

WSDOT/ACEC Structures Team
Meeting @ Berger/ABAM Office

Attendees:

Dick Stoddard	Bob Fernandes
Mike Bauer	Jose Carrasquero
Paul Wolf	Jim Schetler
Mat Preedy	
Bill Prill	
Ron Lewis	

Absent:

Mark Johnson	Steve Aisaka
--------------	--------------

Notetaker: Dick Stoddard

Opening Remarks:

Next meeting will be on October 13th at WSDOT Bridge Office – Tumwater Rm. 1034.

Signatures for Long Term Issue #4, “*Determining Environmental Requirements*” Proposal 1 – “*Change the Existing Environmental Criteria and Approval System to a Performance Based System*” will be performed at our next meeting.

Membership:

David Goodyear, TY Lin – Olympia, will join the team at the October meeting.

Previous Minutes

Minutes from the June 9, 2006 meeting were review and approved with minor corrections.

New Issues:

WSDOT BDM Updates and Design Memos

How does the current publishing schedule and Design Memo’s affect practices in the Bridge Design Community? Do conflicts between the Design Memos and the published text in the BDM create problems for design staff? If problems exist, what can be done to improve the process?

Bridge Manual Publication and Design Memos:

The current process for making rapid design policy changes makes use of Design Memos from the Bridge Design Engineer to over ride BDM information. The Design Memos remain in effect until the BDM is revised to address the Design Memo and published for distribution. Conflicts between the Design Memos and BDM usually take months and sometimes years to resolve. Conflicts between the BDM, and between subsequent Design Memos can effect design efforts by WSDOT staff, consultants, Local Agencies,

and other states using the WSDOT BDM.

Is this an issue that this team is willing to address? -

Consensus is Yes.

The BDM and Design Memo publishing policy will be listed as an active issue for the Structures Team to discuss.

Today's Agenda

9:00 am	20 min	Standing Agenda Co-Chair's opening remarks – membership (10 min) Review and approve minutes from last meeting (5 min) Review and approve today's agenda (5 min) Review status of outstanding action items (10 min)
9:20 am	20 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LT 4 – “<i>Determining Environmental Requirements</i>” Proposal 1 – Performance Based Permitting Sign Letter to Sponsors
9:40 am	40 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LT 4 – “<i>Determining Environmental Requirements</i>” Proposal 2 – Use WSDOT Std. Spec. in Environmental Documents
11:00 am	10 min	Break
11:10 am	50 min	LT 4 – “ <i>Determining Environmental Requirements</i> ” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal 2 – Use WSDOT Std. Spec. in Environmental Documents
12:00 pm	30 min	Working Lunch Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering Cost Estimates – Status
12:30 pm.	1:00 pm	Wrap Up Review action items from today's meeting (10 min) Prepare agenda for the next meeting (10 min) Analysis of today's meeting (10 min)
1:00 pm.		Adjourn

Action Items from June Meeting

- Item 1
LT4 –Proposal 1 “*Change the Existing Environmental Criteria and Approval System to a Performance Based System*” Prepare a letter to sponsors to present recommendations – Letter was prepared by Bob and is ready for signature
- Item 2
LT4 Proposal 2: Prepare a letter to sponsor to present the recommendations: – The letter was drafted and the submittal will be discussed at todays meeting. - Bob
- Item 3
Fill ACEC vacancies on the team. – Final ACEC vacancy was filled by Dave. Goodyear - Bob

Minutes from 9/08/06 Meeting**As-Built Plan Issue:**

Current process is not broken, it is just not being followed due to limited manpower and time in the construction PE offices.

It was suggested to transfer the the As-Built plan responsibility to the contractor.

LT4-Proposal 1 – Performance Based Permitting

Signature and transmittal of the letter is deferred to after this meeting. Bob and Dick will meet to sign the letters.

LT4-Proposal 2 – Use of Standard Specifications for Env. Commitments.

Entire proposal was condensed to an executive level document. Implementation portion of the recommendation was revised to be appropriate communication at the executive level (Transportation Secretary and possibly the Governor). Governor office endorsement may be required to facilitate acceptance by state environmental agencies.

It was agreed that the transmittal letter for LT4, Proposals 2 through 6, would reference the problem statement contained in the transmittal letter for Proposal 1. This will shorten the length of the letter and focus on the Proposals.

LUNCH**Sharing Topic – Engineering Cost Estimates**

Cement prices will continue to dominate the cost of concrete. Many new cement suppliers are emerging but quality assurance is not high and acceptance of the new suppliers will take a long time before they impact the market for transportation projects.

Aggregate may have limited pit suppliers but is not considered to be a dominate cost factor.

The volatility in the price of oil is creating a high risk for contractors. WSDOT is implementing a program to accept changes in fuel and asphalt prices.

WSDOT is creating large scale lump sum bid items with unit pricing to qualify force account items that have run away costs.

WSDOT Estimators are trying to look at each project like a contractor.

Engineers can be prone to using average costs or information from limited sources.

Market conditions and project specific factors must be considered.

Bridge Office square foot unit pricing is only appropriate for scoping project costs but is not sufficient for project specific cost estimating. Bridge Office is advancing the quantity based estimates approach to earlier phases of the design process.

Estimators need to understand the contractors’ dilemma in finding available equipment, available labor, and experience management. Everything is in short supply.

The Alaska Way Viaduct project is using expert estimators across the country to revise the cost risk factors and price escalation in the construction estimate. New estimates are being prepared for the tunnel and above ground options.

WRAP UP

Invite sponsors to a meeting or meet with them to provide an update on team activities and active proposals.

Action Items for Next Meeting

- Item 1
Invite Don Nelson and Jugesh to the October meeting. Purpose will be to introduce the team and to provide a briefing of the Environmental Proposals, LT4 P1 and P2 in particular.
- Item 2
Sign LT4 Proposal 1
- Item 3
Prepare LT4 Proposal 2 for acceptance and signature

Meeting Adjourned