

**ACEC - VT**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 10, 2008**

**Attendees:**

Chris Baker, *VHB*

Greg Bakos, *VHB*

Chris Bean, *CLD Consulting Engrs.*

Peter Boemig, *SVE Associates*

Bob Chamberlin, *RSG*

Mike Desrouchers, *Jacobs*

Greg Edwards, *Stantec*

John Forcier, *Forcier & Aldrich*

Dale Gozalkowski, *Clough Harbour & Assoc.*

Dean Groves, *Fay Spofford & Thorndike*

John Kiernan, *Phelps Engineering*

Gary Leach, *Leach Engineering*

John Lens, *GeoDesign*

Dave Saladino, *RSG*

Dale Spaulding, *Louis Berger Group*

Laura Wheelock, *Hoyle Tanner & Assoc*

**Guests:**

David Dill, *VTrans*

Rich Tetreault, *VTrans*

**Topics and Items Discussed:**

**1. VTrans Presentation (David Dill):**

Funding shortfall is primary focus of administration, with consideration of finding new sources of revenue and alternative methods of funding projects.

**2. ACEC Vision/Mission:** John Lens introduced new board members, and requested input on formulating the local chapter's mission for his 2-year term. Suggestions included:

- Legislative Actions
  1. Influencing legislation is a tremendous effort and has been accomplished through members donating time to testify in legislative committees
  2. NH and MA chapters each have a paid lobbyist to keep track and follow up on bills, provide regular reports at monthly meetings
  3. VT Chapter should try and coordinate with other organizations with similar interests to pool resources for a lobbyist, even if only part-time. For example, surveyors and architects approached us to help with Statute of Repose legislation.
  4. Need to have a more active legislative committee.
- Business/Financial Roundtable discussions are very helpful and applicable across market sectors.
- NH ACEC has a strong transportation focus. VT ACEC's focus seems to be transportation and environmental; Structural and MEP firms haven't been as active.
- Attendance at meetings is most dependent on speaker and topic for month. Discussion about potential to not meet as frequently and focus on getting key speakers. We should attempt to schedule legislative topics and key speakers prior to

January when the Legislature convenes. Discussion about changing the meeting time to early morning or late afternoon to allow for at least a partial work day for members with long travel times. Most members present were happy with the meetings centering on a lunch, and most were happy with new venue in Montpelier, though parking issue was a noted concern.

- Training – ACEC VT sponsors soil courses, and NH runs technical sessions as a revenue source; but if more technical sessions are offered it may dilute the efforts of other VT organizations with a technical focus
- Need to focus on adding membership and getting existing members active again

3. **Annual Meeting:** In Montreal / October 19-22, 2008.
4. **ANR Subcommittee:** Did not meet in October. Next meeting is November 12, 2008
5. **VTrans Subcommittee:** Meetings will now occur on a quarterly basis. Next meeting scheduled for December 10, 2008, 10 a.m. at the National Life Building in Montpelier.
6. **ACEC/VT Meeting:** The October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled due to low attendance. The next ACEC/VT Meeting will be held November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Main Street Grill & Bar.

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