Items included in this ACEC Missouri Weekly Update are listed below.

- **COVID-19 News** *(ACEC/MO Revamps Website on COVID-19 Resources; Client Relations in the Era of COVID-19; MoDOT Letter to Consultant Industry on COVID-19)*

- **Industry News** *(ACEC CEO Named to White House Economic Revival Industry Group; Implementing a National Return to Work Plan; ACEC President’s Monthly Update; Missouri Chamber of Commerce Uniting for Recovery Plan)*

- **Notable Events** *(Member Firm Offering Free Webinars to Earn PDHs; Zoom Calls in Response to COVID-19)*

- **Member Information & Calendar** *(Important Reminders…; Election of ACEC/MO Board of Directors; Member News; Calendar of Events; Tip of the Week)*

If there is something you would like us to include in the weekly updates, or if you need anything else, please contact the ACEC/MO staff. We are working remotely so the best way to contact us is by email: Bruce Wylie (BruceWylie@acecmo.org) or Dawn Hill (DawnHill@acecmo.org). We would love to hear from you!

## COVID-19 NEWS

### ACEC/MO Revamps Website on COVID-19 Resources

As we continue to receive more information on COVID-19, we made the decision to revamp the COVID-19 Resources page on ACEC/MO’s website. We have included more information and resources and have it separated by categories to make it easier to find information. If you think there is something else we should include on this page, please contact Bruce Wylie or Dawn Hill. To see the newly revamped COVID-19 Resource Center page on ACEC/MO’s website, click [HERE](#).

### Client Relations in the Era of COVID-19

As COVID-19 turns business as we know it—and our global communities—upside down, there are no easy answers or sure projections. While some AEC and environmental consulting firms
have not experienced a disruption to projects, others are seeing warning signs and are increasingly nervous about what’s next and some are already slashing costs to contain the bleeding.

**Multiple industry surveys** reveal that the business impacts, like the virus itself, could vary widely and may well get worse before they get better. We're hearing from many firm leaders who are doing their best to balance the day-to-day pandemic response with planning for project delays and revenue declines. None of us knows when our business life will return to any sense of normalcy, but we do know this: firms must prioritize their relationships with current and prospective clients now so that those relationships come out stronger on the other side.

Effective client relations in the era of COVID-19 means demonstrating that you’re nimble, you’re focused on solutions and service—and that you care. As we often say, *your clients don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.* Now’s the time to demonstrate that as much as possible. To see the complete article that includes a complete list of things you should do, click **HERE.**

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**MoDOT Letter to Consultant Industry on COVID-19**

Earlier this week, MoDOT sent a letter to the consultant industry in regards to following CDC guidelines and conducting field work. The collective industry of consultants who provide professional services to the state of Missouri and the Department of Transportation must all practice the recommended CDC best practices on job sites to stay safe. Also, their efforts must be obvious to all Missourians as many are unable to work. Infrastructure improvements have been determined as essential work, however we must practice the CDC best practices of social distancing or jeopardize the ability to remain working.

Contractors performing work for MoDOT have been asked, through a Job Special Provision COVID-19 Safety, to adjust their safety plans to accommodate the CDC guidelines and submit these revised safety plans as part of any awarded contracts. More information about this Job Special Provision can be found in [MoDOT’s Online Plans Room](#) – JSP Change – ALL CALLS.

MoDOT requests our consultants review their safety practices for their company and adjust those practices, if needed, to accommodate CDC guidelines on social distancing while working to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Having a plan is the first step. Please ensure your plan is communicated and implemented into your daily operations.

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**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**ACEC CEO Named to White House Economic Revival Industry Group**

Linda Bauer Darr, President and CEO of the American Council of Engineering Companies, has been appointed to the Construction, Labor and Workforce Great American Economic Industry Group by President Trump. These industry groups, which span every segment of the U.S. economy, will be tasked by the White House to help chart a course forward toward prosperity as the nation emerges from the coronavirus pandemic.
“You need a plan before you can build and America’s engineering firms are ready to design a built environment that will carry the nation back into prosperity,” Darr said. “It will be critical for the President and Congress to agree on an infrastructure stimulus that will create jobs through sustained, predictive, long-term investment. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the task force to advance this critical goal.”

Implementing a National Return to Work Plan

What will a return to work look like? That is the question weighing heavily on the minds of government leaders and public health officials, employers and their employees, and American families striving for the delicate balance of staying safe and making ends meet. It is a question that begs more questions. But this much is increasingly certain: returning to work will be gradual, phased-in, and will vary by factors such as location, sector, business type or size, and the health status of workers. It also will require continued social distancing, expanded use of personal protective equipment, and other counter-measures.

Whenever the return to work begins, the planning for it must begin now. The American business community must begin preparing now for new processes, requirements, or restrictions for which there is no playbook or precedent. And we must not allow a lack of resources, regulations that are not fit-for-purpose, and the fear of litigation to sideline efforts to return to work and life – safely, successfully, and sustainably. To help business and government anticipate the challenges we may face, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has begun to explore and catalogue some of the major implications of returning to work in this environment – ranging from workplace safety and employee rights to liability concerns and continued revenue disruptions. Some of our initial thoughts are detailed below across three different sections:

1. **Essential Services and Resources** (items included in this section are General Health Screening; COVID-19 Testing; Personal Protection Equipment (PPE); Transportation; Childcare)

2. **Resolution of Regulatory and Legal Liability Issues** (items included in this section are Health Privacy; Discrimination Claims; Safe Workplace Requirements; Support for Independent Contractors; Employment Practices; Exposure Liability; Product Liability; Medical Liability; Securities Litigation; Customer Communications; False Claims Act)

3. **Support for Businesses and Individuals** (items included in this section are Business Dependent on High-Density Gatherings or Travel; Individuals Delayed in Returning to Work).

The document is intended to spur discussion. We hope you will not only read it, but also react to it and add to it. We don’t have all the answers today – or even all the questions. It is worth pausing to thank all of those who never stopped working, who risk their personal health to keep everyone else safer. As we proceed, we should think about how we honor them and recognize their efforts. Working together, we know we can be better prepared for the successful reopening of our economy and an eventual return to normal ways of working and living.

To see the detailed document from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, click [HERE](#).
ACEC President's Monthly Update

We hope you are all holding up and taking advantage of ACEC’s resources to keep firms operating and staff members safe. Be sure to check out their Coronavirus Resource Center for up-to-the-minute information.

More than 2,600 members have participated in our four member surveys, telling us about the impact of COVID-19 on their firms. We are very impressed with how firms have focused on protecting their staff, with more than 90 percent of them turning to virtual work and social distancing. Click here to view the results from the fourth survey, conducted April 7-8. The first, second, and third survey results are also available.

They’ve also had a great response to their complimentary series of Rescue, Recover Rebuild online classes helping firms respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. All the classes are available on their website for free streaming, and they have several more classes scheduled in the next couple weeks.

Also, make sure you save the date for April 25th from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, when ACEC will hold their Board of Directors meeting as a virtual event. They are inviting all ACEC members to participate in the meeting where they will welcome the new Chair and ExCom members. Click here and bookmark this link to join the meeting.

Finally, ACEC has put together a President’s Monthly Update that includes areas of interest in Advocacy, Communications & Marketing, Membership & MO Services, and Business Resources & Education. To see the detailed update, go to ACEC’s website.

Missouri Chamber of Commerce Uniting for Recovery Plan

In March of 2020, a portion of the Missouri economy came to a sudden, intentional halt. As the public health crisis around COVID-19 arrived in Missouri, many businesses across the state have dramatically altered their operations as Missourians adopted social distancing practices to help stop the spread of the disease. These necessary actions have caused a profound and negative impact across Missouri’s economy.

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce has put together plan titled 'Uniting for Recovery - A COVID-19 Economic Response Agenda' to position the state for a strong recovery once the coronavirus threat passes. This plan is founded on the Missouri 2030 strategic initiative, which was established by the Missouri Chamber as a stable, data-backed plan that would guide the state toward economic progress even as political leadership changed and the state faced unexpected challenges. While a global pandemic was not foreseen when Missouri 2030 was conceived, the plan’s vision remains a clear guide Missouri must follow to emerge strong from this pandemic.

We must act now to ensure our state's economy can fully restart from this intentional pause in business and resume our progress toward economic leadership and prosperity for all Missourians. To see their Uniting for Recovery plan, click HERE.
Member Firm Offering Free Webinars to Earn PDHs

We are all aware of how recent events have resulted in the cancellations of conferences and educational seminars around the country, but don’t let this put your professional development on hold. Bartlett & West is hosting a series of free, live webinars the next 2 Thursdays in April. These webinars are a great opportunity to engage with subject matter experts as they share their knowledge and expertise. In addition, when you attend a LIVE webinar you can receive Professional Development Hour (PDH) credits. Past webinars are available ON DEMAND, but do not include PDH credits. Here is a list of the next 2 webinars in April:

- **Thursday, April 23 at 2 pm CST**: Planning for Aging Infrastructure Needs with Your Water Rates
- **Thursday, April 30 at 11 am CST**: Future of Technology in the Rail Industry.

To learn more about each webinar and to register, click the Register Now button below. Can't make the live webinar? Register anyway and they’ll send you the recorded webinar to watch at your convenience. However, attendance at the live webinar session is required to receive PDH credit. Seating is limited, so make sure to register today to claim your spot.

Register Now

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**Zoom Calls in Response to COVID-19**

Bruce Wylie, ACEC/MO President (top-left), attended a Zoom call this week along with Linda Darr, ACEC President (top-middle), Jim Sullins, ACEC Oklahoma President (top-right), Scott Heidner, ACEC Kansas Executive Director (bottom-left), ACEC National staff, ACEC Executive Committee, and many other state executives. These calls are once or twice a week to coordinate concerns, issues and responses necessary to the global pandemic.

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**MEMBER INFORMATION & CALENDAR**

**Important Reminders...**

* ACEC/MO Committee Assignment Preference forms were recently emailed out and are due by May 7, 2020 to be considered for an ACEC/MO committee in
2020-21. If you want to serve on a committee and didn't receive the committee assignment preference form, click [HERE](#) to download the form.

* **ACEC/MO Board of Directors Ballot** was also recently emailed to voting member representatives. The deadline to vote for those nominated for the 2020-21 Board of Directors is **May 20, 2020**.

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**Election of ACEC/MO Board of Directors**

The ACEC/MO Advisory Committee recently met by teleconference and finalized the below list of nominees for ACEC/MO's 2020-21 Board of Directors. An official email ballot was sent to ACEC/MO voting member representatives. If you received that email, please complete the ballot by the deadline of **May 20**. All the nominees will then be sworn in at the ACEC/MO Board / Membership Meeting on June 8 at the Chateau on the Lake, Branson.

Nominated candidates included in the ballot:

- **Chair**
  - Vicki S. LaRose, P.E.

- **Directors**
  - Neil S. Brady, P.E.
  - Dan W. DeArmond, P.E.
  - Jason S. Dohrmann, P.E.
  - Robert A. Gilbert, P.E.

- **ACEC Director**
  - Linda L. Moen, P.E.

- **ACEC Alternate Director**
  - Michael S. DeBacker, P.E.

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**Member News**

**Alfred Benesch & Company** is pleased to announce that **John Carrato**, President and Chief Executive Officer, is taking on a new role with the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) as Chair of the newly formed ACEC Research Institute. (ACEC's Research Institute replaces ACEC's Research and Management Foundation.)

**CASCO Civil** congratulates **Tom Buerk III, P.E.** on becoming the Civil Engineering Manager of CASCO Civil! With over 10 years of experience in the industry, Tom exemplifies leadership and dedication to the growth of CASCO Civil.

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**Calendar of Events**

- **May 13-14** -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, St. Louis
- **June 7-9** -- ACEC Midwest States Conference, Branson
- **June 11-12** -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, Independence
August 21 -- ACEC/MO Summer Meeting, Columbia
October 14 -- ACEC/MO EEA Project Entry Deadline
October 19 -- ACEC/MO 4th Annual ACEC/PAC Golf Tournament, Columbia
October 28-31 -- ACEC Fall Conference, San Diego, CA
November 4 -- ACEC/MO EEA Judging
November 13 -- ACEC/MO Fall Meeting, Columbia

Newly added events are italicized. To see a complete calendar of events, go to ACEC/MO's website.

Tip of the Week

TIP: Let Your Goals and Priorities Direct Your Schedule.
Instead of focusing on events and tasks, first define your priorities and establish goals. Then make your daily plan.

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