



Brought to you by TACERA

Texas Association of County Engineers & Road Administrators
www.TACERA1.COM

WHAT IS TACERA?

The Texas Association of County Engineers and Road Administrators is a professional organization which was chartered in 1987 to provide technical and professional interchange. Membership is open to all county road engineers, administrators and their staff. TACERA is affiliated with the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) and the Texas Public Works Association (TPWA). Our organization is headquartered in Austin, TX. This allows TACERA to bring its members timely, informative programs and services.

TACERA partners with LTAP to provide continuing education credits for professional engineers and county commissioners. Our annual conference and one-day workshops provide an opportunity to earn CEUs for your professional requirements.



TACERA 2017 Conference Review

by Bryan Neaves, P.E., County Engineer, Bell County – 2017 TACERA President

The Texas Association of County Engineers and Road Administrators held the 2017 Annual Conference in San Antonio on October 17-19. Over 200 registered for the conference which breaks our past record by 25%. We had individuals from El Paso, Hidalgo, Randle, Howard and Angleton Counties that were "first-timers" and those I spoke to enjoyed the conference. At least ten County Commissioners attended and are eligible to obtain continuing education credits. We had 46 vendor's tables on the second floor and several told me "there has been more foot traffic around the booths than ever".

The golf tournament was held on October 16 at the Olmos Basin Golf Course in San Antonio. The afternoon golf scramble had 110 players and was the largest ever. Players had a clear day to play in 60-degree weather. It has become a tradition to start the conference and will continue to draw more in the future.

There were 27 topics presented during the conference. Presentations were organized to run concurrently allowing people to select topics they were most interested in. I received feedback from individuals about the following presentations: "The bullet train lecture was interesting. It would be nice to come back in a couple years and see how it is going." Another liked the retirement speaker from TCDRS, "Whoever came up with the idea to have them come speak was great. That speaker knew his stuff." One expressed, "I didn't know much about traffic circles, but now I have a better understanding of how they are supposed to be designed." It is to be noted that two speakers were board members and County Engineers. Joe Trammel spoke on dam failures and repairs in Tarrant County and Bobby Hall shared photos of Hurricane Harvey recovery in Chambers County. A person from West Texas asked, "for more basic lectures to fit their applications."

As president, I had the opportunity to visit with most of the vendors and attendees. Everyone I

spoke with expressed that it was a great conference. The speakers were well informed and the presentations were professionally organized. It is exciting to note these speakers were not paid for their services. This is the third year we have had concurrent lectures and people continue to say they like the format. Vendors like the format and most of them shared they will continue to come back again.



TACERA 2017 Conference Review

by Chad Davis, P.E., County Engineer, Wise County – Current TACERA President

Thanks to all the hard work from Markie and Selina, the education committee and the rest of the board, we had a record turnout for this year's 2017 Texas Association of County Engineers and Road Administrators Annual Conference. We had 26 topics with well qualified, experienced speakers ranging from pavement management to GIS and even employee retirement. It was exciting to see the exchange between attendees, speakers, and vendors whether it was in the meeting rooms, in the exhibit hall or at events along the Riverwalk. Several good partnerships were made and old ones renewed as everyone seemed to enjoy the atmosphere. During the conference, we had several requests for copies of the presentations. The photos and presentations have been uploaded to the TACERA website. At the annual conference, TACERA presents 2 yearly awards: The County Engineer/Road Administrator of the Year and the County Road Employee of the Year. The awards went to:

County Engineer/
 Road Administrator
 Of the Year

**Thomas (Tom)
 Hornseth, P.E.**



County Road
 Employee of the
 Year

David Dauster



We announced the new TACERA Board members at the conference. They are as follows:

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|---------------------|------------------|
| President | Chad Davis |
| Vice President | Charlie Hastings |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Yancy Scott |
| Past President | Bryan Neaves |
| Director/NACE Rep | Tony Vasquez |
| Director | Wes McDougal |
| Director | Joseph Jackson |
| New Board Member | Terron Everston |
| New Board Member | Aaron Martinez |

The new board members are already at work evaluating the conference and getting information together for upcoming one-day workshops and even next year's conference.

Special Thanks to all the speakers and the vendors that participated in this year's conference. We truly could not do it without you. Our outgoing board members have contributed several years and countless hours of dedication to TACERA. Special Thanks to Bobby Hall and Joe Trammel for your service to the board and the organization.



Chambers County & Hurricane Harvey

by Bobby Hall, P.E., Chambers County Engineer

Chambers County, Texas, began preparations for Hurricane Harvey on August 23, 2017. Chambers County Road and Bridge Department operates on the UNIT SYSTEM, that is the County Engineer or Road Administrator is in charge of all Road and Bridge employees and equipment. This makes preparations for and actions during a disaster such as Hurricane Harvey much easier.

In anticipation of and during Harvey, Chambers County Road and Bridge was called upon for preparation, rescue, emergency repairs and debris pickup. To make sure all the work we did during this disaster is reimbursed by FEMA, we have systems of reporting and checks for the work done.

Each employee fills out a daily time ticket stating their tasks, hours spent on each, equipment used with mileage or hours depending upon the equipment. This ticket is red in color and used only for Harvey.

This "red" ticket is given to office staff where it is reviewed and then added to a daily work log with additional explanations. This log is reviewed by the employee's supervisor and then signed by the supervisor. These logs are then sent to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) where they are reviewed by one of the County Auditor's Staff.

Due to the problems we had during our experience with Hurricane Ike we initiated these checks and we hope we will not have a problem with FEMA reimbursements.

Upcoming Events/Training

January 23, 2018

Free FHWA Webinar: Proven Safety Countermeasures

<https://survey.max.gov/416797>

TACERA One-Day Workshops

March 22, 2018

Randall County Fire Station
Amarillo, TX

March 29, 2018

Ellis County Courts &
Administration Building
Waxahachie, TX

April 22-26 2018

2018 NACE Annual Meeting and Conference

Wisconsin Dells

<http://www.naceevents.org/>



Industry News

ATTENDING TACERA. WHAT A WELCOME AS THE NEWEST NACE VPI!
http://www.countyengineers.org/nace-news-17nov_6

TEXAS STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN

<https://www.texasshsp.com/>

BUILDERS SUPPORT TIGHTER FLOOD CONTROL REGULATIONS IN HARRIS COUNTY

http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/politics/houston/article/Builders-offer-support-for-tighter-flood-control-12393580.php?utm_campaign=email-premium&utm_source=CMS%20Sharing%20Button&utm_medium=social

EPA, CORPS PROPOSE 2 YEAR WOTUS RULE DELAY

http://www.countyengineers.org/nace-news-17nov_14

HOUSE UNVEILS MASSIVE \$81 BILLION DISASTER AID PACKAGE

<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/12/18/house-to-unveil-massive-81-billion-disaster-aid-package-303544>

STATES' FY 2017 CAPITAL SPENDING CLIMBS, LED BY TRANSPORTATION

<https://www.enr.com/articles/43469-states-fy-2017-capital-spending-climbs-led-by-transportation?v=preview>

*We hope you enjoyed this newsletter!
Feel free to contact the board members
with suggestions, news, or interesting articles!*

Until Next time,

TACERA Board of Directors

