May 1, 2016

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

Dear Colleagues –

Great to see you all at our Annual Convention in Washington, D.C., where ACEC's "citizen lobbyists" rallied for FAA reauthorization, comprehensive energy legislation, and in opposition to burdensome changes in overtime rules. What a good feeling to hear Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chair of the Senate Energy Committee, credit ACEC for our close involvement in shaping her energy bill, which passed the Senate – and former White House Press Secretary Dana Perino credited us for effective engagement on regulatory matters (more on the Convention below). We recognized outgoing chair Ralph Christie and his executive committee members for their impressive service to the Council, and welcomed Peter Strub and the new ExCom members for 2016-17. We also thanked retiring Ohio executive director Don Mader for his many years of outstanding service, and welcomed his successor Beth Easterday. The incredible Billy Joel band was quite a hit!

Dave

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General

- Over 1,300 attendees at the ACEC Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. lobbied on Capitol Hill for infrastructure, energy and regulatory reforms; participated in a wide range of business programs; heard prominent speakers including former White House Press Secretary Dana Perino, and TED Talk luminary Daniel Pink.

- The Convention's congressional panel – Representatives Rodney Davis (R-IL), Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), and Bruce Westerman (R-AR) moderated by Politico founder Jim VandeHei – discussed prospects for bipartisanship; and a panel on "Big Data," including officials of CISCO and other well-known IT companies, discussed challenges and opportunities.
• ACEC's Board of Directors approved the Councils' new three-year budget (FY 2017-19) maintaining strong advocacy and business programs.

• ACEC's new national leadership took office with Peter Strub succeeding Ralph Christie as Chair, and Satch Pecori (Chair-elect), Mary Erchul, Joel Goodmonson, Tom Mosure, John Nelson and Abbie Goodman joining Gregg Spagnolo, Lee Cammack, Phil Houser and Dave Raymond as the 2016-17 Executive Committee.

• The Engineering Excellence Awards Gala – recognizing the finest engineering achievements of the year – honored 151 projects, including Grand Conceptor Award winner Walter P Moore for the San Francisco airport's new seismic resistant air traffic control tower.

**Government Advocacy**

• Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairwoman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, spoke to Convention attendees and thanked ACEC for supporting her Energy Policy Modernization Act; the bill passed the Senate later the same day.

• Secured Senate passage of FAA reauthorization legislation that includes a $400 million (12 percent) increase in Airport Improvement Program funding for 2017 and favorable provisions for expanded use of drones.

• ACEC-backed Water Resources Development Act of 2016 – which authorizes new Corps water projects, improves drinking water programs, and expands QBS – was passed by the Senate Environment and Public Work Committee.

• Secured adoption of an amendment by the House Armed Services Committee to the National Defense Authorization Act to prohibit DOD from implementing the so-called “blacklisting” rule.

• ACEC/PAC activities at the Convention raised a record $271,700, just ahead of last year's pace to $1 million; South Carolina and Tennessee met their 2016 ACEC/PAC state fundraising goals, joining Indiana, Hawaii and Wisconsin.

• Met with officials from the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Office of Management and Budget to oppose a proposed overtime pay rule that would increase the salary threshold by 113%.

• Supported legislation to require DOL to conduct additional economic analysis prior to moving forward with its proposed FLSA changes.

• ACEC's Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy Committee and the Office of Construction & Facilities Management of the Veteran's Administration signed an MOU to promote the use of QBS and continued engagement between the Council and the VA.
• Opposed a proposed DOL sick time rule in formal comments, as it would cause member firms to incur significant fees for required weekly reporting and reduce flexibility for employee benefit packages.

• Co-hosted fundraising events for House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

**Business Resources**

• Presented a keynote address to the Water Environment Association of Ontario at their Annual Conference supporting the use of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) for consultant selection.

• Books by convention keynote speakers Dana Perino and Daniel Pink were hot commodities; the authors autographed books and spoke with convention attendees at the ACEC Bookstore.


• Released *Business Development Plan Assessment and Benchmarking*, which outlines an approach for evaluating a firm's marketing and business development capabilities; available at [http://www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).

• April's most popular webinar was: "Dead in the Water – A Case Study of Claims Facing Civil Engineers," which explored common issues including standard of care, contracts, and scope of services, and how to avoid problems in these areas.

• Land Development Coalition released *Non-Disclosure Agreements for Land Development Services*, available at [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).

• Coalitions' best sellers for April included CASE's *National Practice Guidelines for the Structural Engineer* and *An Agreement for Structural Peer Review Services*, both available at [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).