



Brought to you by **TACERA**

Texas Association of County Engineers & Road Administrators  
**WWW.TACERA1.NET**

## 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 2020 Fall Conference

by Bryan Neaves, Bell County

2020 changed the way we went about life. We have adapted to the COVID crisis by working from home, social distancing, and wearing masks. Most conferences were cancelled or conducted virtually. TACERA held a virtual fall workshop and business meeting on October 27-28 last year. There was no charge for the meeting and approximately 68 attended.

The first day had 3 topics for viewers to enjoy. Maegan Nunley, P.E. presented on Ethics in the virtual age, Jim Allison spoke on Legislative Updates, and Joe England, P.E. moderated a panel about Subdivision and Regulations. Annexation legislation, Bank erosion on the Brazos, detention ponds, HB 1445 agreements, HB 3167, and enforcement of regulations were subjects of the panel. The workshop would provide approximately 3.75 PDHs.

Second day was the virtual business meeting presenting the annual awards, briefing on scholarships, NACE president report, and TACERA officer elections.

## 2020 TACERA Awards

by Robert Berndt, REM, Tarrant County

The Judges for the 2020 TACERA Awards included:

Duane Herrera- Bell County  
 Chad Davis- Wise County  
 Curtis Knowles-Tarrant County  
 Michael Shannon- Galveston County

A nominee for "County Road Employee of the Year" has shown excellence in performing road work duties, interacting with the public and furthering employee safety. This individual has demonstrated dedication to county road work policies, started new or improved current county road procedures and pursued the goals of safe work practices during county roadway maintenance and construction. Eligible candidates for this award are County Road Supervisors, Equipment Operators, Road Hands, Road Office Administrators or Staff.

The nominees for TACERA's "County Road Employee of the Year" Award were:

Kenny Hill- Brazoria County  
 Johnny Myner- McLennan County  
 Ron Roberts- Williamson County  
 Bobby Gore- Kerr County

**The Award was presented to Kenny Hill from Brazoria County.**

A nominee for "County Engineer / Road Administrator of the Year" has shown excellence in the field of public works management, promoting public safety and preserving & enhancing road infrastructure. This individual has demonstrated dedication through administration of his/her county's road management program in pursuing the

goals of safe roadways while staying within budget. Eligible candidates for this award are County Engineers, Road Administrators, Public Work Directors, or Staff Engineers.

The nominees for TACERA's "County Engineer / Road Administrator of the Year" Award were:

John Hernandez- San Patricio County  
 Harry Walker- Grimes County  
 Doyle Williams- Nacogdoches County  
 David Spieker- Tom Green County  
 Don Bonifay- Glasscock County  
 Richard Wooten- Llano County

**The Award was presented to Richard Wooten from Llano County.**

## Around the State, Project Spotlight- Birch Road Bridge Replacement

by Michael Shannon, Galveston County

The City of Clear Lake Shores is a coastal community in northern Galveston County with a population of approximately 1,200 people. There are two roadways that access the city and both roadways have load rated bridges. Access to the city by fire trucks, garbage trucks and other heavier loads is impaired without improvements to these bridges.



*Birch Road Bridge prior to construction*

The Birch Road Bridge is along one of these two routes into the city. It is located just outside the city limits in the unincorporated county. The bridge was load rated to 38,000 pounds gross and 28,000 pounds for tandem axle. A project to replace the Birch Road Bridge was selected as part of the 2017 Galveston County Road and Bridge Bond program.



*Birch Road Bridge prior to construction showing utilities on bridge*

The channel below the bridge is used for recreational boating. Coordination with the homeowner's association and a nearby elementary school during design and construction was critical. The new single-span design replaces the 2-span bridge and the existing center supports will be removed. A sidewalk was also added to the new bridge. Because of the recreational boating, elevation of the low chord of the bridge was also a concern.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 14 was used for compliance with the Clean Water Act.



*Birch Road Bridge – Construction of bridge abutment*

Existing water and sanitary sewer force mains attached to the bridge were relocated by the utility district to a new utility bridge prior to the demolition of the vehicular bridge.

Prior to construction Galveston County entered an agreement with TxDOT so that funds expended for this project could be credited as "equivalent-match" towards another deficient bridge in the county.

Construction started in July 2020 and is scheduled for completion in March 2021. Total project costs are \$1,330,000.

At the completion of the project, the City of Clear Lake Shores will annex the road and bridge right-of-way and will have a safer access to and from their city.



*Birch Road Bridge - Installation of Bridge Beams*

### **NACE Assigns TACERA Member to Committee Chairmanship**

(January 25, 2021)

NACE President Scott McGolpin from Santa Barbara County, CA picked

TACERA

Member Robert Berndt from Tarrant County as Chairman of the Structures and Environment Committee.



This committee, along with the other NACE committees, work to bring excellent speakers and topics to the Annual NACE Conference. The committee usually does its work through emails and conference calls. If you have any interest in this committee or have some great ideas for speakers and topics, please give Robert a call at 817-884-2634 or send an email to [raberndt@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:raberndt@tarrantcounty.com).

### **Upcoming Events/Training 2021 NACE Conference**

Registration is open for the annual NACE

Conference scheduled for April 20-22. This year will be a virtual conference due to COVID



issues. Each year the program includes topics of interest for county engineers. Usual subjects are bridge construction and maintenance, safety plans and implementation, Fleet purchasing and repairs, software applications, concrete and asphalt research, emergency preparedness, and Federal legislation. If interested, you may register or get more information at the web address [naceevents.org](http://naceevents.org), by email [nace@contyengineer.org](mailto:nace@contyengineer.org), or by telephone (202)-393-5041.

### **2021 TACERA Fall Conference October 25-28 San Antonio, Texas**

We are planning for next year's conference so please put the date on the calendar. Depending on the conditions of the health and welfare, we will have an in-person or virtual meeting.

**Would you like to host  
a TACERA workshop?**

**Contact us! [Tacera1@att.net](mailto:Tacera1@att.net)**