NOTES

WSDOT/ACEC PD Subcommittee Team Meeting

August 6, 2026

9:00am to 10:00am

Attendees:

- ☒ *Rafael Reyes/WSDOT
- ☒ Kenneth Loen/WSDOT HQ
- ☒ JoAnn Schueler/WSDOT OR
- ☐ Randy Giles/WSDOT SCR
- ☐ Cesar Mayor/WSDOT WSF
- ☐ Chun-Ho Chen/WSDOT WSF
- ☒ Melissa Ambler/WSDOT NWR
- ☒ Dan Lewis/WSDOT NCR
- ☒ Paul Mason/WSDOT SWR
- ☐ Tom Brasch/WSDOT ER
- ☒ *Jennifer Saugen/Ardurra
- ☐ Blake Nelson/WSP
- ☐ Brad Cooper/HLA
- ☐ Don Sims/HNTB
- ☒ Michael Adams/Skillings
- ☐ Manuel Feliberti/DEA
- ☒ Patrick Forza/Parametrix
- ☐ Suryata Halim/RHC Engineering
- ☐ Heather Weeks/Jacobs
- ☒ Deepa Mungasavali/Osborn Cons.
- ☒ Julee Trudeau/Jacobs

** co-chair*

*** new subcommittee member*

1 Welcome and Team Member Updates

- Member introductions

2 Staff Updates

- WSDOT Regions:
  - Olympic Region will be hiring Local Programs Engineer, Lacey PE, RES Manager – Karen Edwards, RA interviews
  - NWR- Robyn Mayhew retiring at end of July.
  - SWR – Project Engineer Susan Fell is retiring.
- Consultant/ACEC: Michael – Skillings added new PM from Georgia with PDB experience.

3 Active Focus Areas / Agenda Items

- Open Roads Work Group update (Rafael)
  - Work group is new and initiated from questions. The group has had one kickoff meeting so far. There are 6 consultants and 4 CAE staff from WSDOT. Melissa and Rafael discussed adding one or two WSDOT Project Engineers to the group.

- Julee Trudeau shared that it can be a long process to add each consultant user to the WSDOT ORD system as they have a week or two of training followed by testing. (Big investment from consultants.) Requests to add users individually through CAE to the appropriate ProjectWise files takes about 1-5 days. The group discussed if this process would be sustainable as more and more projects are brought online? Rafael will note this for the next work group session and report back to this subcommittee.
- Specific ORD technical issues include how to coordinate with the WSDOT Bridge Group and utilize new drainage tools. Will there be any "tech bulletins" with additional information on working in these areas? Rafael will confirm with CAE and let the group know. For now, consultants should keep working through their Region contacts.
- Michael asked if there would be a plans prep manual update? Rafael will also check on this question.

- ACEC Members subcommittee update (Jenn)
  - Van's ACEC team has not yet sent out communication regarding member assignments and roles on subcommittees. Consultants should keep their eyes peeled and respond if they want to stay on this committee. Jenn will continue to keep folks informed in case their firm leadership doesn't provide the info.

- Design Manual Scheduled Update (Rafael) – likely October 2026 publication to accommodate FHWA review and approval.

4 New Focus Areas

- Draft 2026 HRM – There are significant changes in BMP's and clarity of text. These are large updates compared to previous updates. Per Deepa the update should be released at the end of this year, and will require training and 2026 HRM certification.

- Design-bid-build projects going to advertisement (AD) after: December 7, 2026 or Design-bid projects issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) after December 7, 2026 shall comply with the 2026 HRM except as follows:
    - *Projects requiring an individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification may be subject to additional stormwater requirements if, based on site specific information, the use of the HRM will not result in compliance with State Water Quality Standards.*
    - *Design-Bid-Build projects receiving Design Approval before: December 7, 2026 may use the 2019 HRM on the condition that the projects go to AD by July 31, 2028.*
    - *Design-Build projects receiving Conceptual Design Approval before December 7, 2026 on the condition that the RFP is issued before July 31, 2028 may use the 2019 HRM.*

- Julie identified a timeline concern with ESA consultation w/ BA potential effect, and the 6PPDQ treatment and infiltration of all stormwater. Is there an update on whether WSDOT will have a programmatic agreement with NOAA/NMFS? If so, when is it coming out? WSDOT will report back at our next meeting.
- Kenneth – followed up on AI policies. A new policy came out last month and was published internally. He will send out via email to our subcommittee.

5 Action Items

- Open Roads Work Group update (Rafael)
    - Consider adding one or two WSDOT Project Engineers to the group.
    - Relay Julee's suggestions to workgroup.
    - Confirm if ORD changes will be incorporated into the upcoming plans prep manual or provide timeline for PPM update.
- What is status of new programmatic agreement with NOAA/NMFS regarding ESA consultation and when is it coming out? (Rafael)