

Black River Falls Dam Rehabilitation January Meeting

*Thursday January 23, 2014
Noon to 1:15pm*

*The Great Dane - Hilldale
357 Price Place
Madison, WI 53705*

[Register Here](#)

Warren Hayden from Mead & Hunt will be speaking about the Black River Falls Dam rehabilitation project which won the ASCE Wisconsin Section Engineering Achievement Award for a project with construction cost between \$2 and \$10 million.

Professional Engineers attending the event will receive .5 PDHs. Lunch will be a selection from a limited menu. The total cost of the event is \$18 per person and can be paid either via PayPal (when you register) or will be collected at the door.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Volunteers Needed for MathCounts

Come help us with the scoring MathCounts tests and/or proctoring (which involves handing out and picking up tests and walking around the room during tests to keep everyone honest).

For those who are unfamiliar with MathCounts, this is a math based competition series held in all 50 states for students in middle school. Local schools bring teams to compete both as a team and individually, with the hopes to move on to the state competition and then nationals, where they compete for college scholarships.

We need to be at the Lowell Center around 8am on Saturday Feb 1st. Morning beverages and donuts will be provided and we should be done prior to lunch.

Please let us know by Friday Jan. 24th at noon if you can make it, so I can pass on

our final numbers to the event organizer.

Hope you can make!

[Register Here](#)

Steel Bridge Regional Competition Judges Needed

UW-Platteville will be hosting the regional steel bridge competition this year on March 28th-29th. They're in need of help from the professionals for judging! You can volunteer for one or both days. Contact Jake Gregerson (gregersonj@uwplatt.edu) if you'd like to get involved.

Save the Date!

The annual volunteer day for Habitat for Humanity will take place March 8th. Please save the date so you can plan on attending this fun event!

The Sustainability of Sustainability *John Fraenhoffer, Region 3 Director*

The ASCE Board of Direction will meet in March to deliberate the National Initiative of Sustainability. The Committee on Sustainability will present its activities, and the Board will be considering ASCE's role as a Founding Organization of the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure. Some of the important issues include:

ISI Capitalization: Past President Klotz is an ISI Board Member and in a July 5 Memorandum describes ASCE "at a crossroads regarding its efforts to promote sustainability", assesses ISI as being "under-staffed and under-capitalized", has concluded that "ISI has no ability to reach a national audience", and wonders "Why would ASCE risk its investment and reputation on a new initiative prior to a full understanding and conversation about the relative risks?"

ISI Facts: I have been researching ISI during the fall and have learned:

1. ISI is being sustained by the generosity of a few consulting engineering firms, being very free with their principals' time and expenses.

2. ISI depends in part on the ENVISION Tool rating and certification fees. On December 10, Terry Niemeyer, PE, ISI President, reported that *"We currently have 4 projects either awarded or in the official process of being verified. We have had inquiries from another 10 or so, but those have not formally submitted their requests."*
3. During the Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting, incoming President Jon Lindert inquired if any members were utilizing Envision. No hands were raised.

ISI Competition: ISI faces project rating tool competition in the transportation discipline from **Greenroads** and the Federal Highway Administration's **INVEST**. **Greenroads** is a sustainability rating system for roadway design and construction, originating at the University of Washington. In 4 years of development, **Greenroads has been tested on 120 design and construction projects**, of various types, shapes, sizes, and stages of design and construction. The Federal Highway Administration launched INVEST in October 2012. **INVEST**, the Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool, was developed by FHWA as a practical, web-based, collection of best practices designed to help transportation agencies integrate sustainability into their programs and projects. The District of Columbia and 16 states currently employ **INVEST**, including Ohio, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming.

I encourage feedback from Region 3's Sections and Branches. Should I vote for additional ASCE expenditures in support of ISI? Does ASCE need a revitalized strategy? How should ASCE keep the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure sustainable?

Happy New Year Region 3!!! Be well and prosper!

President's Message

Happy New Year to all my fellow Southwest Branch Members! I hope you had a safe and enjoyable holiday break. As we move into 2014, we're looking forward to great interactions and networking within our regional civil engineering community and also making a difference by giving back.

Thanks to all of you who attended our December luncheon at Vintage Brewing to listen about diverging diamond interchanges from Tera Meyer and Kyle Henderson from Strand Associates. We had great turnout at 38 in attendance - a packed

house! I also received some great feedback from members during on what they would like to see done at the meetings in the future to foster more interaction and helping those who might be looking for work. Coming up for this month, we'll be hearing from Warren Hayden from Mead & Hunt about the Black River Falls dam project - which won one of the best project awards at the Wisconsin Section meeting back in September - at the Great Dane Hilldale on January 23rd. It should be a great meeting, and I hope for equally good attendance as we had in December.

In 2014, consider giving back to your community through volunteering with ASCE. How can you help? Save the date for our upcoming Habitat for Humanity volunteer day on March 8th. It's great fun and a good excuse to get out of the house for the day when so many of us end up stuck in the house near the end of winter. It's a good way to get to know others in the branch while having fun and giving back to the community. Keep watch for an email announcement in the coming weeks confirming final details. The Younger Member Group also organizes regular volunteer days throughout the year with an upcoming MathCounts volunteer day on February 1st.

Another way you could consider giving back is through mentoring. Consider talking to a class at a local school about what it's like to have a career in civil engineering or speaking at one of the student chapter meetings about career path options or interesting projects you've been involved in. Mentoring is also a good way to help - be it for a new hire at your company learning the ropes or an ASCE student looking for career advice. Mentoring can be as simple as going out for coffee once a month and chatting about project management strategies, resume reviews, or what courses to take to be competitive in the workforce. I've had great mentors and have been a mentor myself and can say that it's a truly rewarding experience on both sides of the table (plus you might get coffee out of the deal as well!).

If you have any ideas about volunteering opportunities, are interested in mentoring a student, or have suggestions that might help our branch activities be more effective for you in your careers, please feel free to talk to me or any of the board members at the meetings for any comments or suggestions.

Amanda Stone, P.E.
ASCE WI Southwest Branch President

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