

## - MINUTES -

Liaison Committee  
KC District USACE of Engineers • ACEC/MO • ACEC/KS  
October 13, 2017  
Geotechnology, Overland Park, KS

The Kansas City Corps of Engineers / ACECMO / ACECKS Liaison meeting was held at the Geotechnology's Overland Park, Kansas office from 11:00 until 1:00 p.m. on October 13, 2017. Present at the meeting were:

### KC Corps of Engineers

[David Mathews](#)  
[Rex Ostrander](#)  
[John Holm](#)

### ACEC/MO

[Tom Poer](#)  
[Jessica Borries](#)  
[Jess Commerford](#)  
[John Denlinger](#)  
[John Frerking](#)  
Roland Hauck

### ACEC/KS

[Eric Cenovich](#)  
[Eric Reed](#)  
[Matt McQuality](#)  
[Jason Sweet](#)

### Funding

- The current Continuing Resolution takes the government into early December.
- It is hopeful that an Omnibus or the 12 individual bills could be passed by then.

### FY18

- Swope park - awaiting funding - hoping workplan funding
- New starts
  - Grand River received a new start last year
  - Lower Osage River, Lower Missouri, Little Blue River, KS River Basin.
- Funded to completion - Dodson. St Joseph, Turkey Creek, Topeka
- KC Levees - PH 2 funding in place
- UTC and Manhattan authorized but not funded.
- Strong Congressional support for NWK projects

### Policies

- WOTUS
- New Levee Safety Engineering Circular- defines levee safety program.
  - Draft came out to districts this summer for review.
  - Consolidate and formalize existing internal processes
  - Likely a year or so away from being rolled out
  - Big change is how the Corps plans for new projects. Risk based decision making with life safety and economics.
- National Levee Safety program
  - Inventory of levees outside of corps programs
    - Authorized to roll this out.
    - Working with states to identify levees (similar to dam safety model)
    - Reaching out to states with inhouse resources
  - Federally constructed and turned over
  - PL-8499 built by locals
- MRRP
  - Missouri River Management Plan and DEIS
  - MRRIC meeting at end of month in Kansas City
  - April 24
  - Bio assessment to be completed soon
  - F&W to provide new bi-op
  - Final EIS and new adaptive management plan targeted for Dec 2018

- Budget was \$30M - KC has \$12M of this for studies
- Independent rearing complexes and chutes

## **Programs and Current Work**

- Milcon
  - \$60M in total SRM at various installations; hoping this to be a higher number
  - Need is there for O&M
  - Army will grow. Gaining installations.
  - Riley in competition for another brigade.
  - Bases are pushing more contracting to district for ease of execution.
    - Getting contracts in place including JOCS, POCAS, SATOCS, and MATOCS to execute small projects.
  - Upcoming Milcon projects
    - Many under \$5M and two over \$200M
    - NGA
      - Phase II of the solicitation - about to release the RFP
      - Sept 2018 Award
    - Ft Leonard Wood
      - Phase I announcement in 4 weeks
      - Sept 2018 Award
      - \$250M
  - BRAC – Army is looking forward. Other services in general support.
  - OMA could go to \$80m this year.
  - Robust years ahead for military
- Trump Infrastructure
  - Infrastructure team at the White House engaged with USACSE HQ.
  - Funding stream for infrastructure is evolving. Current direction to be determined.
  - Much of the funding will include a private sector driven effort
  - WRDA 18 - may have the infrastructure bill rolled in.

## **Support to others continues with Afghanistan and Japan Districts.**

### **Small Business Goals**

- KC met the statutory goals, but struggled to meet the USACE goals in HUB and SVDOB as there were a lack of contract vehicles
- USACE goals for FY18 not released yet.
- At times, USACE has difficulty in meeting small business goals since they can count only the work of the prime contractor/consultant.
  - ACEC to investigate if counting small business work for subcontracted efforts would be a positive change for the industry.

### **Civil Works**

- Good year for CG
- O&M has been increasing - good non-routine justifications
- New O&M budgeting process- Budgeting not just historical levels - new priorities and rankings within business lines. Ranking across business lines within O&M realm.
- Non-fed cost share (SWAPPA - power plants) adds about another 30%
- RMC contracts to be awarded in 1QFY

### **Environmental**

- EPA - unknowns with direction the agency will go.
- KC anticipates increase in HTRW realm - EPA Region 7 coming to them
  - Superfund in EPA Region 2
  - Joplin
  - Sunflower

### **PL8499 Eligibility**

- Constructed by others and now in Fed program
- Changing from a compliance based to eligibility with components like an EAP, project plan and a levee board.
- Will be announced in federal register

### **ACEC Update**

- ACEC National Infrastructure Fact Sheet
  - ACEC Support infrastructure package
  - USACE stance on regulatory reforms – requires legislative action to change current laws
  - Way to increase projects' likelihood = increase BCR
- EBI
  - Discussion on how EBI is calculated
  - Trends from previous quarter
  - KC market may be stronger than most
- KS Legislative Priorities
  - Review of Professional Service Tax
  - Use QBS discussion as venue for ACEC to provide feedback to USACE on their procurement process
  - Review of University Engineering Initiative Act in KS

### **P3 initiatives**

- ACEC supports
- Federal concerns about P3 include
  - The ability to input on how things are done
  - Ability to review/reject methods for the project
  - How to maintain control of a facility
  - Importance of structure integrity

### **Future topics include**

- QBS and collective feedback on USACE acquisitions.

**Next meeting scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2018 at Wilson & Co.**