



**St. Louis District Corps of Engineers /
American Council of Engineering Companies of Missouri /
American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois
Liaison Committee**



- MINUTES -

January 17, 2024

SCI Engineering, Inc., O'Fallon, IL

ATTENDEES:

USACE St. Louis: Jonathan Bailey, Kevin Deiters, Chad LaMontagne

ACEC Illinois: Kipkoech Chepkoiit, Shelley Dintelman, Scott Billings (for Scott Harding)

ACEC Missouri: Pam Hobbs (Chair), Jeff Bertel, Jay Ellington, J.R. Landeck, Travis Kassebaum (for Mark Bross)

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. USACE Staffing Updates:

- Susan Wilson has been selected as Chief of Engineering & Construction Division behind Dave Busse.
- Dave Busse, former Chief of Engineering & Construction has retired.
- Jonathan Bailey has been selected as Deputy Chief of Engineering & Construction behind Susan Wilson.
- Brandon Lewis has been selected as Chief of Design Branch behind Jonathan Bailey.
- Josh VerDught is Chief of Geotechnical Branch (December 2022).
- Aaron Sanford is District Contracting Chief (works remotely from Louisville).
- Jeff Wells is the District's ICW Program Manager and 408 Coordinator.
- Other positions are relatively stable.

2. St. Louis District's Current A/E Contract Vehicles and Upcoming Anticipated Workload Needs:

- Currently are working off 2 IDIQ contracts with Tetrattech and Stanley. Tetrattech's contract is at capacity and Stantec's contract has enough capacity to take them through FY 2024. Then will use the Upper MVD contracts that are under selection now to replace these and will utilize regional capacity when needed. For upcoming workload, continue using AE support on Lock & Dam 25 and Veterans Administration (VA) renovations across the country with the potential for separate contracts for VA and Historic Preservation work.
- Contracting continues to change due to TORN process. There are still a lot of questions on the Brooks Act as it relates to TORN. Keeping SF330s up to date will minimize the need to provide supplemental info during selections involving the TORN process.
- It is currently necessary they plan 2-3 years ahead for new contracts.

3. Replacement for St. Louis Small Business Contracting:

- Kelsey Daniels is Acting Small Business Deputy. Interviews for the position have finished, an announcement is expected soon.

- 4. Update on St. Louis District Work Planned for the Upper MVD IDIQ Currently in Selection:**
 - Most of the work will be on Lock and Dam 25, with use for VA work, historic preservation and EPA work. They are still in working under a continuing resolution (CR) for this year, as their ability to finalize it depends on the federal budget being finalized. Ideally, would like to see Lock and Dam 24 fully funded to keep the momentum going from the work on 25.

- 5. 2024 Schedule of Updates on WOTUS and Status of 401/404 Permitting:**
 - Discussed three massive changes in the rule since 2015, new rule in 2022, and repercussion of Sackett vs EPA not related to 2022 rule.
 - Stressed the importance of reaching out to USACE early in the process regarding questions on 404 and 401 permitting to make sure you're on the right track to meet the intent. Missouri currently uses the pre 2015 rule, while Illinois uses the new 2022 rule with consideration to Sackett vs EPA.
 - Chad is POC for St Louis District for permitting, he welcomes everyone to reach out with questions as there may be discrepancies between USACE districts and EPA regions that we are trying to remove as we work towards consistency.
 - Currently, a jurisdictional determination letter and a permit letter are separated whenever possible.
 - Chad LaMontagne and an EPA Region 7 representative will be presenting at the ACEC-MO Winter meeting in February 2024.
 - Regulatory POCs: Rob Gramke, robert.s.gramke@usace.army.mil, (314) 331-8187; Chad LaMontagne, chad.m.lamontagne@usace.army.mil, (314) 331-8044.

- 6. Update on how Missouri is Fairing Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program (CWIFP):**
 - Per Shawn Sullivan, Strategic Planning Coordinator, this funding was initially limited to non-federal dams, and levee safety projects were added. \$81 million was appropriated but it doesn't look like any of the dollars are coming to Missouri. Jonathan suggested we contact him if we have further questions or that we could potentially have ask Shawn to present if further information is requested.

- 7. Updates on BIL Funding:**
 - No additional BIL funds have been received, most of what was received went to Lock and Dam 25 and other O&M projects.

- 8. Update on IDIQ Contracts Status and Schedule for Future Solicitations:**
 - A photogrammetric mapping contract should be awarded soon. Potential for an A/E historic preservation contract and a contract for VA work as mentioned earlier.

- 9. Next Meeting Date:**
 - The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 10:00 am – noon, at CDG's office in St. Louis. USACE St. Louis District is in line to host the meeting following April.