

DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



"If You're Not at the Table, You're on the Menu"

Caroline Arnold

As our president for 2008, I would like to encourage everyone to get involved. Since we are an engineering community, we tend to be reactive versus proactive when it comes to being involved in the political process as well as our communities and other organizations. We are blessed that we live in a democracy that offers us the freedom of choice. Exercise your choice and get involved. This year, I am encouraging the CEC membership to look at ways you can make **"a change that matters."** If presidential candidates can run on this platform, why can't your CEC president ask for a little **"change."** The sustainability of our organization and our businesses depends upon continued involvement from our firm's leadership. Here are a few ways you can make a **"change."**

- ◆ Get the new owners and leaders in your firm involved with CEC
- ◆ Volunteer to serve on a CEC committee
- ◆ Get your firm involved in the CEC Local Political Committee
- ◆ Vote and support your political candidates
- ◆ Get involved in local community organizations

These are some very easy steps each of us can take back to our companies and make a **"change."** If you're not involved (at the table) someone else will be. So, come join us at our first Local Political Committee meeting right after our lunch meeting from 1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. on March 31, 2008. Here is your chance to come see what is planned and how you can help make a difference. I look forward to seeing you on the 31st.

Alan D. Greer, PE

Dallas CEC Member Chapter Meeting

Monday, March 31, 2008

4200 City Place, 2711 North Haskell, Ground Floor, Dallas
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration and Networking
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch and Guest Speaker

Topic

Current State & Outlook of the National and Local Economies

Guest Speaker

Dr. Bernard L. Weinstein is director of the Center for Economic Development and Research, and a professor of applied economics at the University of North Texas in Denton. The Center was established in 1989 to provide economic analysis and consulting services to university constituents in the private, non-profit, and public sectors. He also serves as director

of the Institute of Applied Economics. Dr. Weinstein has been a consultant to many companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies, and he testifies frequently before legislative, regulatory, and judicial bodies. He has authored or co-authored numerous books, monographs, and articles on the subjects of economic development, public policy, and taxation. His work has also appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* and currently serves on the *Dallas Morning News* Board of Economists.

Dr. Weinstein received a B.A. in public administration at Dartmouth College and received his M.A. and Ph.D. in economics at Columbia University.

RSVP by Friday, March 28 to Vicki@cectexas.org.

No shows will be charged.

Meals cannot be guaranteed without a reservation.

PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 20, 2008

Summary of Major Points of Discussion

John Terry presented an update on the progress of an update to TxDOT's statewide Hydraulic Design Manual. John indicated they had made some progress, but it may be several years before the manual is completed. John is on the committee assigned to prepare the new manual, James Mercier is the chair of this committee and Ayres and Assoc. is the consultant. The length of time it takes and how much of the work Ayres does will depend on the availability of funding. John Baker asked whether there will be an opportunity for public input. John said that would be up to James Mercier.

John Terry furnished the following comment the day after the PWC meeting:

Per James Mercier, we don't have a procedure for posting prominently that changes have been made to specific manuals, including the Hydraulics Manual. (Note - On the TxDOT "On-Line Manuals" index list, those manuals revised within the past 90 days are grouped as a searchable collection.) But, as we make the "piecemeal" transition to the new manual, we can send the word out through TFMA and NCTCOG each time we make a major addition of the new chapters. As for public input, no, this is a TxDOT manual, and will not be subject to public comment prior to implementation. However, we will gladly accept comment when any errors are found, so that we can work to correct them.

Audra Valamides discussed "Sustainable Public Rights of Way." A new subcommittee has been formed. Ron McCuller of Grand Prairie is the chair of this committee. The appointed public members will recommend private sector members. Don Holzwarth of Dallas County mentioned the success they have had in partnering with major franchise utilities. He suggested involving representatives of utility companies in this committee.

FY09 Regional Public Works Program of NCTCOG. One of the main components of the program is the updating of the iSWM Design Manual for Site Development. The Design Manual for Construction is also proposed to be updated. John have eliminated the Hydrologic Review Committee and combined its tasks under this program. An increase of 5% in the support allocation of PWC members is being proposed. This allocation has not changed for the last 3 years.

NCTCOG Public Works Standards. The current version (dated 2004) is only available for purchase in hardcopy. COG is considering making the new version online possibly for free. A decision is going to need to be made to justify the loss of revenue. The members present favored the free online although no formal vote was taken.

Audra updated the Status of Map Mod. Rockwall County and Parker County are due to receive their Letters of Final Determination on May 5th. Collin County is almost ready for this step but the other area counties are several months from this stage. Audra also mentioned the Upper Trinity Partners which publishes a weekly online newsletter which provides up to date water resources information. This newsletter can be accessed at www.trinitywatershed.org.

Roundtable Discussion:

Ron McCuller mentioned that a Groundwater Conservation District is being proposed for the entire DFW area which would be similar to that already established for Tarrant County. He is tracking the progress of this proposal. Ron pointed out that the continued gas well drilling makes this an important consideration.

Dennis Swartz stated that his city (Duncanville) had been receiving lower bids on recent construction projects.

Ruben Delgado of Collin Co. mentioned the recent Bond Program and the Hwy 121 CDA going on in his county.

Donald Holzwarth with Dallas County mentioned again (similar comments last PWC) the problems with setting up roadway construction agreements with the numerous cities across his county. He said that the TxDOT model was not conducive to "an equal partnership" arrangement. He also echoed that more low bids were being received on construction projects.

Steve Freeman stated that growth had slowed some in Mansfield. One of his current concerns was dealing with the gas wells. There are currently over 100 active gas well sites and 100 more in various stages of permitting. The ROW for natural gas pipelines has become a headache. He is trying to exclude the pipelines from being linearly within public ROW and is charging \$175/ l.f. to cross public ROW.

Elizabeth Baptista-Fernandez of the City of Dallas indicated they have contracted with Freese and Nichols to assist in preparation of a new Drainage Criteria Manual utilizing ISWM. It is yet to be determined exactly what portions of iSWM will be adopted.

THE NEXT PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE IN JUNE
THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC WORKS ROUNDTABLE ON APRIL 17TH

FEATURED BOARD MEMBER



Alan D. Greer, P.E., Regional Vice President, Freese and Nichols

President, Dallas Council of Engineering Companies

Vision and energy distinguish Alan Greer's career, which began in Dallas in 1983. He started at Freese and Nichols, Inc. in 1992 and is a partner and Regional Vice President. Freese and Nichols, Inc. is a 114 year old engineering/architecture/environmental science firm with 385 people located in 12 offices throughout the state of Texas.

Alan's career with Freese and Nichols has been spent helping grow the company beginning with opening the Dallas office in 1995 which has expanded to McKinney, Garland, and Tyler. Most recently, Alan has overseen the expansion in the Houston area with offices located in Houston and Pearland. He also facilitated the acquisition of Sefko Planning Group into FNI in 2007 which added the Lake Highlands and Lubbock offices. He currently serves as regional manager of the east and south-east regions overseeing almost 100 people in 8 operational groups.

Alan's engineering career has been built on public service, technical excellence, and a unique ability to inspire cooperation and move forward on public projects. Alan has designed and managed both multi-disciplined public and private sector infrastructure improvement projects across the State of Texas. He has recently led the Freese and Nichols team in writing the regional iSWM "Design Manual for Site Development" for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and has developed flood control, recreational amenities, and environmental enhancement plans and designs for the Elm Fork of the Trinity River for the City of Dallas. His successes with public works projects demonstrate Alan's leadership and technical role as a catalyst among regional leaders.

Alan's service to the engineering profession encompasses membership and involvement in the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Water Works Association, Texas Consulting Engineers Council (TCEC), Society of American Military Engineers, and Texas Tech University Engineering Alumni. He currently serves as President for the Dallas Chapter of CEC, as well as the chair for the Local Political Committee. He has been awarded the Young Engineer of the Year Award with ASCE and TSPE, the Engineer of the Year Award with Preston Trails TSPE and was recently selected to the Texas Tech University Civil Engineering Academy.

Alan's community service reflects both his interest in public works and desire to improve the communities in which he serves, as a graduate of both Leadership Dallas and Leadership Grapevine. As a member of the Greater Dallas Chamber, the Trinity Foundation, DowntownDallas, GCISD Dad's Club, and MATHCOUNTS, he has continued to participate and encourage younger employees to be involved in the community. He has served First United Methodist Church of Grapevine on the Board of Trustees, as a Sunday school teacher, adult bible study leader and on mission trips with his daughters. Through Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange (GRACE), Alan personally assisted several families who relocated after hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

Alan lives with his wife, Lori, and four daughters, ages 18, 14, 6 and 4, in Colleyville, Texas.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



2008 INTERN PROGRAM

We are in the process of planning the 2008 Summer Intern Program. Last year, more than 100 interns from 26 DCEC member firms benefited from the program. Projects featured included the Lake Lewisville Toll Bridge, Cowboys Stadium and the Watters Creek project site. In addition, interns enjoyed group activities such as a Roughriders Game in Frisco, a visit to Main Event Bowling and Speed Zone and attended a Dallas CEC Member Chapter Meeting. Interns also had the opportunity to take part in a scholarship program. If you are interested in participating in this program as:

- ◆ A member firm seeking summer interns
- ◆ A member firm showcasing a project
- ◆ A student interested in interning with one of our member firms

Please contact Vicki Reece at Vicki@cectexas.org or call (214) 923-2920



2008 TEXAS CEC LEADERSHIP FORUM

Texas CEC is pleased to announce the 2008 Consulting Engineering Leadership Forum - a leadership-training program for young principals and others identified as future leaders in member firms.

The program is designed for individuals with 8 to 10 years experience in the industry. Approximately thirty persons will be selected through application and recommendation. Participants will be expected to participate in four sessions, which will be presented in four modules:

- ◆ Leadership Skills
- ◆ Business Management Skills
- ◆ Vision and Strategic Thinking
- ◆ The External Environment

Applications for this class will be accepted through April 4, 2008. For registration information, visit cectexas.org.

Remember, it's not too late to start thinking about who will become your firm's future leaders and this program is an excellent way to invest in your firm's future.

If you have any questions, please call Michael Hancock or Steve Stagner at 512-474-1474.



9TH ANNUAL NORTH TEXAS PUBLIC WORKS ROUNDUP

Sponsored by NCTCOG's Public Works Council

Thursday, April 17, 2008

9 a.m.—4 p.m.

North Central Texas

Council of Governments

616 Six Flags Drive

Arlington, Texas 76011

Head 'em up and move 'em out for this annual networking and information-sharing opportunity. Don't miss your opportunity to wrangle up some good ideas, new connections and an inside look at what's coming up in public works in the North Central Texas region.

Register via the Roundup link at:

<http://www.nctcog.org/envir/events.asp>

There is no fee to attend and a complimentary Bar-B-Q lunch will be provided.

For questions or suggestions regarding the Roundup contact Elizabeth Zecckine at (817) 695-9231 or ezecckine@nctcog.org



The Dallas SAME Post invites you to attend a Special SAME SEMINAR
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008

Building Information Modeling (BIM) for Federal Projects

What is it? What Should I Be Doing Now?

BIM. BIM. BIM. It is the latest buzz in the Federal facilities world. In FY08, BIM will be required for all military construction projects. This new directive has led to many questions in the engineering community concerning the relevance of BIM to Civil Works projects of this nature within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). **Please join us for this Public Sector/Private Sector Partnership and Training Event.** The program will focus on USACE's BIM initiative, lesson learned on critical projects, as well as how it will affect both the private and public sectors in the design and management of future projects to come.

Location: City Place, 2901 City Place West Boulevard (Haskell and Central Expressway)

Date: Monday, April 14, 2008

Agenda: 9:30 a.m. – Networking/Check in (Coffee and pastries)

10:00 a.m. – Welcome and opening remarks (Dallas Post)

10:15 a.m. – USACE Fort Worth District's BIM Roadmap and initiative

(Speaker Steve Hutsell, Regional BIM Coordinator, USACE Southwestern Division)

11:15 a.m. – Check in for lunch program 11:45 am – BIM Implementation on BRAC Projects

(Panel Discussion with the Joint Program Management Office in San Antonio with representation from the USACE; the U.S. Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment; and the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command)

2:00 p.m. – Break

2:20 p.m. – Lessons learned on public and private sector projects/Demonstration of software applications

4:00 p.m. – Wrap up and Social Hour/Networking (hors d'oeuvres and cash bar)

To register or receive more information, please contact:

Hattie Peterson, Halff Associates, Inc.

(214) 346-6236 or hpeterson@halff.com

GREATER DALLAS CHAMBER

2008 LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON SERIES

We are proud to announce our Legislative Luncheon Series for 2008. Join us for a luncheon with North Texas legislative delegation members to discuss their interim activities, legislative priorities and predictions for the 2009 Session. We will also have an opportunity to discuss important issues for the business community in North Texas. Sponsorships are available and will be honored as the requests come in, please note we will have only one sponsor per luncheon.

To receive an impressive schedule of participating state elected officials or more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Scarlette Dale, Dallas Chamber of Commerce

(214) 756-6724 or sdale@dallaschamber.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



DALLAS CEC 2008 MEMBER CHAPTER MEETINGS

Cultivate your firm's future leaders. Make Dallas CEC Member Chapter Meetings part of your organization's mentoring program by bringing tomorrow's leaders.

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	SPEAKER	TOPIC	OTHER ACTIVITIES	TOTAL PDH CREDITS
March 31	Monday	11:00 a.m.	City Place	Dr. Bernard L. Weinstein, Director for the Center of Economic Development and Research, University of North Texas	Current State & Outlook of the National and Local Economies		.5
April 28	Monday	11:00 a.m.	City Place	Craig S. Reynolds, FAIA Principal, BWR and Chair of the 2008 Dallas ISD Bond Program	2008 Dallas ISD Bond Program		.5
May 19	Monday	11:00 a.m.	City Place				
June 30	Monday	11:00 a.m.	City Place				
July 28	Monday	11:00 a.m.	City Place				
August 25	Monday	11:00 a.m.	City Place				
September 29	Monday	11:00 a.m.	City Place				
October 27	Monday	11:00 a.m.	City Place				
November 24	Monday	11:00 a.m.	City Place				
December	No meeting						

CONTACT INFORMATION

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