

**ACEC – VT
Meeting Notes
March 14, 2007**

Attendees:

Greg Edwards, *Stantec*
John Kiernan, *Phelps Engineering*
Harry Colombo, *Dubois & King*
John Forcier, *Forcier and Aldrich*

Peter Boening, *SUE*
John Lens, *GeoDesign*
Walt Windus, *Erdman Anthony*
Richard Dall, *McFarland-Johnson*

Topics and Items Discussed:

1. **UVM Presentation** – Dean Domenic Grasso, Jeff Marshall
 - Relevant Reports:
 - "Rising above the Gathering Storm"
 - "Engineer 2000"
 - Engineering Curriculum – Unchanged from 1950-2005.
 - Need to expand scope of what engineers are thinking.
 - Propose holistic approach – Teach "How to think like engineers."
 - School reorganization: Combined departments to "School of Engineering".
 - Initiatives / Programs:
 - What can we do really well? Differently?
 - Multi-disciplinary aspects – integrate all departments.
 - Reforming curriculum with 2-year core.
 - Multidiscipline – capstone project – Senior year sponsored by industry.
 - Graduate program. More perspective level (i.e. sustainability)
 - Complex systems analysis – environment, biosystems, transportation center.
 - Include emerging large scale behavior (i.e. weather)
 - More research focus with improved PhD program.
 - "Whole New Mind" – recommended reading.

2. **Potential Future Speakers**

George Crombie – ANR
Bob Rae / Dave Burley – VBGS
Kevin Dorne – VCCD

Bob Stevens will follow up with speakers and schedule presentation.

3. **Seminars**
 - Principal Negotiation Seminar – April 19, 2007.
 - LIFT Program – Greg Edwards will solicit and distribute more information on ACEC-MA program for future discussion.
 - Soils Seminars – Wednesday, May 9th; Refresher Course – May 31st at VTC. Notices have been sent to VSE and NSPE and posted on VT Tech's website.
 - Stormwater/Erosion Control Courses: John is pursuing courses with NY PDH certification.

4. **Day at Dome – April 19, 2007, 8:00 am**
 - John Forcier will bring boards and needs other to bring easels.

5. Engineering Excellence

- Awards have been announced. Banquet is Friday, June 22, 2007, on Spirit of Ethan Allen. Members should put out a press release. Potential speakers: Dean Grasso, University Transportation Research Center Leader, Frost Heaves Coach / Owner, Governor Douglas. Steve McKenzie will pursue scheduling speaker.

6. Legislative Issues

- H303 & H296 will be discussed at next ACEC VT / ANR meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, in Waterbury.
- Bulletin 3.5. State AG's office, likely not to change liability clause, but Chris Eckman is continuing to follow up. Practical risk is:
 - Most claims are likely for negligence so as insurer is responsible.
 - Defending state could be managed by negotiating into the settlement.
- Strategy is to contact AIV and ACEC National for suggestions and consider scheduling meeting with Governor, Attorney General's office, and ACEC.
- Statute of repose. Current legislative pursuit is dropped. Now it is proposed to initiate a "grass roots" campaign. Lobbyists will provide a proposal for ACEC's consideration.
- ANR Copyright: A motion was passed to not pursue ANR copyright issue further at this point.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 11, 2007