LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER

Journal of the Louisiana Section **http://www.lasce.org**

ACADIANA • BATON ROUGE • NEW ORLEANS • SHREVEPORT

Creating a Solid Foundation for Solar Project Success

The critical role of establishing permanent vegetation in solar farm construction

FEATURES:

Creating a Solid Foundation for Solar Project Success

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AUGUST 2025
VOLUME 33 • NO 4

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The Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers was founded in 1914 and has since been in continuous operation. The Section consists of the entire state of Louisiana and is divided into four branches that directly serve over 2000 members. They are the Acadiana Branch centered in Lafayette, the Baton Rouge Branch, the New Orleans Branch, and the Shreveport Branch.

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The Louisiana Section is located in ASCE Region 5 that consists of the Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida Sections, and Puerto Rico.

President's Message

By Andrew Woodroof, PE, Section President

Andrew Woodroof, PE

As we find ourselves deep in the heat of a Louisiana summer, I am reminded of both the challenges and the resiliency that define our profession. Civil engineers continue to stand at the intersection of community needs and technical innovation, serving as the backbone of Louisiana's infrastructure—from flood protection systems to transportation corridors, from historic preservation to the advocacy of future funding. In this issue, I'm pleased to highlight some of the meaningful progress our Section and the broader Society have achieved.

A New Chapter for Membership

First, I'd like to call attention to a significant structural shift within ASCE that reflects our evolving profession. As of June 2025, the Society approved a constitutional amendment simplifying our membership grades. The former classifications of Affiliate, Associate, and Member are now unified under one "Member" designation. This streamlining brings long-needed clarity, reduces administrative complexity, and more accurately reflects the collaborative makeup of our modern infrastructure teams. Importantly, this change does not impact the recognition or value of licensure—ASCE remains steadfast in supporting the PE credential. Rather, it opens the door wider for professionals who contribute to civil engineering in diverse ways: environmental scientists, GIS specialists, academics, and technicians among them. It is an invitation to build a more inclusive and representative professional home.

Foundations That Last—In Solar and Beyond: In this issue, I encourage you to read the feature article, *Creating a Solid Foundation for Solar Project Success* by Aaron Mlynek and Joseph Ridley. As our energy landscape evolves, Louisiana finds itself increasingly engaged in the planning and construction of renewable energy facilities—particularly solar. This article is a vital reminder that good engineering does not begin with steel or concrete, but with the land itself. Through detailed phasing, vegetative stabilization, and coordinated stormwater control, the authors highlight the critical preconditions that must be met for long-term performance and compliance. As solar projects grow in acreage and complexity, environmental stewardship and erosion control are no longer afterthoughts—they are the bedrock of risk reduction and operational success. This is engineering in its fullest sense: predictive, preventative, and purpose-driven.

Get Involved:

Committees Drive Our Mission: None of this happens in isolation. Our Louisiana Section thrives because of the dedicated volunteers who power our committees. From Government Relations and Transportation to History & Heritage, Coastal Engineering, and Student Activities, these committees are where the work gets done. They mentor, advise, advocate, and connect. If you have not yet served, **consider this your call to action**. Whether you're newly licensed or a seasoned veteran, your insight, leadership, and perspective are needed. Please see the article in the Section News in this issue for a list of current committee chairs and how to get involved. Our strength as a Section lies in participation.

Policy and Advocacy: Eyes on the Fall

Looking ahead, our **Government Relations Committee** is preparing to release the latest *Louisiana Infrastructure Report Card* this fall. This critical document evaluates the condition of our state's infrastructure and communicates our collective priorities to the public and policymakers. I urge every member to read it, share it, and consider volunteering in the next round of report development. The engineering voice must be at the table—because when we speak clearly and collectively, decision-makers listen. In the same vein, ASCE continues to offer robust advocacy tools—from the new release of the National 2025 Report Card on America, *IIJA Implementation Resource Center* to legislative tracking, media kits, and leadership workshops. These resources are here for you. Let's use them.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our Section and our profession. Let us remain committed to building not just better infrastructure, but stronger communities, broader inclusion, and a deeper culture of service.

As I conclude my term as President of the Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve our members and our profession during the 2024–2025 year. It has been both a privilege and an honor to help guide our Section, working alongside so many talented engineers and leaders who embody the mission and vision of ASCE. This year has been defined by meaningful progress across our Section, Branches, and Committees. From the start, our leadership embraced ASCE's Strategic Plan, ensuring our work advanced the health, safety, and welfare of our communities. Guided by this vision, we strengthened connections with our membership and broadened our impact across Louisiana.

Looking back, I am deeply proud of what we have achieved together. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our Section Board, Branch and Institute leaders, committee chairs, and volunteers. I would like to thank the Publications Committee, led by Nedra Hains and Brant Richard, who continue to deliver the high-quality content you read in this journal. Committee service is the foundation of our success. To our members, thank you for your engagement, your support, and your daily work that improves lives across Louisiana.

Serving as Section President has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life. ASCE has given me lifelong mentors, colleagues, and friends, and the chance to contribute to the continued advancement of our profession. It has been a privilege to stand alongside you in service to our communities and our state. As I pass the torch to the next leader, I am confident that the Louisiana Section will continue to thrive, innovate, and inspire. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve—you have my deepest gratitude.

Creating a Solid Foundation for Solar Project Success

By Aaron Mlynek, CPESC, CESSWI, CISEC, QSD/P; Joseph Ridley, CCIS, QSWPPP, CESCL

Aaron Mlynek, CPESC, CESSWI, CISEC, QSD/P

Joseph Ridley, CCIS, QSWPPP, CESCL

"WITHOUT A SOLID FOUNDATION, YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE CREATING ANYTHING OF VALUE."

–Erika Oppenheimer

The rapid establishment of permanent vegetation in a uniform density is the foundation of a solar farm. Vegetation establishment, an often overlooked and undervalued process, will have adverse short and long-term effects on construction and the facility's operation and maintenance function if not planned and implemented correctly by the general contractors.

Erosion, extended construction schedules, increased budgets, added scopes of work, state and federal interaction, warranty items, and safety concerns are a few of the inherent risks to the project if the seeding process fails to meet the desired intentions. As established, perennial vegetation to a specific density is required in most cases to meet and terminate permitting associated with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the construction general permit. Contractors adapting to the specific conditions of solar farm construction misleadingly identify this step as reclamation, hence delaying this scope to the end of construction. This one misstep sets in motion an accumulative ripple of financial impacts.

The industry has grown tenfold as solar projects continue to increase in size and acreage, expanding from roughly 0.25 GW in 2008 to almost 3 GW in 2018. The common industry size of new solar projects currently exceeds 1,000 acres (405 hectares) or more per phase, with earth-disturbing activities aggressively scheduled to meet the increase in green energy demands.

To meet this demand and requirement of stabilization, larger seeding and farming equipment capable of tackling vast areas efficiently is quickly becoming the standard. Phasing in using this equipment to its full potential has a limited window of utilization that cannot be reopened once it is closed.

Figure 1: Seeding considerations for solar projects (Photo Courtesy of Westwood Professional Services, Inc)

Solar photovoltaic (PV) projects that are out of the seeding phase can present a unique industry challenge and a significant financial loss through the process of recovery. In the onset of PV installation, the solar infrastructure construction begins with foundation I-beam embedding, which is referred to in the industry as "pile driving."

Preconstruction Site Condition	Planning Milestone	Site Considerations
All Projects (Typical site)	5%	Define Buffers, Unique State Water or Watershed Requirements. Locate and set aside land area for temporary basins, permanent basins, temporary and permanent stormwater runoff control BMPs. **Relocation of panels and electrical components may be required at this stage.**
	30%	Redefine basins and runoff controls based on updated layout and design capacity. Project phasing considerations need to be addressed between the EOR and EPC, which can impact erosion and sediment control BMPs and quantities. Annual and perennial seeding species need to be drafted and agreed upon.
	60%	Temporary and permanent basin design, runoff control design such as swales, berms, and diversion to augment basins. All engineered stormwater facilities are graded into the plans. Preliminary temporary sediment and erosion BMPs are incorporated (such as silt fence, fiber logs, mulch, hydromulch, rolled erosion control products, temporary basin outlets, tracking controls).
	90%	Site plan temporary sediment and erosion control BMPs are detailed and adjusted for the issued permit plans.
	IFC	Site plans are implemented and amended as field conditions dictate and to meet permit requirements. EPC and EOR communication through request for information (RFI) processes should be ongoing.
Range Land	5%	Verify existing vegetation species for compatibility with solar project infrastructure. Identify if vegetation management is required with mowing, herbicides, and/or reseeding.
	30%	Review potential grading (cut/fill) activity required for the project topography. Consider designing BMPs for 100% re-disturbance (where significant grading activity is needed) based on the 2–year–24–hour rain event for the project location. Vegetation preservation and reduction of total disturbance area could be possible with detailed phasing and field personnel access control.
Forestland	5%	Review scope, phasing, and schedule for tree clearing contractor and grading contractor. Phase tree clearing to clear for access, perimeter sediment controls, and temporary sediment basin/trap locations. Schedule grading contractor to perform access construction, perimeter sediment control installation, and temporary basin installation while clearing continues upgradient. Include scope and pricing for preconstruction seeding and temporary stabilization application of cleared forested lands.
	30%	Review clearing methods and work on securing a contractor to chip or shred woody material (material not salvageable for harvest and sale) and retain onsite stockpiles as temporary stabilization material. Work with EOR to include wood mulch as a BMP in the plan as applicable (reference state BMP manual for application specifications). Design temporary BMPs to account for 100% disturbance within the forestland clearing areas based upon the 2-year, 24-hour rain event.
Agricultural Land (row crop)	5%	EPC and/or Developer should work with the landowner to arrange and schedule preconstruction seeding following crop harvest. Options may include hiring or paying the land operator to farm the area and plant annual and perennial grass, or the EPC outsources to a third party to seed all previously agricultural areas.
	30%	Review potential grading (cut/fill) activity required for the project topography. Consider designing BMPs for 100% re-disturbance (where significant grading activity is needed) based on the 2-year, 24-hour rain event for the project location. Vegetation preservation and reduction of total disturbance area could be possible with detailed phasing and field personnel access control.

The offset rows of I-beams prevent the use of large-scale equipment to seed vegetation and require the use of less effective and low-yielding methods of vegetation establishment. As installation progresses, access issues increase with additional obstacles such as torque tubes, racking and paneling, and other simultaneous construction operations that restrict access.

The high erosion potential associated with a lack of stabilization over vastly disturbed areas and ever-worsening ground conditions during construction results in overwhelmed best management practices (BMPs), civil works degradation, discharge events, loss of topsoil, schedule delays, and subsequent stormwater hardships.

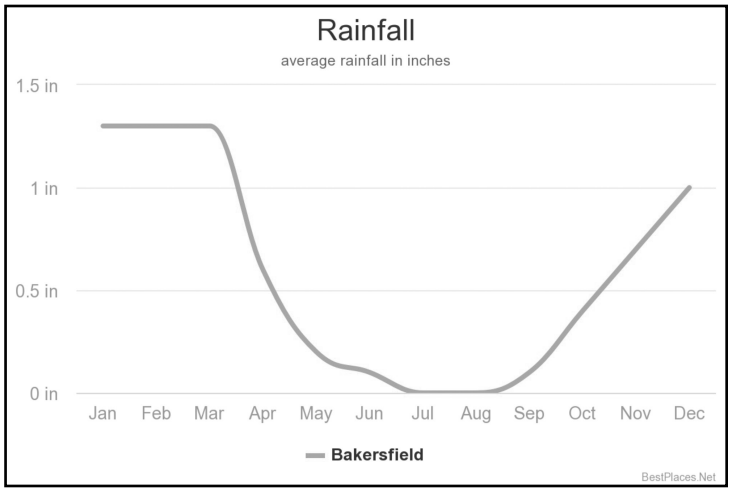
When phased properly, seeding operations should follow directly behind final grading or land preparation to establish final stabilization before installing solar farm infrastructure.

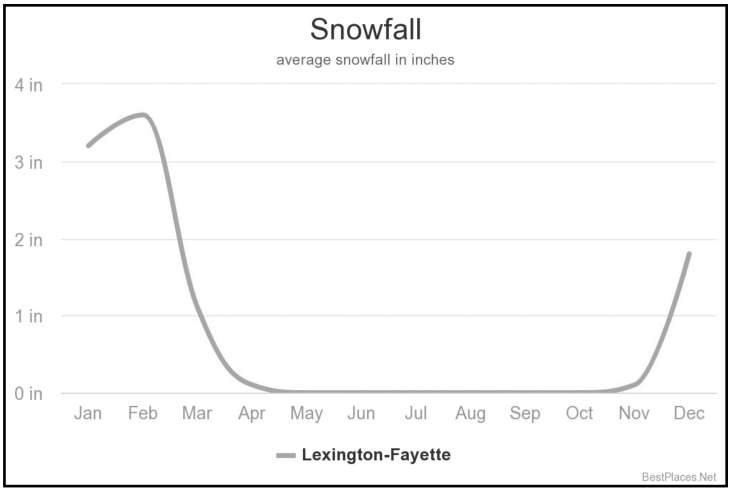
Phasing, sequencing activities, and seeding directly behind final grading and earth-disturbing activities are not only good practice but, in line with permit language, comprise a vital window of opportunity with detrimental repercussions if missed.

Planning and Phasing Considerations

During the preplanning phases, consider the preconstruction land use. Phasing, BMPs, and scheduling are critical to the project's success. Three primary preconstruction land uses include:

1. Range land – Fully vegetated preconstruction.
2. Forestland – Fully vegetated preconstruction and fully disturbed areas before solar infrastructure construction.
3. Agricultural Land (row crop) – Fully disturbed preconstruction and must be seeded preconstruction.

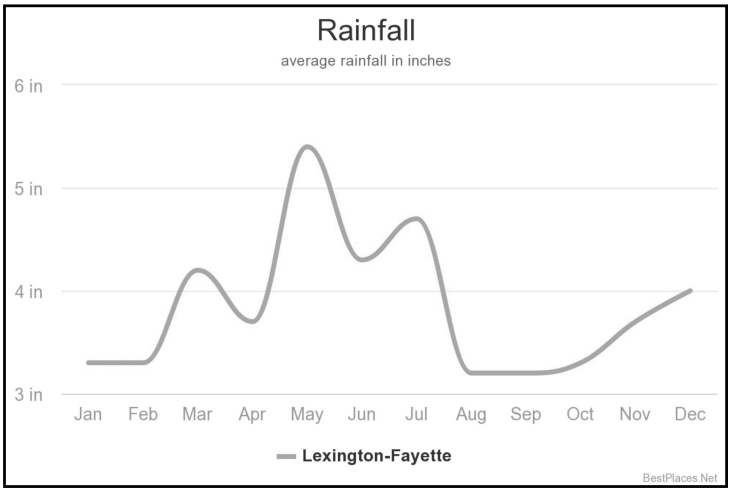




Each of the primary three preconstruction land uses requires coordination with the developer, landowner, and the engineering, procurement, and construction contractor (EPC). After experience with numerous solar projects across many states, climates, and topographical regions, one main difference with solar project construction, as compared to other projects, has become apparent: additional preplanning involvement between the EPC and the engineer of record (EOR) is critical for project success. Typical engineering milestones include: 5%, 30%, 60%, 90% issued for permit and issued for construction (IFC). Depending upon the project, the contractor may be required to account for material quantities and cost estimates at the 30% planning milestone. Typically, the 30% plans may not include all the temporary sediment and erosion control BMPs; therefore, further discussions with the EOR are recommended. For purposes of this discussion, the bid process and quantity estimation are assumed at 60% plans.

The table on the previous page summarizes considerations for the EPC and EOR to discuss for each planning milestone.

Account for Construction Schedule Impacts



The project erosion and sediment control plan and subsequently the EPC's BMP budget must consider the local weather of the project area and construction duration. The EPC should consult with the EOR regarding known schedule milestones of the project and potential impacts to the phasing of BMP application. Important dates to include are start of construction, temporary seasonal

shutdown or winterization, end date of grading and completion of construction. The project schedule and how the schedule correlates with average precipitation and temperatures will present unique challenges or advantages to maintaining existing vegetation, establishing seeding and need to rely on more robust temporary stabilization techniques, such as temporary stabilization with a low "C Factor" and BMPs with a long duration of erosion control effectiveness, when vegetation is not feasible. Furthermore, if a project start date is outside of the typical growing season for cool or warm season grasses or during winter, the need for multiple applications of seeding and stabilization BMPs will need to be addressed and included in the budget.

In some areas, such as Bakersfield in central California, starting a project during the rainy season presents challenges for temporary sediment and runoff control BMPs, but it also presents a seasonal advantage to establish vegetation for preconstruction seeding or for final stabilization of a site area for permit termination. If construction starts during a rainy season, the EPC should anticipate more BMP maintenance as well as additional sediment and runoff controls to maintain compliance.

In other areas, such as Lexington, Kentucky, the rainfall is more evenly dispersed throughout the year. Seasonal temperature changes could impact BMP applications, and the potential for snow and freezing temperatures needs to be considered. Project activity spanning from fall into winter must account for fall temporary stabilization for all non-vegetated areas. The freeze/thaw cycle, snowmelt, and rain runoff can result in significant rutting of exposed soils on solar sites. Soils disturbed from non-grading activities must also be stabilized prior to spring and dormant-seeded to control runoff during spring rains and establish the vital vegetative cover for successful erosion control.

Seed Mix Considerations for Solar

Choosing seed mixes for solar projects presents unique challenges. Prior to purchasing the seed, the EPC should consult with the landowner or developer and verify any special restoration requirements in land use agreements as well as any environmental requirements for the project. Seed attributes for consideration should include the following:

- Cool Season and Warm Season Grasses
- Grasses with a mature height of approximately two (2) feet to avoid conflicts with shading and interference with the solar infrastructure
- Annual (cover crop) and perennial species
- Native Grasses and/or pollinator species
- Mixes must be customized for the region, growing season, and climate of the project
- Mixes must include both shade-tolerant and full-sun-tolerant species to account for vegetation under the panels, as well as between the rows of the array

Solar Site Under construction After "Preseeding". (Photo Courtesy of Westwood Professional Services, Inc)

Aaron Mlynek, CPESC, CESSWI, CISEC, QSD/P,

Aaron Mlynek, CPESC, CESSWI, CISEC, QSD/P, has over 20 years of NPDES compliance experience. He has been part of wind and solar projects in approximately 35 different states. He currently manages NPDES/SWPPP compliance services at Westwood Professional Services, Inc. His primary focus is on corporate quality control and implementing industry standards for services, products, and compliance for Westwood clients nationwide.

Joseph Ridley, CCIS, QSWPPP, CESCL,

Joseph Ridley, CCIS, QSWPPP, CESCL, has over 20 years of experience in the renewable energy industry and currently focuses on risk minimization through effective erosion and sediment control planning and phasing for Westwood Professional Services. He specializes in environmental processes, permitting, regulations, and compliance. His past experience includes working for an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction contractor and in consulting.

ASCE Region 5 News

By Christopher Humphreys, PE, Region 5 Governor

Chris Humphreys

Tonja Koob Marking

In accordance with the Misson of Region 5, the Governors act as a liaison between the Society and the Sections, Branches, Younger Member Groups and Student Chapters with a goal of advancing the profession by inspiring members, creating excitement, and promoting excellence in civil engineering within the region.

Each year, the Region 5 Board of Governors hold at least two in-person meetings in addition to monthly virtual meetings. These in-person meetings are purposely scheduled to coincide with Section or Branch events within the region. In September 2024 the Board met in New Orleans so they could attend the LCECS. The MRLC, held each year in January or early February, is typically an in-person meeting for the Governors as it was this Jan 30 – February 1, 2025. As such, the Board of Governors held an in-person meeting July 16, 2025 in Orange Beach Alabama coinciding with the Alabama Section Summer Meeting and Conference. This is a popular meeting for the Alabama Section as evidenced by nearly 100 percent attendance of the Section and Branch leadership. The Alabama Section Board Meeting follows an agenda very similar to the Louisiana Section meeting. All Branch Presidents provide Branch reports following the same template which made for efficient and concise presentations. Examples of these reports can be made provided upon request.

The Alabama Section teams with APWA for their conference similar to ASCE Louisiana Section and the ACI Louisiana Chapter. Their conference is very nice and follows a similar format as the LCECS. They have two Concurrent Professional Tracks Thursday all day and half the day on Friday and a separate Younger Member Track Friday afternoon. Total attendance totaled approximately 300 including 32 exhibitors.

Special guest of the conference was ASCE President-Elect Marsha Anderson Bomar PhD, PE from Georgia. Among many things, Dr. Bomar is passionate about transportation, sustainability, professional licensure and attracting and keeping younger members in ASCE. She is an excellent presenter in high demand. To get her on an event schedule email Wendy Donwiddie (wdinwiddie@asce.org) well in advance, for the appropriate forms.

Region 5 Awards – Every year our branches and Section recognize engineers within Louisiana for professional achievement, performance, and service to ASCE with awards. Why not provide broader recognition to these individuals by submitting the La Section award winners for the Region 5 Awards? The current categories are **Region 5 Civil Engineer of the Year**, **Region 5 Young Civil Engineer of the Year, Region 5 Civil Engineering Student of the Year and Region 5 Wall of Fame.** More information including the 2025 award application can be found on the Region 5 website (**https://regions.asce.org/region5/resources**). The submittal deadline is September30, 2025. Questions contact Tzufit Boyle at Tzufit.boyle@gmail.com.

Region 5 Initiatives include increasing Membership and Membership Development. All Branches are encouraged to hold membership events. Best Practices ate included o the LTC resources section of the website including Outreach activities, student transition emphasizing automatic transition for student chapter members to professional members. Several Branches hold Round Table discussions with Student Chapters featuring a panel of Engineering Professionals and a moderator to facilitate student interaction and discussion.

ASCE Government Engineers Council to work to encourage more Government Engineers to join ASCE and Develop a "Top 10" List of reasons why Government Engineers should join ASCE.

Upcoming Events - 2025 Presidents and Governors Forum – The Leadership Training Committee (LTC) invites Branch and Section Leadership to attend the 2025 Presidents and Governors Forum (PGF) at ASCE Headquarters in Reston Virginia Sunday and Monday September 14-15. Please register asap using the form available at https://forms.gle/ht7RevhMDWn8jU837 . Current Branch Vice Presidents and Section President-Elect are recommended to attend the PGF.

ASCE Gulf Coast Student Symposium will be jointly hosted by the University of Alabama & University of Birmingham in the Spring 2026 (Date to be Determined)

2026 MRLC will be January 9-10 at the Riverfront Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville Florida. Region will host an Assembly before the MRLC on January 8 at 2pm. In addition, the Institute Leaders are expected to make presentations at the MRLC.

Region 5 Governors endorse Malay Ghose-Hajra, PhD, PE as Governor from Louisiana effective Oct 1, 2026. Upon approval of the Louisiana Section the Region 5 Governors agreed to submit Malay Ghose-Hajra as candidate for Governor from Louisiana to replace Chris Humphreys at the endo of his term in 2026.

Region 5 Governors elected to recognize Ronald L. Schumann Jr. PE, with a plaque in appreciation for service to ASCE Region 5 as Governor At Large from Louisiana 2018 – 2024. Ronnie's contributions have been tremendous help to the region and a huge asset to all ASCE members in Louisiana.

Ronald L. Schumann, Jr, PE accepts award for service to ASCE Region 5 as Governor At Large from Louisiana 2018 – 2024 from Christopher Humphreys, PE, Region 5 Governor

ASCE Membership Grade Simplification Approved

From May 1 to June 1, 2025, ASCE members voted on a constitutional amendment to simplify membership grades. The amendment received the required two-thirds majority and is now officially adopted into the ASCE Constitution.

What Changed?

This amendment consolidates the **Affiliate**, **Associate**, and **Member** grades into a single classification: **Member**. Moving forward, ASCE will have only four member grades:

- **Student**
- **Member**
- **Fellow**
- **Distinguished Member**

ASCE will provide further implementation details to Society members in the coming months. It's important to note that the former Affiliate, Associate, and Member categories have long shared the same dues, benefits, and voting rights—this change formalizes that parity while streamlining internal systems.

Why the Change?

The ASCE Board of Direction supported this change through two formal votes over the past year. The rationale behind the simplification includes:

- Reducing administrative complexity and operating costs
- Lowering barriers to entry for prospective members
- Increasing inclusivity for civil engineering professionals and allied infrastructure specialists

Supporting Workforce Development

The updated structure aims to broaden ASCE's appeal to professionals who contribute to the civil engineering enterprise but may not hold a PE license—such as civil engineering graduates in government, academia, and industry, as well as technicians, technologists, and interdisciplinary collaborators like environmental scientists and geologists.

By recognizing the diverse makeup of today's infrastructure teams, ASCE hopes to foster a more inclusive professional community that reflects real-world practice.

Commitment to Licensure Remains Strong

This change does not affect licensure recognition. Full ASCE membership still requires a PE license, but licensure status is designated by the **PE credential**, not by membership grade.

ASCE remains committed to protecting the integrity of the PE through:

- Its active participation in the **Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing**
- Ongoing partnership with **NCEES**
- Continued adherence to **nine internal policies** that affirm the value and necessity of licensure [https://www.asce.org/advocacy/policy-statements]

2025 ASCE Section News

By Thomas Jenkins, PE, Shreveport President

Get Involved: Join an ASCE Louisiana Section Committee Today!

The Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is strengthened by the dedication and expertise of its members. Our Section Committees represent a broad spectrum of the profession, from geotechnical and transportation engineering to coastal and environmental concerns, government relations, and student engagement.

Service on an ASCE committee is just one of the many ways in which you can give back to the profession.

As we work to advance civil engineering practice in Louisiana, we encourage all civil engineers and environmental consultants—whether in academia, the public sector, or private industry—to become active participants in our committees. These committees are instrumental in shaping technical programming, mentoring the next generation, influencing policy, and preserving the legacy of our profession. Each committee is led by an experienced Chair committed to fostering collaboration and innovation:

- **Geotechnical Institute** – Ricardo C. de Abreu, PhD, PE | kricardo@fdaengineers.com
- **Government Relations** – Kirk Lowery, PE; Jan Evans, PE | Kirk.Lowery@arcadis.com
- **History & Heritage** – Tonja Koob Marking, PhD, PE; Miles Bingham, PE | tonja.k.marking@gaeaconsultants.com
- **LA Coast, Oceans, Ports, & Rivers Institute** – Kiara Horton, PE, Director – Communications | kiara.Horton@freese.com
- **Membership** – Danielle Mayeaux | dwelborn@lsu.edu
- **Publications** – Brant Richard, PE | Brichard6462@yahoo.com
- **Section Awards** – Joshua Olivier, PE | jolivier@sigmacg.com
- **Student Activities & Awards** – Josh Olivier, PE | jolivier@sigmacg.com
- **Transportation & Development Institute** – Ronald Schumann, Jr, PE | RSchumann@ilsiengineering.com
- **Website** – Jared Veazey, MS, PE | javeazey@lafayettela.gov
- **Younger Member** – *Chair to be announced*
- **Public Contracts Task Force** – *Chair to be announced*
- **Utility Engineering & Survey Institute** – *Chair to be announced*

Each committee offers opportunities to contribute meaningfully to the profession while expanding your network and professional growth. Whether you're a seasoned professional or an emerging engineer, your voice is valuable, and your participation is welcome.

To express interest or learn more about committee activities, please contact the Section Secretary, Luke Haney at lhaney@forteandtablada.com or contact the relevant Committee Chair directly listed above. Help shape the future of civil engineering in Louisiana—**serve with us**!

ASCE-COPRI Louisiana Chapter News

By Kiara Horton, EI, Director – Communications

COPRI COAST, OCEANS, PORTS AND RIVERS INSTITUTE Louisiana Chapter

Kiara Horton, EI
Director – Communications

The Louisiana Chapter of the Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (L.COPRI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) promotes membership, professional development, and visibility throughout the State of Louisiana by conducting virtual webinars and in-person events.

YPG and Student Chapter Updates

Please reach out to Hayden Franklin (Student Chapter President, hfran15@lsu.edu) and Kiara Horton (kiara.horton@freese.com) for information on how to get involved as an LSU Student or Younger Member.

Upcoming Events

Our annual Fall Seminar in Baton Rouge is in mid to late October 2025 at the Lod Cook Conference Center. Keep a look out for future event announcements via email and LinkedIn.

Theme: 20-Year Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina

Other Information

The 39th Annual International Conference on Coastal Engineering (ICCE 2026) will be held in Galveston, Texas, from May 17 to May 22, 2026. The conference is currently inviting submissions for abstracts, and the deadline is October 1, 2025. For more information on abstract submission and registration, visit www.icce2026.com.

The activities of L.COPRI include seminars, workshops, and other activities to benefit all ASCE and COPRI members. Members do not have to be engineers to join COPRI. The Institutes of ASCE are formed for the benefit of ASCE and non-ASCE members to participate and interact with other professionals interested in coastal, oceans, ports, and riverine efforts in Louisiana. We would like to extend an invitation to our members to submit feedback and ideas for upcoming webinars and events. Please submit these ideas to kiara.horton@freese.com, and be on the lookout for emails and posts on our LinkedIn page for upcoming events.

For more information: https://icce2026.com/

ASCE-G-I Louisiana Chapter News

By Ricardo C. de Abreu, PhD, PE, BCGE, F.ASCE, G-I Chairman

GEO-INSTITUTE LOUISIANA CHAPTER

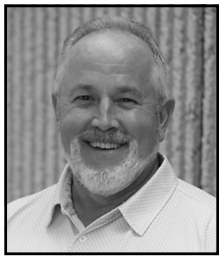
Ricardo C. de Abreu, PhD, PE, BCGE, F.ASCE
G-I Chair

It is incredibly rewarding to see the enthusiasm surrounding our chapter. I've received a great deal of thoughtful feedback, and I'm proud to say that the momentum we built early on is only growing stronger. The Geo-Institute Louisiana Chapter continues to thrive, thanks to the unwavering support of our members, the active involvement of our partners, and the generous contributions of our sponsors.

So, what have we been up to since the last journal? Webinars, webinars, webinars… Each one free and offering 1 PDH to attendees.

June. On June 11th, Brian J. Freilich, PhD, PE, Senior Engineer at Keller North America presented the webinar titled *"Ground Improvement and Foundation Solutions for Various Louisiana Geologies."* Dr. Freilich, a seasoned geotechnical engineer with advanced degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and licensure in four states, shared insights from his work designing ground improvement and geostructural solutions for complex sites. The presentation explored how ground improvement methods can provide cost-effective, schedule-friendly alternatives to traditional deep foundation systems, especially for challenging subsurface conditions commonly encountered in Louisiana. Through project examples and design strategies, Dr. Freilich highlighted the growing relevance of these techniques in meeting strict performance requirements for modern infrastructure.

July. On July 14th, we hosted Eduardo Hernandez, PE, Principal Engineer at Project X Corrosion Engineering, who presented *"Practical Approach to Soil Corrosivity Evaluation,"* The engaging session drew strong participation from professionals across several civil engineering disciplines. Hernandez, a mechanical engineer with a master's in materials science and a wide-ranging background in design, forensics, and corrosion consulting, shared grounded, real-world insights into a topic often unfamiliar to geotechnical engineers. With humor and candor, he explored how material compatibility, soil chemistry, corrosive bacteria, and overlooked site conditions can significantly impact the longevity of buried infrastructure. Hernandez's approachable style and multidisciplinary expertise made this an informative and memorable session, empowering attendees to ask better questions and offer more informed recommendations when soil corrosivity comes into play.



August. On August 13th, we hosted another well-attended webinar featuring Brett Bradfield, PE, Principal at Terracon, titled "*Thermal Resistivity Testing Program Concepts from a Geotechnical Consultant Perspective.*" Drawing from over 40 years of industry experience, Bradfield explored the critical yet often overlooked topic of thermal resistivity in soils; particularly relevant for renewable energy and digital infrastructure projects. Attendees gained practical insights into sampling strategies, soil behavior, and the respective roles of geotechnical and electrical engineers in addressing thermal concerns.

The Geo-Institute Louisiana Chapter extends its sincere thanks to all webinar speakers for their time and expertise, and to all who attended the webinars. For further information on the presentation or future events, please contact Ricardo de Abreu at ricardo@fdaengineers.com.

Looking Ahead: Fall Events and New Initiatives

In-Person Meetups & Student Engagement

This fall, we are planning in-person gatherings and joint events with other ASCE chapters and student groups. These will reconnect our professional community, spotlight student research, and encourage mentorship across generations of geotechnical engineers. Watch for announcements and registration links via email and on our LinkedIn page: https://www.linkedin.com/company/geo-institute-louisiana-chapter/

Stay Connected

Let's keep the momentum going! For questions or ideas, feel free to reach out directly to me at: **ricardo@fdaengineers.com** You can also follow us on LinkedIn at: **https://www.linkedin.com/company/geo-institute-louisiana-chapter/**

Thankyouforyourcontinuedcommitmenttoadvancingourprofession. Together, we're building the future of geotechnical engineering, right here in Louisiana.

Register Now: 2025 Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference & Show

Don't miss the 2025 Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference & Show,
scheduled for **September 24–25, 2025**, at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, LA.
Register online: https://www.louisianacivilengineeringconference.org/

New Initiative: Digital Innovation in Geotechnical Engineering
We are launching a new interest group focused on digital innovation in geotechnical engineering.
With growing use of tools like Python, remote sensing, and automated data workflows, this group will:

- Host hands-on workshops and training sessions
- Share case studies and best practices
- Support collaborative research
- Explore challenges and solutions in digital transformation

If you are passionate about innovation and would like to contribute, please contact:
George Segre – George.Segre@terracon.com
Xin Peng, PhD – xin.peng@geosyntec.com

ASCE Government Relations Committee

By Nedra Hains, DDes (ABD), MA, GRC Secretary

ASCE | GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Louisiana Report Card

Coming this Fall! The Louisiana Section is preparing to release its latest **Louisiana Infrastructure Report Card**. Members are encouraged to become familiar with the findings and assist in promoting the report to stakeholders, elected officials, and the media upon its publication.

ASCE Tools & Resources

The Government Relations Committee encourages all Louisiana Section members to become more engaged in infrastructure advocacy and policy by taking advantage of the following American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) resources and initiatives.

Volunteer with ASCE State Report Cards

ASCE's State Infrastructure Report Card program provides an excellent opportunity for civil engineers to become more familiar with the intersection of public policy and engineering practice. Volunteers gain firsthand experience in evaluating infrastructure systems and communicating these findings to the public, the media, and elected officials.

The program includes training from ASCE Government Relations staff, networking opportunities with professionals across sectors, and a chance to positively influence public understanding of engineering needs in Louisiana.

To volunteer, email: reportcard@asce.org
More information available at: https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org

ASCE IIJA Implementation Resource Center

To help members stay informed on the $1.2 trillion *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), ASCE has created an Implementation Resource Center that aggregates federal funding opportunities, implementation updates, and legislative analysis.

This members-only portal also provides:

- A list of open grant applications
- Updates on funding cycles
- Opportunities for public comment and advocacy
- Agency-specific guidance as programs roll out

Access the portal at: https://www.asce.org/advocacy/iija-implementation-resource-center
Password: raisethegrades

Nedra Davis Hains, MA
Government Relations Secretary

Prepare for Your State Legislative Session

ASCE offers comprehensive tools to help engineers engage during legislative sessions. These resources are particularly valuable as infrastructure remains a high priority in state and federal policy discussions.

Ways to get involved:

1. **Keep Your Section Informed**

   - Read the *State Government Relations Manual*: https://www.asce.org/advocacy/state-government-relations
   - Monitor Louisiana-specific legislation through ASCE's state tracking tools.
   - Stay up to date with *This Week in Washington*: https://www.asce.org/advocacy/this-week-in-washington

2. **Engage Elected Officials**

   - Utilize the *State Legislative Day Toolkit*: https://www.asce.org/advocacy/state-legislative-day-toolkit
   - Contact ASCE Government Relations staff for assistance with meetings, testimony preparation, or media engagement.
     Email: govwash@asce.org

3. **Educate the Public**
   Share impactful ASCE publications such as:

   - **2025 Report Card for America's Infrastructure**: https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org
   - State Report Cards
   - *Failure to Act* economic reports: https://www.asce.org/failuretoact
   - *Infrastructure GameChangers*: https://infrastructuregamechangers.org
   - *Life-Cycle Cost Analysis Report*
   - *Asset Management Report*

Follow and share ASCE's Government Relations social media:

- Twitter: https://twitter.com/ascegovrel
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ASCEGovernmentRelations
- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/ASCETV

4. **Mobilize in Partnership with ASCE Staff**
   If your section or branch is facing a state-specific policy issue and would like to create an action alert, contact:

   Lizzie Dorman, Senior Manager, Grassroots Programs and State Advocacy
   Email: edorman@asce.org

   Share your advocacy success stories with:
   Email: govwash@asce.org

Bring ASCE Power Skills Workshops to Your Section or Branch

ASCE offers *Power Skills Workshops*—including the highly regarded *Public Relations University* and *Government Relations University*—to support leadership and communication development for emerging civil engineers. These in-person workshops emphasize interpersonal skills, policy engagement, and cross-generational networking.

To request a workshop, visit:
https://www.asce.org/communities/leader-training/power-skills-university

If you have questions about the Government Relations Committee or would like to participate in Louisiana Section advocacy initiatives, please contact the committee co-chairs: **Kirk Lowery, PE** – ARCADIS at Kirk.Lowery@arcadis.com and **Jan Evans, PE** – Volkert Engineering at jan.evans@volkert.com.

When should I schedule a back home visit?

The best time to schedule a back home visit or look for a town hall meeting to attend is during one of the many district work periods (or recesses) that Congress schedules throughout the year. See schedules for upcoming opportunities.

House [https://www.majorityleader.gov/calendar] and

Senate [https://www.senate.gov/legislative/2025_schedule.htm]

State drive-ins and legislative days

Whether it's a member of the licensing board, a state legislator, or a key government official, advancing your position is always easier when you have established and cultivate a robust network you can call upon when legislation crops up. Your section or branch can organize a "drive-in" to the state capital as a way to establish a strong network of elected officials and fellow ASCE members who can act as advocates.

Contact Lizzie Dorman at edorman@asce.org for more information.

ASCE-T&DI Louisiana Chapter News

By Ronald Schumann, Jr, PE, Chairman & **Elba Urbina Hamilton, PE, Editor**

Ronald Schumann, Jr, PE
T&DI Chair

Elba Urbina Hamilton, PE
T&DI Newsletter Editor

NOLA River District Neighborhood

On May 15th, the T&DI Louisiana Chapter hosted the NOLA River District seminar in New Orleans. The **River Distric**t **Neighborhood** is a mixed-use development on 39+ acres of vacant land along the Mississippi River. The River District will be a *new* New Orleans neighborhood: sustainable and integrated with the surrounding areas, offering the ability to work, play, and stay on the River. A neighborhood for all, the River District community will include new mixed-use residential and commercial spaces, linking the Warehouse and Lower Garden Districts with the Riverfront and Convention Center. The neighborhood will feature residential condos and apartments, retail space, lodging, restaurants, services and other amenities.

This seminar presented the uniqueness of the development and an overview of the project, the vision and goals of the development, and the development process. Information on the various mix of different potential uses planned for the District and it's connectivity with various modes of mobility including vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle and transit.

The seminar was presented by the Broadmoor Director of External Affairs, Todd James. James, a native of New Orleans, and has over 20 years of experience in the building industry, assisting in the leadership of over $1 billion in construction projects throughout the Gulf Coast Region. In his current role at Broadmoor, he is dedicated to the company's mission honorably serving the community. James' expertise in development, design, and construction enhances Broadmoor's construction legacy, supporting significant projects like the River District Neighborhood, renovations at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, and updates to the Louisiana Superdome and the completion of the stunning Virgin Hotel New Orleans.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Architecture from Tuskegee University, James honed his skills working with diversity of organizations starting off at Historic Restorations Inc., Billes Manning Architects, Billes Architecture, Mathes Brierre Architects, MWH Americas, and Royal Engineering. This background is complemented by his commitment to regional growth and sustainability through active involvement with Greater New Orleans Inc., where he serves on the executive committee and previously chaired the NextGen Council. James currently serves as Vice Chairman for the City of New Orleans Board of Zoning & Adjustments, a position he has held for the past 13 years.

Looking Ahead

The intent of T&DI is to promote transportation and development as a career path, and to provide training and networking opportunities for all professionals involved in the transportation industry. If you are interested in co-sponsoring a seminar at your branch, the T&DI Louisiana Chapter has prepared a Seminar Coordinator's Check List to assist you in your preparation. Contact Ronnie Schumann, PE at rschumann@ilsiengineering.com for a copy of the checklist. Historically our seminars are two hours in length and are typically presented from 5:30-7:30 pm in either the New Orleans or Baton Rouge areas. We have also presented outreach seminars with the ASCE Acadiana Branch and Shreveport Branch. We are open to co-hosting seminars in additional Louisiana cities if requested. In keeping with the intent of the Institute to provide training and networking opportunities for all professionals involved in transportation projects, the Chapter is planning the following future seminars:

- Autonomous Vehicles
- Bus Rapid Transit in New Orleans
- College Flyover Project in Baton Rouge
- New Orleans Ferries
- I-220 and I-20 Barksdale Air Force Base Interchange
- DOTD Construction Cost Estimating

Branch News

ACADIANA BRANCH

By Emily Faulk, PE, Branch President

ASCE Acadiana has been busy planning upcoming events for our members! In September we will hold a luncheon with our annual award ceremony and officer installation. We would like to congratulate all award nominees and recipients!

We are continuing to plan our annual golf tournament set for Friday, October 10, 2025, at Les Vieux Chenes Golf Course in Youngsville, LA which draws in a large crowd of professionals in the area to offer a day of fun and friendly competition. For more information on how to register your team or sponsorship opportunities, please visit our golf tournament website (https://birdease.com/32743).

The Acadiana Branch is also excited to have the opportunity to host the annual **ASCE State Conference in 2026**! We are planning to hold the conference in April, so keep an eye out for emails, and connect with us on LinkedIn to stay up to date with the Acadiana Branch! I would like to thank all the members of the ASCE Acadiana Branch for their continued support!

NEW ORLEANS BRANCH

By James Williams, PE, Branch President

The New Orleans Branch closed out its 2024-2025 year with a productive summer.

We held a summer social to provide networking opportunities for our membership. The social was held at Wrong Iron on 26 June 2025.

Recent speakers we had the pleasure of hosting included:

- May 20th Luncheon Presentation by Steve Nelson, PE, with Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans on the topic of SWBNO 101;
- June 25th Luncheon Presentation by Chris Gilmore, PE, PMP with the Port of New Orleans on the topic of Update on Port of New Orleans Projects; and
- July 17th Luncheon Presentation by Corey Sechler and Gregg Blaszak, PE, from Coastline Composites on the topic of Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Structures Used in Heavy Construction

We held our annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, 15 August 2025 at Rizzuto's Ristorante & Chop House. We honored our award winners and celebrated the achievements of our newest Life Members. Our new board was also sworn in at this event.

We look forward to seeing our membership at this year's Annual Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference & Show at the Pontchartrain Convention & Civic Center in Kenner, LA September 24 & 25, 2025. Due to LCECS no luncheon is scheduled for September. We will resume our luncheon program in October.

It has been a quiet summer for Outreach Activities, but we anticipate a busy fall. Be on the look out for volunteer and outreach opportunities to support our local community.

To stay updated with the New Orleans Branch, we encourage you to follow ASCE New Orleans on Facebook or LinkedIn (@ asceneworleans) and visit our website at www.asceneworleans.org. You can always reach out to us at ASCEneworleans@gmail.com with any inquiries or suggestions. We have an excellent lineup of upcoming luncheons. We hope to see you at our upcoming events! Our branch plans to continue to provide activities and opportunities for our membership.

New Orleans Branch Summer Social was held at Wrong Iron on 26 June 2025

BATON ROUGE BRANCH

By Jack Koban, PhD, PE, PG, Branch President

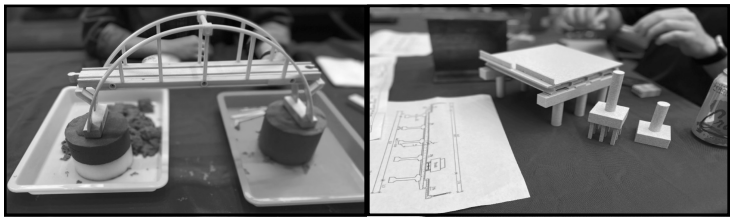
We are approaching the end of another busy summer for the ASCE Baton Rouge branch. Over the past few months, we've hosted a number of events including the much-anticipated return of Engineer IT, an outreach program designed to inspire the next generation of engineers in the capital region. After being on an extended hiatus, it was important to our board to rethink and restart this important community engagement program.

Left: Event Flyer for EngineerIT; Right: Greg Sepeda talks with two aspiring engineers on the first weekend of EngineerIT

Thanks to our great partner and venue host, Louisiana Art and Science Museum (LASM), we were able to connect with over 200 kids and parents over the course of 2 Saturdays in July as we offered a series of hands-on demonstrations of engineering concepts that were both fun and educational to kids and parents alike. Each day's activities were capped off with a special screening of "Dream Big" a short film produced by ASCE.

A great crowd on the second weekend at LASM for EngineerIT

We couldn't have done it without the months of planning from our dedicated board members led by Vice President, Robert Nodier who chaired the event, our sponsors, ECS and Forte & Tablada, and of course, our great team of volunteers who gave their time to share insight and professional experience with the youth of Baton Rouge. Sincere thanks to everyone who worked to make the event a success and to all of the parents and kids who came out and shared their Saturdays with us.



Left: geotechnical principles on display. Right: demonstration of structural engineering and material dynamics at LASM for EngineerIT

Volunteers from left to right: Wade Broussard, Jackie Bauman, Melissa Kennedy, Josh Olivier, Robert Nodier, Sarah Berman, Jack Koban, Michael Paul, Greg Sepeda, Emily Fertitta, Ryan Williamson, Jacob Wismans (not pictured: Jerry Middleton, Josh Ory, Anise Hansen, Marcio Araujo, Lucas Araujo, Matthew Hamilton) at LASM for EngineerIT

We were thrilled to jointly host our August luncheon with Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) at Juban's with special guest speakers, Congresswoman Julia Letlow and the newly appointed Secretary of DOTD, Glenn Ledet. With the anticipated release date of the 2025 Infrastructure Report Card just around the corner, our luncheon topic was timely and appealing to members of both ASCE and LES.

In September, we'll be hosting Bridging the Gap, an event aimed at engineering students and new professional. The event has traditionally been held in the summer, but we've opted to push it back so that our local university branches can better take advantage of the opportunity. For more information this and other future events, we encourage you to follow us on social media at www.Facebook.com/ASCEBatonRougeBranch or linkedin.com/groups/14307287/ and we hope you will join us!

Finally, it's hard to believe, but our board year is drawing to a close and with that, this will be my last journal article as branch president. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve in this role over the past year, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our speakers, sponsors, the rest of the board, and all of our members who made it such a successful and fulfilling experience.

ASCE Baton Rouge Branch August luncheon with Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) at Juban's with special guest speaker, Congresswoman Julia Letlow

ASCE Baton Rouge Branch August luncheon with Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) at Juban's with special guest speaker, the newly appointed Secretary of DOTD, Glenn Ledet

ASCE Baton Rouge Branch August luncheon with Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) at Juban's

SHREVEPORT BRANCH

By Thomas Jenkins, PE, Branch President

Since the beginning of 2025, the ASCE Shreveport Branch has hosted four monthly luncheons at the Petroleum Club in downtown Shreveport. In January, Advanced Drainage Systems joined us to present on StormTech®. In February and March, we partnered with our local LES chapter to welcome David Smith from the City of Shreveport, who discussed and expanded upon the municipal bond election held the previous year, and Mr. Jeff Pike, who highlighted the critical role of ethics in daily practice and the civil engineering profession. In April, Kathy French and Tyler Comeaux provided an update on recent developments at the Port of Caddo-Bossier.

In February, four Louisiana Tech University students were selected to receive scholarships based on their strong character and academic performance within the student chapter. The junior recipients were Jesse Bertucci and Ashtyne Monceaux, and the senior recipients were Trevor Fortier and Liliane Lavine.

The Shreveport Branch remained active this spring, hosting the Louisiana Section Spring Conference at the Shreveport Convention Center in late May. We extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors, exhibitors, attendees, and volunteers for their generous support of this event.

We wish everyone an enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming you back at our September luncheon as we prepare for our annual golf tournament, scheduled for late October or early November.

April Luncheon: Kathy French and Tyler Comeaux present on updates with The Port

EDITORIAL: We need agencies like our Amite River Basin Commission to lead the way thru the Flood Re$ilience Revolution!*

By Bob Jacobsen, PE

Before turning to my foggy/scratched crystal ball: **Congratulations to the ARBC Board and their consultants for compiling the Master Plan—1st Edition!**[1] Their hard work has provided some helpful information, including

- Some background on historic and ongoing changes in Amite River conditions.
- An overview of the **traditional NFIP** framework for Ri$k management—the local flood maps (FIRMs); nonstructural approaches to flood Ri$k reduction; and the Community Rating System.
- A very preliminary re-evaluation of 2025 and 2050 annual chance **river flooding** using the new LWI-funded model.
  Note: A 2023 preliminary re-evaluation of flood hazard on the Lower Amite River near Port Vincent by The Water Institute showed **a much greater 3-ft increase in annual chance flooding by accounting for probabilities in river AND storm surge flooding.**
  A future more detailed flood hazard re-evaluation must address ALL probabilities for River, Storm Surge, PLUS Localized Flash Flooding.
- An associated very preliminary assessment of 2025 and 2050 basin-wide average annualized losses—aka Expected Annual Cost (EAC)—or **Ri$k**.
- Descriptions for 16 new mitigation projects (see below) and traditional sources of project funding.
- o Eight are already in the planning/design stage and led by the parishes and/or Pontchartrain Levee District (PLD).
- o Eight are just at the conceptual stage.
- A review of the under-construction Comite River Diversion Canal.
- A preliminary discussion of Amite River channel/bank restoration benefits (e.g., at abandoned sand/gravel mines) and sediment maintenance.

BUT: going forward the ARBC's efforts must accelerate adjusting to the **Coming Reality of:**

- **Actuarially-accurate flood insurance—i.e., unbiased Ri$k;**
- **The priority of Flood Ri$k Due Diligence and insurance for EVERY property-stakeholder; and**
- **A radically different—and likely diminishing—NFIP and federal role in mitigation projects.**

(See my May 27th missive on my website: ***The State of Flood Re$ilience—Joe Biden wasn't fine and neither is the NFIP.***)

Planning by the ARBC—and sister LWI regions across our state—must face a future with NO MORE:

1. **Simplistic estimates of flood hazard.**
   Based on limited exposure scenarios (River or Storm Surge Only) or insufficiently extreme probabilities (only to the 0.2% chance).
   It rains on EVERY property—therefore EVERY property has Flood Ri$k!
   Agencies like the ARBC must step up to provide EVERY property-stakeholder with unbiased current and future **Full-*f*pectrum** flood hazard flood hazard curves based on detailed evaluations of ALL exposure probabilities.
2. **Obsolete narrow flood insurance mandates.**
   Because EVERY property has flood Ri$k, bank regulations will require All collateralized property to carry flood insurance.
   Furthermore, state/local governments should pass additional regulations incentivizing owners of non-collateralized property to carry flood insurance.
3. **Misrepresenting anyone's Ri$k—Under- OR OVER-pricing flood insurance.**
   Agencies like the ARBC must do their part re No. 1 to support unbiased property-specific EACs and actuarially-accurate flood insurance!
   Proper estimates of future hazard addressing climate and other trends will facilitate estimates of future Ri$k EACs **and Present Value** for property-stakeholder due diligence.
   Congress will have to decide the future of flood insurance subsidies, but regardless—no more Ri$k distortion.
   Public actuarially-accurate Ri$k info will spur a transformation to "parametric" insurance, with likely consequences for public/private insurance.
4. **Telling property-stakeholders that mitigation will remove them from the flood zone.**
   Again, because EVERY property has flood Ri$k, the ONLY mitigation benefit will be a reduction in property's future cost of flood insurance—the Flood Ri$k Present Value.
5. **Promoting ineffective/inefficient measures for Ri$k mitigation.**
   To be touted as having a flood Ri$k reduction benefit, a project (or collection of projects) must really reduce future actuarially-accurate flood insurance costs.
   Furthermore, with less federal mitigation funding, **agencies like the ARBC must prioritize measures that affected property-stakeholders themselves will be willing to pay their fair share for**.

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1 Also see

New flood plan offers hope to Amite River basin residents, The Advocate, Guest Column—John Clark, May 16, 2025

A $4 billion plan to reduce flood risk in the Amite River Basin. Can it be done? The Advocate, May 27, 2025

Amite River Basin proposal a costly plan of old and new ideas to control flooding, The Advocate, May 27, 2025

The 16 projects are in addition to the Corps-led Comite River Diversion Canal and EBR Five Bayous Improvements, and the Laurel Ridge Levee Extension led by the Pontchartrain Levee District (PLD). 8 projects in the planning/design led by led by others.

1. Bayou Manchac Channel Improvements and Ward Creek Realignment—led by EBR Parish (with Ascension and Iberville Parishes and the PLD).
2. Lower Amite River Sediment Removal, Below LA Highway 22—led by Livingston Parish.
3. New River Stormwater Management Pump Station—led by Ascension Parish.
4. LA Highway 22 Gapping—led by PLD.
5. Marvin Braud Pump Station/Levee Elevation Upgrades—led by Ascension Parish.
6. Ascension Parish (Sorrento) Storm Surge Levee—led by Ascension Parish.
7. Amite River Weir Rehabilitation—led by PLD.
8. West Shore Connector Storm Surge Levee—led by St. James Parish.

8 projects just in the conceptual stage

1. Lower Amite River Sediment Removal, LA Highway 22 to Comite River—led by ARBC.
2. Upper Amite Detention 1—led by TBD.
3. Upper Amite Detention 2—led by TBD.
4. Upper Amite Detention 3—led by TBD.
5. Bayou Manchac Backflow Prevention Gate—led by TBD (formerly led by PLD).
6. Bayou Manchac Floodplain Preservation—led by EBR Parish.
7. Upper Amite River Restoration—led by ARBC.
8. Willow Glen Pump Station Repurpose—led by TBD.

Bob Jacobsen PE, Flood and Environmental Hydrology. Phone: 225.678.2414 |

www.bobjacobsenpe.com | Also see **RealFloodResilience.info** a public information service of **Real Flood Resilience L3C**

***The views, opinions, and conclusions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the *Louisiana Civil Engineer* journal or the Louisiana Section of ASCE.**

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2025

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Oct 7-10 – ASCE Annual Convention – Seattle, WA

2026

April 23-24 – Louisiana Annual Spring Conference Lafayette, Louisiana

April 26-29 – World Environmental & Water Resources Congress in Mobile, Alabama

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For ASCE Baton Rouge events please see online:
http://branches.asce.org/baton-rouge/events

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https://www.facebook.com/ASCEShreveport/

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