**ACEC/NC and PENC Joint Environmental Committee**

**Agenda and Minutes**

**Meeting Date & Time:** November 5, 2020 11:45 am to 1:00 pm

**Location:** Zoom Call

**Agenda**

* Welcome, Introductions Jill Gurak, P.E., AICP, Atkins Global

Jonathan Ham, P.E., City of Raleigh/Raleigh Water

* Subcommittee Reports: (5 minutes each)

Please introduce yourself and your vice chair, go over subcommittee total, identify any major issues on the horizon, any new information and any action plans you have.

* + Transportation Committee Chair Lisa Samples, MS Consultants
  + Air Quality Andy Rodak, Duncklee & Dunham
  + Environmental Planning Candace Andre, VHB /Katharine Mather, WSP
  + Natural Resources Nikki Thomson, Kleinfelder
  + Solid & Hazardous Waste Edmund Woloszyn, S&ME
  + Stormwater Becky Ward, Timmons Group
  + Water/Wastewater Dan Bula, Kimley-Horn
  + Energy Steve Kerlin, Terracon

* Presentation – 404 Permits & Threatened Endangered Species Surveys
  + Elias (Eli) Ruhl, Froehling & Robertson

Elias (Eli) Ruhl has worked at F&R (Froehling & Robertson) for over 16 years and currently serves as the Regional Environmental Manager, overseeing environmental operations throughout the Carolinas. During his time at F&R, he has worked as a field technician, project manager, group leader, and department manager prior to taking on his current role three years ago. Eli also serves as the Natural Resources Service Line Leader for F&R’s environmental operations and has been providing comprehensive wetland analysis, permitting, and delineation services for more than a decade.

In his free time, Eli enjoys roasting coffee, playing sports, doing CrossFit, wrangling his four kids, and enjoying the great outdoors.

* Upcoming Meetings:
  + Future 2021 Joint Environmental Committee Meetings are TBD – More information to come
* Closing Comments and Adjourn

**Minutes**

**Attendees (this list may not be complete). Thirty-nine people registered for this event. There were 36 in attendance.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Committee Members** |  |  |  |
| **Name** | **Role** | **Firm** | **Email** |
| Jonathan Ham | Co-Chair | City of Raleigh | Jonathan.ham@raleighnc.gov |
| Jill Gurak | Co-Chair | Atkins | Jill.gurak@atkinsglobal.com |
| Leah Young | Co-Vice Chair | KCI | Leah.young@kci.com |
| Chris Windley | Co-Vice Chair | CJS Conveyance | cwindley@cjsconveyance.com |
| Colin Davis | Board Liaison | Kleinfelder | cdavis@kleinfelder.com |
| James Smith | ACEC-NC Executive Director | ACEC-NC | jsmith@acecnc.org |
| Catie Cox | Membership Director | PENC |  |
| **Subcommittees** |  |  |  |
| No representative this meeting | Air Quality Subcommittee |  |  |
| No representative this meeting | Environmental Planning Subcommittee |  |  |
| Steve Kerlin - Chair | Energy Subcommittee | Terracon | Steve.kerlin@terracon.com |
| Nikki Thomson - Chair | Natural Resources Subcommittee | Kleinfelder | nthomson@kleinfelder.com |
| No representative this meeting | Solid/Hazardous Waste  Subcommittee |  |  |
| Leah Young - Liaison | Stormwater Subcommittee | KCI | Leah.young@kci.com |
| Will Larsen - Chair | Water-Wastewater Subcommittee | Wooten Company | wlarsen@thewootencompany.com |
| **Registrants** |  |  |  |
| Cole Benjamin |  | RS&H | Cole.benjamin@rsandh.com |
| Kim Bereis |  | DRMP | kbereis@drmp.com |
| Richard Bollinger |  | RS&H | [Richard.bollinger@rsandh.com](mailto:Richard.bollinger@rsandh.com) |
| Kristin Brickman |  | Jacobs | [Kristin.brickman@jacobs.com](mailto:Kristin.brickman@jacobs.com) |
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| Jesse Byrd |  | LJB | jbyrd@ljbinc.com |
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| Ben Fullenwider |  | RS&H | [Benjamin.fullenwider@rsandh.com](mailto:Benjamin.fullenwider@rsandh.com) |
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| Eric Kessler |  | Froehling & Robertson | ekessler@fandr.com |
| Natalie Lockhart |  | Arcadis | [Natalie.lockhard@arcadis.com](mailto:Natalie.lockhard@arcadis.com) |
| Jennifer Martin |  | Parrish & Partners | jmartin@parrishandpartners.com |
| Katherine Mather |  | WSP | [Katherine.mather@wsp.com](mailto:Katherine.mather@wsp.com) |
| Neal McElveen |  | Terracon | [Neal.mcelveen@terracon.com](mailto:Neal.mcelveen@terracon.com) |
| Mark Mickley |  | SWCA Environmental | Mark.mickley@swca.com |
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| Eric Olsen |  | Wooten Company | [eolsen@thewootencompany.com](mailto:eolsen@thewootencompany.com) |
| Jon Persson |  | Sepi | [jpersson@speiinc.com](mailto:jpersson@speiinc.com) |
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| Tom Raymond |  | S&ME | [traymond@smeinc.com](mailto:traymond@smeinc.com) |
| Bill Rice |  | Rice-USA | [brice@rice-usa.com](mailto:brice@rice-usa.com) |
| Brian Roberts |  | McCormick Taylor | btroberts@mccormicktaylor.com |
| Elias Ruhl |  | Froehling & Robertson | [eruhl@fandr.com](mailto:eruhl@fandr.com) |
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| Heather Wallace |  | NV5 | [Heather.wallace@nv5.com](mailto:Heather.wallace@nv5.com) |
| Ben Whitley |  | Froehling & Robertson | [bwhitley@fandr.com](mailto:bwhitley@fandr.com) |
| Mitchell Wimberley |  | Kleinfelder | [mwimberley@kleinfelder.com](mailto:mwimberley@kleinfelder.com) |

Jonathan Ham opened the meeting with introductions and the announcements from the agenda.

Jill Gurak introduced the guest speaker – Ms. Tricia Hatley – NSPE President. Ms. Hatley updated the group on NSPE’s focus areas for the coming year. A few notes from her presentation are listed below.

* NSPE currently has over 35,000 members and is looking to grow in membership this year, and they have a new Chief Engagement Officer.
* NSPE has a technical certification program (NICET).
* The first PE license was granted to Charles Bellamy in Wyoming in 1907.
* PE Day is the first Wednesday every August.
* NSPE is monitoring and working on legislative threats to PE licensure across the US.
* NSPE has an Emerging Leaders Program that’s two years old
* NSPE has an Educational Foundation that grants scholarships.
* NSPE is looking to strengthen its ties and relationships with SWE, Society of Black Engineers, Society of Hispanic Engineers, and others to broaden diversity efforts in the engineering community.
* Some of the challenges to Pes include: threats to licensure, commoditization of engineering services, acceptance of more technicians doing the work, AI doing engineering work, NCEES dropping licensure for software engineers

**Subcommittee Reports**

No reports were provided for Air Quality, Solid and Hazardous Waste, or Energy.

Environmental Planning. Katherine Mather stated that a major focus of this subcommittee this coming year will be the new NEPA regulations.

Natural Resources. Corey Darnell stated they will be looking at the new Waters of the US rule that came out in June 2020 and revised riparian buffer rules effective June 15, 2020.

Stormwater. David Webb stated they will be meeting in October and discussing living shorelines and the FEMA grant process.

Water-Wastewater. Chris Windley introduced Will Larsen as the new chair of this subcommittee. Mr. Larsen noted that November is the CDBG funding cycle deadline and the fall season is generally busy for water/wastewater funding.

**Next Committee Meeting**

The next Environmental Committee meeting will be held November 5, 2020 via Zoom. Mr. Eli Ruhl from Froehling & Robertson will be presenting on Section 404/401 permits and protected species surveys.