



Weekly Update - April 21, 2023

Welcome to ACEC/MO's Weekly Newsletter! With this email, you'll receive all of the top updates in our organization, as well as new features.

This newsletter will provide an update on our organization. Check your email each week for more updates.

Items included in this ACEC Missouri Weekly Update are listed below.

- **Past Meeting Highlights** (*ACEC/MO Environmental & Energy Conference Highlights*)
- **Upcoming Events** (*A Few Spots Still Open for the 2nd Annual ACECMO/PAC Golf Tournament on May 1; Registration is Open for the ACEC Midwest States Conference on June 7-9 in Springfield*)
- **Liaison Committee News** (*Missouri Department of Transportation (Southwest District) Liaison Committee Meeting*)
- **Industry News** (*R&D Amortization: Take Action Now!; Water Protection Forum Posting of Meeting Agenda; ACEC Sends Letter to President Biden on Workforce Issues*)
- **Member Information & Calendar** (*Important Reminders; ACEC Coalitions for Members to Join; Calendar of Events; New Member Firm Welcomed; Member News*)

If there is something you would like us to include in the weekly updates, or if you need anything else, please contact the ACEC/MO staff: [Morgan Mundell](#) or [Dawn \(Hill\) Danison](#).

LIAISON COMMITTEE NEWS



Missouri Department of Transportation (Southwest District) Liaison Committee Meeting

The Missouri Department of Transportation (Southwest District) / ACECMO Liaison Committee met on March 22, 2023 in Springfield. Committee members in attendance were: Becky Baltz, Scott Heavin, Mike Herleth, Holly Lehmkuhl, Adam Rutz, Chris Teppen and Chip Touzinsky. Items discussed during the meeting included:

- MoDOT District Leadership Updates
- District Staffing Changes - Issues / Concerns
- STIP / Solicitations / Six Month Outlook
- 2024-2026 On-Call (MoDOT and LPA) Update/Discussion
- Future Design Build Projects
- Consultant Deliverables – Quality/Areas of Improvement.

PAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ACEC/MO Environmental & Energy Conference Highlights

ACEC/MO held the first annual Environmental & Energy Conference on April 14, 2023, in Jefferson City. We had 28 attendees for the conference. Members heard from speakers on The Future of Alternative Energy in Missouri; The Road Ahead: Electrifying Transportation; and PFAS: Challenges on the Horizon. Below are some photo highlights from the conference.



Attendees for ACEC/MO's Environmental & Energy Conference on April 14, 2023, in Jefferson City.



Speakers for "The Future of Alternative Energy in Missouri": **Scott Wibbenmeyer** (left), Senior Director, Renewable Business Development, Ameren Missouri; and **Jon Dolan** (right), Executive Director, Missouri Solar Energy Industries Association.



Speakers for "The Road Ahead: Electrifying Transportation": **Maurice Muia** (left), Climate Advisor, Muia Materials; **Jesse Shroyer**, (middle) Owner & Founder, Creo Strategies; and **Elizabeth Prestwood** (right), Policy and Innovation Manager, MoDOT.

The next meeting will be held sometime in September 2023. To see the complete minutes from this meeting, [click here](#). You can also see minutes from the most recent meetings posted on [ACEC/MO's website](#).

MEMBER INFORMATION & CALENDAR

REMINDER

Important Reminders

ACEC/MO Committee Assignment Information: this was recently emailed to member representatives and is due by **April 28, 2023**, to be considered for an ACEC/MO committee in 2023-2024. If you want to serve on a committee and didn't receive the committee assignment preference email, [click here](#) to complete the form.

ACEC/MO Board of Directors Ballot: The ballot was also recently sent to ACEC/MO voting member representatives. The deadline to vote for those nominated for the 2023-2024 Board of Directors is **May 25, 2023**.

ACEC/MO 2022-2023 Dues: ACEC/MO member firms paying their dues on a quarterly or semiannual basis must have all dues paid and in the ACEC/MO office **by June 30, 2023** (*the last day of our fiscal year*).

ACEC Coalitions for Members to Join

ACEC/MO members are eligible to join the specialty groups known as ACEC Coalitions — dedicated communities of ACEC members organized by practice area or firm size. The coalitions provide a range of practical, day-to-day resources to enhance the



Speakers for "PFAS: Challenges on the Horizon": **Jeffery Robichaud** (left), Director, Land, Chemical & Redevelopment Division, EPA Region 7; **Chris Wieberg** (middle), Director of MDNR Water Protection Program; and **Fred Slack** (right), MossParker Technologies.

UPCOMING EVENTS



A Few Spots Still Open for the 2nd Annual ACECMO/PAC Golf Tournament on May 1

ACEC/MO is hosting the 2nd Annual ACECMO/PAC Golf Tournament scheduled for **Monday, May 1, 2023**. It will be held at the **The Club at Porto Cima, 133 Club House Drive, Sunrise Beach, MO 65079**. Registration begins at 10:00 AM followed by a shotgun start at 10:30 AM. ACEC/MO members can bring clients and guests to play in the tournament. There is a maximum of 60 players available and we still have a few spots open. The cost is **\$200** per person, which includes green fees, cart, lunch, and more. If you want to play in this golf tournament, please send in your registration form **NO LATER THAN Tuesday, April 25, 2023**. The registration information is available on our [website](#).



Registration is Open for the ACEC Midwest States Conference on June 7-9 in Springfield

We have finalized an excellent program for the ACEC Midwest States Conference scheduled for **June 7-9, 2023**, in **Springfield, MO**. Below are some highlights of what we have planned. To see the complete

operation of your business and make it more profitable by sharing knowledge and best practices with peers in your area of specialization. See below for information on these coalitions we are highlighting in this issue.

Geoprofessional Coalition (GEO)

Geoprofessional Coalition (GEO) represents the unique needs of firms providing site/civil and geo-technical services, and serves as the industry advocate for firms specializing in land issues. Geoprofessional members get access to an invaluable network of professionals to share best practices, troubleshoot common problems, and explore new business opportunities. To learn more information on this coalition, [click here](#).

Land Development Coalition (LDC)

Land Development Coalition (LDC) represents the unique needs of firms providing land development, site/civil and geo-technical services, and serves as the industry advocate for firms specializing in land issues. LDC members get access to an invaluable network of land development professionals to share best practices, troubleshoot common problems, and explore new business opportunities. To learn more information on this coalition, [click here](#).

Small Firm Coalition (SFC)

Small Firm Coalition (SFC) membership provides direct access to expert management advice, programs, and discussions to help small firms thrive. SFC monitors the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies to protect contracting opportunities and advance important issues specific to small firms. SFC members also receive reduced registration rates to the Annual Winter Seminar. To learn more information on this coalition, [click here](#).

schedule of events, go to [ACEC/MO's website](#). To register for the conference, [click here](#).

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Site Visit of Lake Springfield Master Plan
- CEO Roundtable Discussions for Small & Large Firms
- ACEC/PAC Fundraiser at BigShots Golf
- Welcoming Reception & Dinner
- Seminar Programs: Scope Creep, Level of Service and Leaving Money on the Table; Why Engineers Need to Show Up Panel Discussion; ACEC Members Filling the Engineering Pipeline Panel Discussion; Cyber Trends in 2023; Ownership Transition Planning - Direct Ownership, ESOP or Both; Program on ESG 101 - Are You Ready for the ESG Ripple Effect?
- Spouse/Kids Visit to Dickerson Park Zoo
- Lunch & Keynote Speaker: Aisha Bowe, Former NASA Rocket Scientist & Founder/CEO of STEM Board
- ACEC State Meetings (Kansas, Missouri & Oklahoma)
- Springfield Cardinals Baseball Game vs. NW Arkansas

HOTEL INFORMATION:

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 2431 N. Glenstone Avenue, Springfield, MO 65803. Call 417-831-3131 and refer to our group code "MSC" to get our group rate of \$119.00 single/double. You can also book your sleeping room [online](#). The deadline to reserve your sleeping room is **Monday, May 22, 2023**. To see more information on the hotel, [click here](#). To see the 2022 Springfield Area Guide, [click here](#).

SPONSORS:

Keynote Speaker Sponsor: [EFK Moen, LLC](#)

Platinum Sponsors: [ACEC Business Insurance Trust](#); [Garver](#); [Olsson](#)

Gold Sponsors: [ACEC Life/Health Trust](#); [Chartwell Financial Advisory](#); [InScope](#); [Seiler Geospatial](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS



R&D Amortization: Take Action Now!

ACEC-backed legislation to repeal the 5-year R&D amortization requirement has just been reintroduced in the House and Senate. ACEC member action is needed **today** to build support for repeal of this costly requirement.

Starting on January 1, 2022, Congress changed how firms write off R&D expenses. Previously they could be deducted in the year they were incurred but now must be amortized over five years in most cases.

Calendar of Events

May 2023

May 1 - ACEC/MO 2nd Annual CECMO/PAC Golf Tournament, Sunrise Beach

May 15-16 - ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, Kansas City

June 2023

June 7-9 - ACEC Midwest States Conference, Springfield

June 11-14 - ACEC Annual Convention & Legislative Summit, Washington, DC

June 15-16 - ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, St. Charles

July 2023

July 19-20 - ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, Columbia

August 2023

August 23-24 - ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, Osage Beach

August 24 - 7th Annual ACEC/PAC Golf Tournament, Osage Beach

August 24-25 - ACEC/MO Summer Mtg. & Working Cmte. Session, Osage Beach

October 2023

October 15-18 - ACEC Fall Conference, Austin, TX

November 2023

November 2 - 2nd Annual ACEC/PAC Sporting Clays Tournament, Columbia

November 2-3 - ACEC/MO Fall Mtg., Columbia

Newly added events are italicized. To see a complete calendar of events, go to [ACEC/MO's website](#).



New Member Firm Welcomed

We want to welcome the following new firm to the Council and hope you will too.

Menke Consulting LLC
1110A S. Boyle Avenue

Amortization of R&D expenses is causing significant cash flow problems for engineering firms and creating a disincentive for investment in innovation. It will also place the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage to other countries that provide greater incentives for R&D.

We need you to contact your Members of Congress and ask them to cosponsor this critical legislation. **Even if you contacted your Members of Congress earlier this year, we need you to take action again.**

[Click Here to Contact Your Representative and Senators](#)



Water Protection Program

Water Protection Forum Posting of Meeting Agenda

MDNR has posted the **May 10, 2023**, meeting agenda on their website under the heading Upcoming Meetings. The meeting will begin at **10 a.m.** at the Lewis and Clark State Office Building, LaCharrette/Nightingale conference rooms, 1101 Riverside Drive, Jefferson City, MO with a Webex option being offered for virtual attendance as well.

You can view all necessary information for the meeting by visiting the Missouri Water Protection Forum home page at <https://dnr.mo.gov/about-us/forums-stakeholder-groups/water-protection-forum>.

ACEC Sends Letter to President Biden on Workforce Issues

ACEC president and CEO Linda Bauer Darr sent a letter to President Biden urging action on workforce issues that currently impact the engineering and design services industry. In the letter, ACEC expressed its strong support for IIJA, IRA, and the CHIPS Act but pointed out that America doesn't have enough engineers to do the work called for by this critical legislation.

ACEC requested targeted reforms to the H1-B and other visa programs, such as modifying the material change amendment requirement, recommending that USCIS supports guidance that considers engineering a specialty occupation, and prohibiting multiple entries in the visa lottery system, among other initiatives to ease the labor shortage of engineers.

Read the letter [here](#).

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MEMBER NEWS

Member News

Burns & McDonnell is excited to announce **Leslie Duke, P.E.**, has been named the new CEO of the firm, effective January 1, 2024. She will be the eighth CEO in their 125-year history, succeeding retiring CEO Ray Kowalik.

CDM Smith congratulates **Barb Wells, P.E.**, for being selected as the Member of the Year for the WTS Greater Kansas City Chapter.

TREKK Design Group, LLC congratulates **Tawn Nugent, P.E., DBIA**, recipient of this year's Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award from WTS Greater Kansas City Chapter.

Change of address, email, or any information? You will need to login to your profile in our member portal through our website.