



**American Society of Civil Engineers**

Our web site: <http://sections.asce.org/columbia/index.html>

# Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

## Newsletter

September, 2006

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### **Columbia Section Meeting –September 20th, 2006**

**Date:** September 20th, 2006

**Place:** Shilo Inn, George Washington Way, Richland

**Meal:** Buffet (Chef's choice)

**Topic:** Myra Road Extension Project, Walla Walla County.

**Speaker:** Randy Glaeser, Walla Walla County Director of Public Works and County Engineer.

Lunch will start at 11:30, and the presentation will begin at Noon.

**RSVP:** Paul Harmsen, [pharmsen@mackaysposito.com](mailto:pharmsen@mackaysposito.com) or 509-374-4248 by September 19th, 2006.

#### President's Remarks:

Dear Members,

This month marks the beginning of the 2006/2007 ASCE Columbia Section fiscal year. As summer winds to a close, the ASCE monthly meetings resume. We strive for meeting presentations that focus on a project in our region; there continues to be exciting projects planned or under construction throughout the lower Columbia Basin. We will have the opportunity to become informed about many of these projects through the upcoming presentations this year.

This month our speaker will be Randy Glaeser, the new Walla Walla County Public Works Director. He will be presenting the Myra Road Extension Project in Walla Walla County. This is a large and complex road project that several of our members have been actively involved with. Thank you Julie Nelson, Newsletter Editor, for setting up this presentation.

If any of you are involved with or are aware of an exciting or interesting project in the region please forward applicable contact information (project manager or other individual that could present on the project) to either myself for Allan Evans, Vice President, and we will attempt to setup a lunch meeting presentation.

There continue to be multiple opportunities to be involved in the ASCE Columbia Section. In addition to attendance at the monthly meetings, there are several committees that are in need of volunteers, school competitions that need engineering mentors, and other programs. Currently there is even an ASCE board position vacancy—the Secretary/ Treasurer position. If you are interested in any of these opportunities to be involved please contact one of the Columbia Section board members.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this month's Columbia Section lunch meeting; I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Paul Harmsen, P.E.  
Columbia Section, President

### **Special Thanks to Indra Ghosh**

Thank you to Indra Ghosh for many years of services as the Columbia Section Structural Group Chairman.

Indra has been the Structural Group Chairman for the Columbia Section for the past three years. In 2000-01 Indra was the president of the Section. After that he was the newsletter editor for 4 years. In 2001 Indra and our Historian Del Ballard compiled "History of the Columbia Section - Bridging the Years 1950 - 2000."

Indra recently accepted a new position in San Luis Obispo, working on the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Project. Indra had the opportunity to work on this plant 24 years ago during its construction and is looking forward to the opportunities and challenges of the upcoming modifications. Indra will be leaving for his new position this month.

Indra comments, "I will miss the ASCE activities at Columbia Section. I enjoyed working with you all. And I will ever cherish my memories working on the history book with Del."

Congratulations on your new career opportunity Indra!

## Myra Road Extension Project

Finding an alternate route between SR 125 and US 12 to relieve congestion, serve as a truck bypass route, and facilitate commercial growth in the Walla Walla/College Place urban area has been the focus of numerous transportation studies dating back to the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Myra Road Extension Project meets this need by establishing a new route between the two highways while providing a new access point to the adjacent communities.

The 1994 SR 125 Transportation Study evaluated alternative alignments and improvements to provide an alternate road connecting US 12 and SR 125 to improve the movement of SR 125 traffic through or around the Walla Walla/College Place urban area. This study determined that extending Myra Road from Rose Street to SR 12 provided the “Best Alternative”.

The 2003 Myra Road Extension Study reviewed fourteen (14) alternate routes for implementing the “Best Alternative” for the extension of Myra Road. As a result of this study, a preferred corridor for the Myra Road Extension was selected by the Partnering Agencies, consisting of Walla Walla County, the City of Walla Walla, and the City of College Place with extensive input from the public and other stakeholders. The preferred route corridor underwent further study, public involvement and design in 2005, including the development and comparison of two conceptual alignments within the corridor. The Partnering Agencies selected the alignment shown on the enclosed exhibit for the extension of Myra Road.

The project includes the design and construction of a new four (4) lane arterial street section with a center median; separated pedestrian and bikeway facilities; two signalized intersections; a bridge crossing of Mill Creek; roadside stormwater swales; landscaping; and other features from Spitzenburg Avenue northerly to a connection with US 12 at its’ planned future location, including minor widening of the existing street section from Spitzenburg southerly to the C St/ Poplar intersection.

A majority of the right of way has been acquired and the contract plans, specifications, and estimate are being prepared for advertisement later this year, with construction anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2007.

### Speaker:



**Randy Glaeser**  
Walla Walla County  
Public Works Director and County Engineer

Randy Glaeser is the new Walla Walla County Director of Public Works and County Engineer. Randy started his new position August 21, 2006 after recently retiring from the Army with more than 20 years of successful service to the Nation. Prior to retiring, Lieutenant Colonel Glaeser commanded the Walla Walla District, US Army Corps of Engineers. Lieutenant Colonel Glaeser hails from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He’s a licensed professional engineer in the states of Minnesota and Washington. He is also an avid outdoorsman who loves hunting and fishing.

