

QBS Colorado meets with Dept. of Local Affairs

Representatives from QBS Colorado gave a presentation to personnel from the State of Colorado, Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) on August 9, 2010. Tracy Lyman and Ben Wilking from QBS presented live to several DOLA representatives in Denver and eight field representatives attending by phone and webinar conference link from communities across the state.

The Director of DOLA began the meeting by providing an overview of DOLA's current concern for the misinformation recently identified on the DOLA website with respect to the procurement of architectural and engineering services. Mr. Lyman and Mr. Wilking presented the benefits of using the competitive QBS process and provided several real-life examples of communities in the state that continue to use QBS for successful projects.

As a result of this meeting and our ongoing discussions with DOLA and the State Architect's office, DOLA is currently revising their website to reflect QBS procurement methods.

The Director also noted that Senate Bill SB07-051 requires high performance certification standards (LEEDS) and that the State Architect is very interested in getting these implemented throughout the state as well. DOLA is interested in learning how QBS process can assist with this mandate.

Questions posed by the group were limited as many found the process straightforward. One question fielded by QBS Colorado included how to implement the process for design-build projects. The field representatives appeared supportive of QBS and had no questions about implementation.

DOLA representatives complimented the presentation and thought that the message should be delivered at several association meetings for Owners. QBS Colorado considers the meeting to have been a great success and is hoping to make future presentations to help implement QBS in small communities throughout the State.

Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado Join QBS Colorado

QBS Colorado is thrilled to have added the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado (PLSC) as an active member and supporter of our organization. On behalf of PLSC, Mr. Gary Gable, PLS has begun serving a three-year term as a QBS Colorado Board Member.

The PLSC was founded in 1981 by 12 Licensed Land Surveyors to improve and promote the Profession of Land Surveying in Colorado, to provide educational opportunities for land surveyors, to promote professional ethics among professional land surveyors, to provide a forum for discussion among professional land surveyors, and to be a political lobby for the profession of land surveying in the State of Colorado. The PLSC currently has between 500 and 600 members. These dedicated individuals truly care for their profession and the clients which they serve. Information about the PLSC can be obtained from the web site: www.PLSC.net. Please utilize a PLSC member surveyor (listed in the roster on the website). These are the folks who represent the best of the profession.

ACEC Outreach Leads to a String of QBS Victories

Reprinted from ACEC's Last Word, February 25, 2010

ACEC, working in close coordination with ACEC/Kansas and the Joint Forces National Guard, secured another victory last week for Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS).

This is the latest in a series of successful interventions by ACEC in recent months that have led to federal agencies bringing their procurement policies into compliance with the Brooks Act.

The latest victory occurred when a member firm notified ACEC/Kansas of an apparent Brooks Act violation in a National Guard RFO. Kansas alerted the national headquarters, which contacted the Guard to raise the issue and reinforce the benefits of QBS both for taxpaying citizens and for the overall public safety.

Kansas National Guard procurement officials were very responsive to ACEC's concerns, not only fixing the problem contract but offering to work with the Council to educate their managers on A/E procurements. Scott Heidner, executive director of ACEC/Kansas underscored the significance of this offer, saying "Making sure they comply with Brooks moving forward is the lasting success."

ACEC has successfully intervened on behalf of member firms a dozen times since last summer with DOD agencies, FEMA, GSA and other federal agencies to promote QBS and full compliance with the Brooks Act. In many cases, procurement officials were unaware of the benefits offered by QBS and its required applications.

ACEC stands ready to continue its outreach and education efforts with these agencies, and strongly encourages all member firms to immediately identify Brooks Act non-compliant procurements whenever they arise.

Members are also encouraged to participate on the Federal Agency and Procurement Advocacy Committee, which promotes the interests of ACEC members engaged in contracting with the federal government. For more information on the committee, or to alert ACEC of potential QBS violations involving federal agencies, contact Mark Steiner, ACEC senior policy director, at msteiner@acec.org or call 202.347.7474. Locally contact Sue Bertram, QBS Colorado coordinator at sue@bertramlaw.net.

Montana A/E Agency Wins QBS Award

The Montana agency responsible for the construction and maintenance of all state-owned facilities has been named the winner of the 2010 QBS Award by NSPE and the American Council of Engineering Companies. The honor is given annually for commitment to qualifications-based selection in the procurement of A/E services. The award was scheduled to be presented July 15 at NSPE's Annual Meeting in Orlando.

NSPE established the award to recognize public agencies that make exemplary use of the QBS-selection process at the state and local levels. The program now also accepts submissions from private-sector groups. NSPE and ACEC also selected the City of Las Vegas and Clark County, Nevada, as QBS Merit Award winners.

NSPE believes qualified engineers, on the basis of design ability, experience, and integrity, should perform all engineering services. The Society supports the procurement of design professional services on the basis of qualifications and strongly supports the Brooks A/E Act of 1972, which requires federal agencies to use QBS procedures when obtaining design professional services. NSPE also supports the adoption of "mini-Brooks" laws at the state and local level.

RFP Responses

When price-based Request for Proposals are brought to the attention of the QBS Colorado Board, we make immediate contact with the agency. A letter explaining the benefits of following QBS procedures along with one of our brochures and our recent newsletter is mailed; a follow-up phone call from a board member is later placed. Forward copies of current RFP's that violate Federal Law or Colorado's Mini-Brook's Bill and other RFP's seeking professional design services based on price competition to Sue Bertram at sue@bertramlaw.net and the QBS Colorado Board will respond appropriately advocating the use of QBS.

To read the Federal Brooks Act, visit our website:

www.acec-co.org/qbs/resources/thebrooksactfederal.pdf

Colorado's mini-Brooks Bill can be found at:

www.acec-co.org/qbs/resources/co%20mini-brooks%20bill.pdf

QBS Colorado Directors

QBS Colorado is an organization with members from AIA/CO, ACEC/CO, and NSPE-CO, CAGE, and PLSC to be an advocate for qualifications-based selection of professional services.

Our Mission:

The mission of QBS Colorado is to promote quality and value in professional consultant services for a client. We believe that a professional and collaborative relationship between a client and a professional consultant is paramount to ensuring team spirit, proactive communication, quality services, and outcomes that are a testament to the organization and the stakeholders it serves.

QBS best serves the interest of the client who seeks best value and recognizes the long term impacts of professional consultant services to minimize lifecycle costs for their operational, maintenance, and construction budgets.

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