



OCEAN COUNTY SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

A Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

PRESIDENT

John M. Mele, PE

The previous meeting was held at Martell's Waters Edge in Bayville, NJ on Tuesday, November 30th, 2010.

VICE PRESIDENT

Richard M. Cestone, PE

ATTENDING OFFICERS:

TREASURER

Patrick B. Lynam, PE

John M. Mele, PE

President

SECRETARY

Matthew M. Lunemann, PE

Richard M. Cestone, PE

Vice President

Matthew M. Lunemann, PE

Secretary

PAST PRESIDENT

Mark E. Reme, PE

William P. Delisky, PE

Director

CHAPTER DIRECTOR

William P. Delisky, PE

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report: A Treasurer's Report was presented and approved by the membership.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the October 28th, 2010 meeting were presented and approved by the membership.

Director's Report: Director Delisky informed the members that Arthur Russo had recently passed away. Mr. Russo was the head of the State Board of Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors and will be missed dearly.

An update regarding the status of the NJ continuing education requirements was also given. Additional details are provided under New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

The rehabilitation of the Route 35 Bridge over the Manasquan River was the program for the October meeting. Thank you again to Mr. Fisher and Ms. Sillick from PB for giving the excellent presentation.

The chapter finances were briefly discussed following the presentation. After a review of the interest rates available from several banks offering high interest savings accounts, including Ally, BOA, and HSBC, the recommendation was to keep the chapter's account with ING.

The OCSPE is still looking for nominees for NJSPE awards. Anyone interested or with information should contact the officers. Nominations are due back to the NJSPE by January 28, 2011.

A LinkedIn group was formed for the OCSPE with updated meeting information posted. Meeting attendees were, once again, encouraged to join. The LinkedIn page should be fully updated by the next meeting.

A reminder was given that MATHCOUNTS will be held on February 12, 2011 with a snow date of February 19, 2011. Volunteers are needed. Another reminder will be sent out in January.

Following up on the September meeting, it was noted that NSPE has been sending out emails offering free courses for credit. All members were encouraged to email the OCSPE officers for questions regarding continuing education credits.

NEW BUSINESS

The NJSPE Continuing Education Committee met on November 12, 2010. Director Delisky will serve as vice-chair of the committee, while Mike Testa will chair a subcommittee. The committee is trying to get a draft of the regulations sent to the NJ Registrar. Regulations must be published for a 30-day review period when comments will be taken on the regulations. If critical comments are received, the regulations will be revised and sent for re-review. If all goes smoothly, the regulations will take effect in January.

The state will prepare, document and control what courses are taken by NJSPE members, with the committee's intent to have review of courses be free for NJSPE members. A fee would be required for non-members.

Director Delisky stated that they could not guarantee if outside courses would be accepted for credit. However, he once again reminded the membership that questions for PDH credit are available each month in "CE News". Continuing education credit is also available for free at <http://www.stagnitomedia.com/cedu/>. AISC also offers webinars. These webinars are expensive but can use multiple computers at one location to split up the cost.

Free courses are also available for licensed building, plumbing, or electrical inspectors, with the courses available for a fee to others. Professional engineers can apply to become an inspector for a nominal fee every two years that is less than the cost of the courses.

A process is not yet set up to approve courses for P.E. continuing education credits.

Mr. Testa stated that the NJSPE is trying to get reduced credit hours for P.E. / P.L.S. dual license holders. He has heard that the requirement may be reduced to a total of 36 credit hours for dual license holders but they will continue to try to reduce this requirement.

Mr. Testa went on to state that technical-based society meetings may count for continuing education credit. Two credit hours are also needed for ethics. The subcommittee will continue to define courses available and have any courses or seminars sponsored by societies validated by those sponsors for credit. They are currently looking for quick credit opportunities. Mr. Testa recommended keeping any certifications or other records of credit-hour opportunities.

Director Delisky stated that the intent of the continuing education requirement was not as a money-making purpose but to present engineers in a more professional light to the public. His goal is to find credit opportunities that are affordable or free. NJSPE is offering 15 online credits for free. The officers will try to get OCSPE meetings approved for credit once a review system is in place, with a goal of at least one credit hour per meeting.

Engineering Career Day will be held at Rutgers University on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Volunteers are needed to help with the grunt work (brochures, etc.) for the event. Volunteers with 5 years or less of experience are preferable but all volunteers are welcome. Meetings are usually by conference call.

Ocean County College's Engineering Career Day is looking for volunteers to give a 15-minute presentation. Volunteers will get a free lunch. The event will be held on the Wednesday during Engineers Week. Announcements will go out via email for the OCC Engineering Career Day, the Rutgers Engineering Career Day, and MATHCOUNTS in January.

PROGRAM

John Withers, P.E., P.P. from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA) gave a presentation on the Garden State Parkway (GSO) Improvements in Ocean County.

The NJTA is currently under a 10-year capital investment program worth a total of \$7 billion. Of this \$7 billion, \$2.9 billion has been allocated to the GSP widening project; \$1.775 billion to bridge improvements; \$960 million to interchange improvements; \$790 million to roadway improvements; and \$575 million to facility improvements. Projects in Ocean County accounted for a total of about \$546 million with the majority going toward the going toward the MP 63 to MP 80 Widening project (\$200 million) and the MP 83 to MP 100 Shoulder Widening project (\$190 million).

Overviews of recent projects within Ocean County were given, including the following projects:

- Interchange 89
 - o recently completed
 - o Designer – GPI
 - o Contractor - George Harms Construction Co., Inc.
- Interchange 80 Improvements
 - o Designer – RBA
 - o Contractor – Ferreira Construction Co.
- Interchange 69
 - o completed in 2006; added ramps to complete the interchange
 - o Designer – T & M Associates
 - o Contractor – George Harms Construction Co., Inc.
- Interchange 77
 - o Designer – Boswell Engineering
 - o Contractor – Agate Construction
- Interchange 67
 - o joint initiative with Ocean County for Bay Avenue improvements (\$25 million)
- Interchange 63
 - o ramp improvements
- MP 63 to MP 80 Widening
 - o southernmost section still ongoing
 - o widening through Barnegat tolls with express EZ Pass
 - o Designer – Parsons Brinckerhoff
 - o Contractor – Earle Construction

- VMS Replacement
 - o initial phase at two locations: MP 68.6 NB & MP 86.8 SB
 - o construction awarded in February 2010, to be completed in March 2011
 - o Designer – Medina Consultants (now part of T.Y. Lin)
 - o Contractor – PKF Mark
- MP 83 to 100 Shoulder Reconstruction
 - o current pavement drop-off results in substandard shoulders
 - o full shoulders on both the left and right sides of the lanes will be provided by this project
 - o program currently about 3 months behind schedule and in design phase
 - o Program Manager – Dewberry
 - o Contract 1 – MP 83.5 to 88.5 – Lead Designer – Greenman-Pederson, Inc.
 - o Contract 2 – MP 88.5 to 92.5 – Designer – Michael Baker Corp.
 - o Contract 3 – MP 92.5 to 99.5 – Designer – Jacobs Engineering

Mr. Withers also presented details concerning upcoming projects including the following:

- Interchange 83
 - o project to connect Indian Head Road to the northbound (NB) GSP
 - o two phase program
 - Phase 1: replace bridges as part of shoulder widening
 - Phase 2: perform interchange improvements
 - o permitting turned down a southbound (SB) exit
 - o the project design will accommodate a future SB exit if approved at a later date but wouldn't be until after the completion of the shoulder widening
- Interchange 88 & 89
 - o project to construct tolls at Exit 89 and eliminate tolls at Exit 88
 - o preliminary design by Ocean County
 - o Designer – HNTB
- Interchange 91
 - o project to complete the NB & SB interchange and replace the Burnt Tavern Road bridge over the GSP
 - o Designer – Stantec, Inc.
- Final Phase of VMS Replacement
 - o 11 locations between MP 60 & MP 92 with 4- to 5-mile spacing of VMSs
 - o Designer – Arora & Associates

A brief run-through of projects planned in Ocean County between 2011 and 2014 was given as follows:

- Mainline Guide Sign Improvements
 - o improvements to sign panels to address new requirements from NHTSA
- Miscellaneous Bridge Improvements
 - o substructure and deck repair
- Miscellaneous Interchange Improvements
 - o lighting & striping
- Roadway Safety Improvements
 - o guiderail, clear zone, & RPM
 - o trying to gain agreements with Ocean County for maintenance of damaged guiderails
- Facility Improvements
 - o maintenance, NJ State Police facilities, service areas, and toll plazas

Money for the improvements came from a \$7 billion bond program. The MP 63 to MP 80 Widening project will realign the Barnegat toll plaza as part of the improvements. The Barnegat toll plaza was the top accident area in Ocean County on the Garden State Parkway.

The Barnegat Township Engineer (in attendance) asked Mr. Withers if there were any plans to improve coordination between contractors. He noted that delays during construction of a sign structure at Interchange 67 delayed the opening of a ramp. Mr. Withers stated that he was aware of the situation and expressed his disbelief that temporary signage was not put up to open the exit ramp at Interchange 67 sooner. However, after speaking with the contractor, a temporary sign was put up to allow the ramp to open.

The presentation concluded with a reminder that anyone can always check the Authority's website for additional information on NJTA projects and that the website is about 75-80% correct / up-to-date.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our thanks to John Withers, P.E., P.P. for an outstanding and comprehensive presentation on Garden State Parkway improvements in Ocean County. We further extend our thanks and congratulations to Sue Rissmiller for winning the 50/50 raffle. Sue won \$47 and donated \$25 of her winnings back to the scholarship fund. As a result, a total of \$72 was added to the Alex Duque Scholarship account from this month's raffle.

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew M. Lunemann, P.E.
Secretary