

Maine Section report to Region 1 Assembly

March 24, 2007

For up to date information check out of web site at MaineASCE.org

Legislative: The Section approved adding \$1250 in section funds to the \$3750 SPAG grant for the Transportation Funding Reform campaign. We have joined with 40 plus other partners in Transportation to form a coalition. This campaign has started in earnest with Section participating in many meetings with Maine Better Transportation Association (MBTA) to get educated on the issues. We invited MBTA to give a presentation of the issues to our Board on March 15th. I have shared info with membership through emails and with articles in our newsletter as well as keeping our web site up to date (and some weeks changing several times during the week). Board recently voted unanimously to oppose LD781 Maine DOT budget and we have written a letter to the Transportation Committee. We are planning on supporting an alternative funding bill created by MBTA and the coalition in early April (Hearing Schedule April 6). Be Schonewald continues to be an active chair, and is monitoring the A/E Legislative Task Force info. There is little to report yet on other issues, although things are starting to get going. Also, Past President Phil Dunn testified on behalf of ASCE in favor of LD 320 (Widening through Portland) on 2/13. Section Leadership Team had voted by email 10-0 with 2 abstaining in favor of this testimony. Maine Section has been involved with Landscape Architects as well reviewing and providing comments on their bill to change LA from a title law to a practice law (we are optimistic). Phil also attended Fly-In in Washington, DC and reported back. Report is included in April Informant.

Diversity: March 2007, New Committee Formed - **Committee on Diversity.** The Maine Section has formed a new committee, the Committee on Diversity chaired by Jennifer Paul, which is to focus on women and minorities in Civil Engineering in Maine. The committee goals are to:

- compare the status of women and minorities in Civil Engineering in Maine to the rest of the working population,
- review established procedures at both the U>Maine Civil Engineering program and at the MaineDOT,
- review current ASCE diversity programs and activities,
- assure that ASCE is representing Civil Engineering in the best light and making the profession attractive to all individuals, and
- work with other groups, agencies, or associations with similar goals to promote Civil Engineering as a career choice for women and minorities.

Awards: I am proud to announce that Maine Section was named Small Section of the year and our Newsletter was named Newsletter of the Year for a Small Section.

Meetings/Programs:

- **September 21, 2006**- Maine Section Monthly meeting/dinner program (including Board meeting) in Portland including an afternoon technical tour of Pike Industries Quarry and Asphalt Plant; presentation by John Dority, Chief Engineer for MaineDOT on the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate;
- **October 19, 2006** - Board meeting and program in Auburn, "*Migrating your Project through the Vernal Pool Rule*" - Sharon G. Newman, PretiFlaherty LLP. In April 2006, the Maine legislature and governor's office authorized adoption of the "Vernal Pool Rule" and beginning on September 1, 2007, significant vernal pool habitat in Maine will be protected by law under the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA). Join Sharon G. Newman of Preti Flaherty Beliveau & Pachios LLP as she discusses the essence of the new rule, its' relationship to current state and federal regulations, and how the regulatory framework might affect projects you and your clients are pursuing. The Maine Section ASCE encourages you and your clients to attend this valuable presentation.
- **November 16, 2006**- Board meeting and Program in Bangor, Adam Myers will present project information about the conversion of the Cutler Naval Base. Closed in the late 1990's, The Cutler Naval Communications Unit is located in Machias Bay on a peninsula between Cutler and East Machias and is home to one of the worlds most powerful transmitters, the VLF (very low frequency). The facility was commissioned in 1961 to prevent the disruption of communications between the Pentagon and submarines, ships and planes that can occur in northern latitudes from Auroral effects. The facility consisted of three coastal locations, totaling 3,000 coastal acres and had some remarkable features, including over 2,000 miles of copper wire underground and in the ocean. The two principal antenna arrays were composed of 26 radio towers, some almost 1,000 feet tall. Cutler has it's own power plant to provide power required by the 2-megawatt transmitter.
- **December 7, 2006**- Annual all day Transportation Conference sponsored by Maine Section ASCE at the Augusta Civic Center
- **December 14, 2006**- Social Hour with Younger Members at Bull Fenney's in Portland;
- **January 18, 2007**- Board meeting and Program: *Composites in Civil Marine and Onshore Structures*, Martin Grimnes, Harbor Technologies, Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport Maine. Joint Meeting with SEAM. As many of Maine's coastal infrastructure approach the end of their useful life, the needs for cost-effective rehab or replacement structures will rise. Marin Grimnes of Harbor Technologies will discuss the history of composite manufacturing, applications within Maine, and case histories.
- **February 15, 2007**—Board meeting and program: *Porous Pavement in Cold Climates*, Dr. Robert Roseen, University of New Hampshire, Director of the Center for Stormwater Technology Evaluation and Verification at the UNH Environmental Research Group. To be held at Governor's Restaurant and Banquet Center, South Portland, Maine. Porous pavement has received renewed interest as a best management practice in stormwater runoff management. Porous pavements allow rain and snowmelt to pass through into the pavement section, thereby reducing direct runoff from the paved surface, providing filtering of some stormwater pollutants, and enhancing groundwater recharge. Civil engineers need to understand the principles of porous pavement design, the implication on site design and construction, and the long-term maintenance, performance, and life-cycle costs in order to help clients and the public understand when and where porous pavement applications are appropriate. Dr. Robert Roseen, Director of the Center for Stormwater Technology Evaluation and Verification at the UNH Environmental Research Group, will present on the Center's research of porous pavement technologies, particularly as it relates to performance in cold climates

- **February 2007**- Maine Section sponsors E-week celebrations/promotions/events in Portland area (Feb 19-24) including an all day technical seminar, dinner program (Feb 23rd) and an expo for school aged children (Feb 24th); E-week expo at USM field house was a big success with over **1200** people in attendance. This was Maine Section's second SPAG for the year- \$3563.
- **March 15, 2007**- Maine Section Board Meeting (only) in Portland ;
- **March 22**- Financial Planning seminar with younger Members in Portland;
- **March 28, 2007**- ASCE Technical Seminar - **PROJECT MANAGEMENT BOOTCAMP** - The strength of every A/E/C firm is its project managers. It is crucial for every practice to develop highly skilled Project Managers to be successful. PSMJ's A/E/C Project Management Bootcamp® dramatically improves the performance of Project Managers and has trained more than 30,000 project managers worldwide. Join us as we host an abbreviated session of PSMJ's Project Management Bootcamp for a reduced cost. Lewiston Ramada Inn.
- **Social Hour with Younger Members, Great Lost Bear in Portland**
- **April 19, 2007**- Maine Section Monthly meeting/dinner program in Orono - this meeting is the annual joint meeting with University of Maine ASCE Student chapter Steve Curtis of Tetra Tech and President of the ASCE Institute Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers will discuss the Hurricane Katrina Damage Assessment.
- **April 26, 2007** Maine Section Board Meeting (only) in Portland at the Maine Turnpike Authority at 5 PM;
- **April 28th- Rebuilding Day**- younger member sponsored event helping repair/maintain a house for someone in need of help
- **May 16th- Boston Red Sox event**- Younger Member fund raiser
- **May 17, 2007**- Maine Section Annual Meeting/dinner program in Brewer Maine (May 17th) including officer induction for new year, awards, etc... This meeting will feature the OCEA finalist Penobscot Narrows Bridge. Presentation by David Cole, Commissioner of MaineDOT (invited) and Tom Doe, Project Manager. A bus tour to the bridge itself will occur in afternoon so show up early!
- **June 8, 2007** - A/E Golf Tournament for charity

In addition Younger Members sponsored PE review course on-line co-located in both Augusta and Portland:

February 20 – Structural Analysis
February 22 – Structural Design
February 27 – Soil Mechanics
March 1 – Foundation Engineering
March 6 – Open Channel Flow
March 8 – Hydraulics and Water Supply
March 13 – Waste and Wastewater Treatment
March 15 – Surveying
March 20 – Traffic Engineering
March 22 – Steel Design
March 27 – Hydrology
March 29 – Construction Materials

.Scholarship

There were about 14 scholarship applications that made it before the deadline. They are in the process of being judged. Award made at May meeting.

Student Outreach

West Point Bridge Design contest is underway with over 15 schools participating so far and over 50 registered entrants.

Website

Some recent updates are in place; being kept up to date regularly by Ralph Nelson, a Project Manager at Devine Tarbell. New features include voting for constitution and bylaws as well as the bridge contest.

Web traffic has been up recently, likely from people looking for the online voting and bridge contest.

Newsletter– continue to produce a 8 or 12 page newsletter each month. Considering charging for job ads and changing to a white paper (lighter) to save on shipping cost. All ready offer e-mail version only to some, though many still want mailed copy.

Public relations/Community outreach- Rebuilding Day in April by Younger members; A/E Golf Tourney in June, Participated in building a section within Construction Area of Children's Discovery Museum in Augusta; ASCE team entered into Ski –athon to benefit Maine Handicap Skiing (March 24th).

Institutes- Joint Meetings with Seam (Structural Engineers of Maine)- have had several meetings with SEAM Board to try and resolve issues and get SEAM to be associated with ASCE Maine Section as a unit of SEI. Will likely not happen though will continue to cooperate and provide members with best opportunities.

Constitution & By-laws- Have made the changes and put on the web site, pass out at every meeting, attempting to get 51% of subscribing members to vote in order to ratify (need majority of course of those who vote but we need a majority of members to vote in order to count it!). This will be a year long process but we hope to accomplish. Don't worry, we modified the way we can make changes in the future.

Respectively Submitted,

Peter S. Merfeld, PE

President, Maine Section