

# QBS Please Print and Post QBS

Maine QBS Newsletter  
January - February, 2011

## Maine QBS Website

The Maine QBS Council has maintained a website for more than ten years as a way of assisting both public owners and design professionals in understanding the reasons for selecting design professionals based on qualifications rather than low bid. In November 2010, the original website was completely redesigned and expanded to comply with new "World Wide Web Standards" and to make the site more user friendly while keeping all of the information necessary to help project committees make good decision in selecting project designers.

Although the amount of construction by public entities may be down because of the current economic climate, we can look forward towards a greater level of design and construction activity. This time of limited activity may be a good time to begin planning for the future so that we are collectively prepared for better times. This is an excellent time to learn of the benefits of using "Qualification Based Selection" when selecting firms to provide professional services for not only design but for any other professional service where "QUALIFICATIONS" should be the primary selection criteria.

The basic underlying principle of QBS is that the client is better served when the qualification of the "service provider" are matched to specific services that are required to be provided. Every project or activity has different requirements and every "Owner" may have different expectations. There may be different services that are needed and different time schedules to be met. Each project faces its own set of legal or regulatory requirements that change from time to time. "Green" is becoming a bigger factor for many but the question then becomes, what shade of "green" as there are many shades. The issue for the "Owner" is finding the "Service Provider" that generates the highest level of confidence in the Owners mind. Most unexpected issues can be overcome if there is a strong belief the "Team" consists of the right players.

The new website does provide some features that did not exist in the previous website; one of these features is "Links" to a few other state QBS websites. Even though most states have a QBS Program, not all have an easily identifiable QBS site. The current list will be expanded as other sites are identified.

The real test of the success of the new web site will come over time. Although we may know how many visit the new site, it is difficult to know if the site provided the answers that helped the visitors. If there are issues that need to be addressed on the website, we hope that we get some feedback from visitors. If members of our Sponsoring Organizations have suggestions or comments, we hope they are either passed along to the Sponsoring Organization's QBS Council Representatives or sent directly to the QBS Facilitator. Does the website help improve the process of selecting those that are to provide a "Professional Service"? If you have comments or suggestions for improvement, please let us know.

\*\*\*\*\*

For more information about the Maine QBS Program, visit the QBS Website [www.meqbs.org](http://www.meqbs.org)  
Or contact the Maine QBS Facilitator; Dick Eustis, PE; 35 Pride St; Old Town, ME; Phone 207-827-2238; Email [eustis@infionline.net](mailto:eustis@infionline.net)