's new Director Elect. Brian has been an active member of NC AWWA for over thirteen years and has held various positions including Trustee from 2010 to 2012 and served on several committees including the Young Professionals Committee (Past Chair), Program Committee (Current Chair), Communications Committee, and Local Arrangements Committee.

**Ward Marotti**, Senior Project Manager for the Watershed Group, was reelected as the President of the North Carolina Association of Environmental Professionals (NCAEP). The NCAEP is the largest multi-disciplinary professional organization of its kind in the State. Ward has been an active member of NCAEP for over thirteen years and has held various positions including Basin-wide Planning/Waters Committee Chair. This is his fourth term as President.

**Scott Whalen, PE**, Regional Manager of the Raleigh operations, and Practice Leader for Watershed Services, was recently sworn into the office of President for the North Carolina Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA NC), which has over 800 members statewide. Scott has been an active member of APWA NC for over fifteen years and has held various positions at the State and National level including Stormwater Management Division President, National Board Member of APWA's Center for Sustainability, Scholarship Committee Chair, Sustainability Chair and various Director at-large positions, as well as recently serving as the State Board Vice President and President-elect.

To submit your company's news or positions available for inclusion in the next NC REPORT, please email your news items to Meredith Houston at the ACEC/NC office by [CLICKING HERE](#).