Texas water managers are now faced with yet another emerging challenge: the presence of zebra mussels. The zebra mussel (Dreissenid mussel) was introduced into North America in 1986. Zebra mussels spread rapidly throughout the Great Lakes region, then into the eastern Mississippi and on to the Tennessee, Cumberland, Ohio, Arkansas and Illinois rivers. Barges in these navigable rivers helped to spread zebra mussels quickly. In recent years, the recreational boats along with mechanisms have resulted in a progressive spread to the west and southwest; and most recently, to north Texas.

Based on the impacts of zebra mussels in other states, the concerns for Texas waters are great. Zebra mussels proliferate rapidly, the veligers are extremely small and can pass through most filters, the numbers become enormous, and the hard-shelled adults fix firmly to almost any substrate; the result is rapid colonization causing physical blockage of even the largest water conveyances. The zebra mussel has the potential to inhabit most of the fresh waters of the U.S. and may impact a variety of native aquatic species and eventually entire ecosystems. They also have had a large economic impact already. Zebra mussels are considered the most problematic macro-fouling organism in North America. Zebra mussel fouling of infrastructure such as hydropower facilities and water intake pipes has resulted in billions of dollars in economic losses. Many power plants and water users have had to spend millions of dollars cleaning out zebra mussels from their facilities. In addition, more money has been spent on retrofitting facilities with devices to keep zebra mussels out and to monitor for them. These costs get passed along to the consumers. (See latest USGS latest map of zebra mussel spread in US and photos of zebra mussel colonization problems)

The lessons learned throughout the US are being adapted and the reaction of zebra mussels to the warm Texas waters monitored. The reaction to the discovery of zebra mussels has been immediate. The major water supply managers in North Texas have undertaken detailed investigations, collected extensive literature information and performance data on a multiple of potential control methods, and formulated, and in some cases begun implementing, long-term zebra mussel control barriers. Most recently, the major water providers in North Texas, the Trinity River Authority, North Texas Municipal Water District, Dallas Water Utilities, Tarrant Regional Water District, and the City of Houston (controlling with a major portion of Lake Livingston water supply), are cooperating on a year-long study to develop a North Texas Zebra Mussel Guidance Manual.

The challenges to Texas water managers to the very real threat of zebra mussels are exacerbated by the most severe drought conditions in Texas history. Most of Texas is experiencing either in extreme or exceptionally extreme drought conditions. Water systems throughout the state are strained; most are in varying stages of water conservation and drought management. In November 2011, Governor Perry reissued a disaster proclamation that had been originally issued in December 2010; a testament to the severe and persistent drought and high wildfire hazard conditions. (See latest US Drought Monitor map of Texas)

The overlap of these two water supply threats is unprecedented. How water managers, particularly in North Texas, aggressive meet and overcome these threats in order to maintain a sufficient and sustainable water supply to meet the growing Texas water demand is certainly not completely answered at this point, but the first aggressive, well-considered, and pro-active steps are being taken.

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Each firm will be featured in the month indicated on the schedule above. Prior to the month in which your firm will be featured, you will submit an article for the newsletter describing your firm and its capabilities and experience.

In addition, each firm will be entitled to make a two minute presentation at the regular meeting. Historically firms have chosen to bring a raffle prize (benefiting the SAME Scholarship Fund) to the meeting when they make a
Since 1983, U.S. COST has been one of the leading cost and value management firms in the Government sector. We are accustomed to working either a member of the design team or in an independent role directly for a government entity to insure that projects are within budget from the planning stage through final design, bidding and construction. Our services include budgeting, cost estimating, scheduling, value engineering, claims and change order management, risk analysis, economic (life cycle cost) analysis and market analysis services.

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URS provides an excellent source of talent and expertise on which federal agencies and private organizations rely for engineering and architectural design, environmental studies and assessments, and program and construction management services. Our Dallas/Fort Worth/Oklahoma Operations (URS Dallas) features vibrant practices in geotechnical and transportation engineering, including dams and levees, aviation, transit, highways, and bridges. We have been fortunate to complete site civil engineering on some of Dallas’ highest profile facility projects such as the Perot Museum of Nature and Science and the Bush Presidential Center. Nationally, other URS offices are involved in extraordinary projects, including design services for the Panama Canal Expansion Project and construction management services for the $15 billion World Trade Center Site Redevelopment, including the Transit Hub, Freedom Tower, and other structure.

As the economy has shifted, URS Dallas has fine-tuned our business model. The result is expanded practice areas that require additional staff! We’re growing our geotechnical business and have added senior staff with exceptional experience in retail and military facilities and transmission and distribution. We’re also expanding staff in Oklahoma to meet opportunities there.

To learn more about URS and its federal works initiatives, contact RT Murthy at 214.741.7777, or visit our web site at www.urscorp.com.

URS Corporation is a leading provider of engineering, construction, and technical services for public agencies and private sector companies worldwide. We offer a full range of program management; planning, design and engineering; systems engineering and technical assistance; construction and construction management; operations and maintenance; and decommissioning and closure services for power, infrastructure, industrial and commercial, and federal projects and programs.
WESTON Solutions Inc. has been in business for over 55 years focusing on environmental and redevelopment challenges. In 2001, Weston became an employee-owned company with business teams structured around Federal, State, and Local Governments, and with Industrial market sectors. WESTON has over 1,600 employees and 60 offices across the United States and abroad. It’s gross revenues exceed $500M per year, with about 40% coming from its Federal clients. In Texas, we have full-service offices in Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, and Houston with a total of 266 employees. Our service areas center around three business lines which are:

**Environmental solutions** – This is about 50% of our revenue with services directed towards assessment and remediation, emergency response, integrated air services, water resources and ecosystems, health and safety, solid waste and landfills.

**Specialty construction** – This is about 25% of our revenue and is a natural extension of our environmental services business. We have been very successful at design build construction, especially on time critical projects. We function both as a general contractor as well as in a construction management mode, but our main target is design build. We have experience in projects involving levee construction, building renovation, fuel systems, demolition and decommissioning, and water/wastewater systems.

**Green development** – This is our newest business area and is about 25% of our revenue. Our services provide green solutions like brownfield redevelopment, green grid roofing, and renewable energy. Clean energy solutions we have been involved with include energy efficiency, renewable energy, greenhouse gas management, alternative/renewable fuels, and landfill gas recovery.

For additional information on Weston’s Business Lines, contact Bill Pearson, P.E. at 972.679.2676 or at William.Pearson@Westonsolutions.com.

Celebrating 80 years of service, Wilson & Company is an engineering, architecture, surveying, mapping, environmental, and planning firm employing staff throughout 19 offices in 12 states. Our staff of 450 professionals includes civil, mechanical, electrical and structural engineers; architects; planners; biologists; surveyors; mappers; GIS specialists; construction managers; and inspectors. We provide services to federal and municipal governments, public transportation agencies, railroad companies, industrial and commercial corporations, private developers, institutional, primary and secondary education, healthcare, and renewable energy companies. We value Higher Relationships: Shared Ownership; Collaboration; Intensity, Discipline and Solutions.

Wilson & Company provides comprehensive Survey, Geospatial, and Remote Sensing services to meet our clients’ needs. We are licensed to survey in 18 states and have more than 20 fully equipped crews (including two Certified Federal Surveyors) that are outfitted with the latest technology to handle all terrain and weather conditions. We also provide complete hydrographic surveying to map underwater conditions for design and construction. Our geospatial extraction team uses digital photogrammetric workstations for the collection of planimetric and topographic features. Items commonly incorporated into our photogrammetric data include field survey data, existing photogrammetric mapping, terrestrial LiDAR data, and airborne LiDAR data. Our Certified Photogrammetrists are highly skilled in merging these complex datasets into a final format. Our remote sensing team provides aerial photography in a direct digital format utilizing our Zeiss/Intergraph Digital Mapping Camera. We acquire airborne LiDAR data with the advanced Optech ALTM Gemini 167kHz sensor.
Founded in 1963, Yates Construction has been a proven leader in the building industry for nearly 50 years. With offices strategically located throughout the southern U.S., including two Texas offices in Fort Worth and San Antonio, our success is based on a simple philosophy: deliver building excellence on every project – regardless of size or scope – on time, within budget and to your satisfaction, while staying true to our Core Values of Safety, Integrity, Passion and Commitment.

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For further information about Yates Construction, visit www.wgyates.com.

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SAME 2012 Small Business Conference (SBC) for DOD Engineering, Construction and Environmental Programs, taking place Dec. 10-12, 2012, at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, Grapevine, Texas.

This unique conference is designed to promote partnerships and contract opportunities between small businesses and Department of Defense (DOD) agencies as well as networking opportunities between small and large businesses. SAME is proud to bring together high-ranking representatives from the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy who all share a common goal of helping small businesses succeed in the DOD market.

This year’s Small Business Conference presents unparalleled opportunities to network with USACE, NAVFAC and Air Force leaders and representatives from nearly 200 companies in the Exhibit Hall. Exhibiting companies have a company profile in the printed program that provides valuable information on their business capabilities. For the Army, Air Force and NAVFAC, contact information for leading authorities in the contracting, program and small business fields along with their photos are included. Thus, the Exhibit Hall serves as a foundation to pursue federal work and the Conference Program serves as a resource tool to keep partnering efforts alive and well long after the close of this conference.

Go to:
http://s3.goeshow.com/same/business/2012/index.cfm
Sunday, May 6

594-3458

The SAME Fort Worth Post news is published monthly for the benefit of SAME individual members and sustaining member firms.


2. Minutes of the 4 September 2012 Board meeting were approved.

3. The treasurer report indicates a balance of $13,708.14 in the checking account and $17,247.04 in a savings account. Total operating assets for the Post $30,955.18. The Raymond Lososnio Memorial Scholarship Fund inviolate principal is $87,000.00. The total Post Education and Mentoring Assets at the end of November were $32,335.71.

4. Individual membership is 692 with 263 members not included in our 118 Sustaining Firm membership. We currently have 62 Young Members.

5. Committee reports were presented. Andy Cueto reported on Communications Committee activities. A Small Business Panel will convene for discussions immediately following the 1 October Regular Meeting. Jodi Davis reported on Small Business Committee activities. Sarah Cole reported on Programs. COL Lem DuBose reported on our Abilene Chapter activities. Cristina Criado reported on College Outreach. The UTA Student Chapter is now meeting. J.B. West will be at Fort Sam Houston on 11 October for a Wounded Warrior activity. The Golf Tournament scheduled for 5 October will include a silent auction of memorabilia.

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