

REGIONAL REPORT – USA – JANUARY 2008



Project Management News from Washington State  
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**PM Profession News**

**AACE International - Seattle Section News**



The Seattle Section of AACE International will hold its January meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at the University of Washington in Seattle. A presentation on the topic of “Basic Scheduling” will be provided by **Steve Wageman**.

Steve has over 25 years of general and project management experience, and is currently a Project Controls Engineer in the Capital Projects Office at the University of Washington. Steve is a Certified Cost Consultant, Planning and Scheduling Professional, and Earned Value Professional through AACE International, and is also a Project Management Professional through PMI. Steve was formerly an Authorized Primavera Instructor, and has specialized expertise in scheduling, cost estimating, earned value management, risk management, and training.



Persons interested in Project Controls, Project Management, Cost Estimating, Scheduling, Value Engineering, Budget Control, Cost Engineering in both Construction and non-Construction are cordially invited. Cost is only \$10. The Seattle Section of AACE International has been meeting in various locations in the greater Seattle since July 1980. For more information, visit <http://www.aace-seattle.org/>.

**PMI Olympia Chapter**

Formed in 2004, the PMI Olympia Chapter serves PMI members and the project management profession in and around the city of Olympia, the capital of the state of Washington. The chapter’s next monthly dinner meeting will be on January 15, 2008 and will feature a presentation by Diane Vasarkovy of Wolf Consulting on the topic of “You Too

Can Be a Project Manager with A LIFE!" Diane will discuss why it is so important to first understand your own needs and then cover several ways you can manage your project and have a real life also. The bottom line is that when you are having a life, your project is more likely to be successful too.

Diane Vasarkovy is a Technology and Business Management Consultant for private and public sector companies in Western Washington. She concentrates on aligning people with structures and processes to get great results for her clients. With over forty years of project, technology and business management in world class organizations, Diane has synthesized the common patterns into practical answers. The meeting will be from 5:30 – 8:15 p.m. at the Tye Conference Center at 5757 Littlerock Rd NE in Tumwater, Washington. For more information, visit <http://www.pmiolympia.org/default.html>.



### **PMI Puget Sound Chapter (Seattle Area)**

The chapter will sponsor a workshop on "Managing Teams for Success" on January 11, 2008. To be led by Lyn Wiltse & Helena Schoetzow, this initial workshop in a 4 workshop series in 2008 will set the foundation for the others as it focuses on what you can do to set your teams up for success. Come away with specific tips on how to create the sense of team and optimize performance of virtual and diverse project teams. Learn also how to unleash the full potential of team members by integrating the elements of Csikzentmihalyi's concept of flow into your daily project operations. The classroom presentation will be on Friday, January 11, 2008, from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Red Lion Inn at 11211 Main Street in Bellevue, Washington. Attendees can receive up to 6 Professional Development Units (PDUs). For more information visit <http://www.pugetsoundpmi.org/>.

The chapter's monthly dinner meeting will be on January 14, 2008, featuring Charlie Ashmore speaking on the topic of "Construction Scheduling with Microsoft Project." This presentation is expected to provide attendees with some tools for creating fast and effective construction schedules. You will be able to take advantage of the power in Microsoft Project without the long learning curve associated with the more esoteric, high-end scheduling software. A basic familiarity with Microsoft Project will be assumed, so not a lot of time will be spent on the basics. And don't feel left out if you're not in the construction industry – the tools and methodology presented here can be adapted to other industries as well.



Mr. Ashmore is a consultant and trainer in MS Project and project management. He is affiliated with the International Institute for Learning, Canada Training Group, as well as serving clients through his own firm, Alpha-Net Solutions. Charlie has also worked in the IT field and, although he is a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, he has specialized in the Linux operating system and has provided Linux integration and training to his clients. He is certified in Linux system administration by the Linux Professional Institute

On January 18, 2008, the PMI Puget Sound Chapter will sponsor an Eastside Breakfast Meeting featuring Carl Chatfield, speaking on the topic of "Projectize Your (work) Life". Carl Chatfield, PMP is an expert and renowned author of several "Project Step by Step" books. In this talk, Carl will show you the results of his year-long experiment (still in progress) of treating his major work commitments as projects, and carefully allocating and tracking his time on task. Carl's approach leverages Microsoft Project and the Outlook

calendar extensively, and applies some aspects of Scrum to personal time management. You can apply these techniques to your own personal time management, or scale them up to small team management. This breakfast meeting will start at 7:30 a.m. in Room 1029, Building F, City University at 150 120th Ave NE in Bellevue, Washington.

The president of the PMI Puget Sound Chapter for 2007-2008 is **Peggy Lusk**. For more information about the above events the PMI Puget Sound Chapter, visit <http://www.pugetsoundpmi.org/>.

## **PMI Columbia River Basin Chapter**

The Columbia River Basin Chapter, Inc., (formerly Tri-Cities / Columbia Basin Chapter) was chartered in March 1994 as the first PMI chapter in the Mid Columbia Basin area in Southeastern Washington State. The chapter serves a large geographic area from Moses Lake to Hermiston, and from Yakima to Walla Walla. The chapter president during 2007 has been **Terri Witherspoon** of Fluor Hanford, inc.



The election of new officers for the Columbia River Basin Chapter of the Project Management Institute will be conducted in January 2008. The following positions will be open for the two year term starting July 2008-June 2010: President; Secretary; Vice President – Membership; and Vice President – Programs.

The CRBC-PMI will hold its 2008 Chapter Membership Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland. There will be three activities conducted at the meeting: (1) Election of four chapter board leaders; (2) ratification of proposed modifications to the chapter bylaws; and (3) monthly educational program.

Proposed changes to the chapter bylaws include the following:

- a) Clarified that the Immediate Past President is a voting member of the Board
- b) Added a consecutive term limitation of two consecutive terms for any Board position
- c) Added three sections to Article XIII, Dissolution, per PMI's 2007 Bylaws Template
- d) Made minor reformatting and font changes

All chapter members are encouraged to attend in order to vote on these important issues. For more information about the chapter and the January meeting, visit <http://www.crb-pmi.org/>.

## **PMI Inland Northwest Chapter (Spokane)**

PMI Inland Northwest Chapter serves the eastern Washington, northern Idaho and Spokane area. Members are employed across all industries, with a majority in the IT and Telecommunication fields. We offer continuing education programs and networking. We also have a more significant impact on businesses in the metro Spokane area as we strive to bring serious recognition to the profession of Project Management

On December 11, 2007, the chapter celebrated their "Spokane Project Management Holiday Social" at Luna Restaurant, Spokane's #1 restaurant and only three-star award dining according to Northwest's Best Places. Luna features Northwest inspired cuisine, Spokane's

best wine list, a captivating interior design and surrounding gardens, and courtyard and rose terrace that create a unique atmosphere for relaxed social experience and spirited celebration. Chapter members and guests enjoyed this opportunity to socialize and get better acquainted with PMI colleagues.

The chapter's monthly meetings for 2008 will begin on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 with a presentation on the topic of "Implementing Quality Management Programs." Chapter meetings are held at [Conley's Place Restaurant & Pioneer Pies Bakery](#) at 12618 E Sprague Ave in Spokane Valley. (509) 924-5411. For more information about the chapter activities and events, visit <http://www.pmiinw.org/>.

## Project Updates – News about Some Local Projects

### Sound Transit News - Light rail construction receives additional funding

Sound Transit in Seattle has announced that it is set to receive \$88.2 million to help finish one major light rail project and launch another that will carry even more riders. The funding is part of the 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill approved by the US Congress on December 19. The bill includes \$19.6 million in early funding for extending light rail from downtown Seattle to Capitol Hill and the University of Washington. Sound Transit is working to start building the University Link project next year with a \$750 million grant the agency is seeking from the Federal Transit Administration.

The FY 2008 funding bill also includes \$68.6 million comprising the 2008 installment of the \$500 million full funding grant agreement that is enabling the construction of light rail from downtown Seattle to Tukwila and Sea-Tac International Airport. The line from downtown Seattle to Tukwila is more than 80 percent complete and scheduled to open for service in July 2009, immediately followed by completion of the final leg from Tukwila into Sea-Tac International Airport by December 2009.

The University Link project connecting the three largest urban centers in the region: downtown Seattle, Capitol Hill and the University District, will offer much faster travel times for transit passengers than buses. Light rail will carry passengers from downtown to the University in 9 minutes instead of 25 and to Capitol Hill in 6 minutes instead of 14. Trips between Capitol Hill and the University District will take 3 minutes instead of 22. Riders will also enjoy reliable service no matter how bad the weather or traffic congestion.



When University Link is completed, Sound Transit will have built almost 19 miles of light rail between the University and the airport with the taxes that regional voters approved in 1996. Located entirely underground, the University Link extension will travel east from the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel in a tunnel under I-5 to a Capitol Hill station located east of Broadway near Seattle Central Community College. From there the line continues north, crossing under the Lake Washington Ship Canal's Montlake Cut to a station near Husky Stadium and the University of Washington Medical Center.

The projected 2020 daily ridership for the 15.6-mile light rail segment that is currently under construction between downtown Seattle and the airport is 45,200. The University Link project

is projected to increase the regional light rail system's 2030 ridership to about 114,000 a day. *Source: Sound Transit press release on December 20, 2007*

### Wave Energy Project receives green light

As reported on [www.pmforum.org](http://www.pmforum.org) on December 26, Finavera Renewables Inc. has been granted an operating license for its Makah Bay Offshore Wave Pilot Project in Washington State by the United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The license is the first ever issued by the Commission for a wave, tidal or current energy project in the United States.



The decision by FERC gives Finavera Renewables a conditional five-year license for the proposed project. The FERC license is conditional on the Company obtaining all additional federal and state permits before construction may begin. The Makah Bay Offshore Wave Energy Pilot Project will provide stakeholders, regulators and investors a tangible demonstration of the potential of wave energy. The license follows on the heels of Finavera Renewables and PG&E signing the industry's first purchase power agreement earlier this week.

The Makah Bay Offshore Wave Pilot Project will be located in the Pacific Ocean in Makah Bay, 3.7 nautical miles offshore of Waatch Point in Clallam County, Washington. The location was chosen for several reasons: participation of the Makah Indian Nation, depth proximity to shore, strong climate, shoreline transmission line, and electricity demand in coastal communities. For more information, see <http://www.pmforum.org/blogs/news/2007/12/project-off-washington-coast-receives.html>.

### Other News Affecting Projects & PM

#### State Audit finds faulty PM at Port of Seattle

A Washington state audit has accused the Port of Seattle, a public agency, of wasting \$97.2 million in taxpayer money, violating state law with a contract related to construction, and having a number of other "serious and pervasive issues." The report found the port had circumvented public bidding requirements in violation of its own policies and sometimes in violation of state law. Apparently, in one instance, port management authorized a construction contract that was \$32.7 million higher than an engineer's original estimate. That contract violated state law and details of it were concealed from the elected Port Commission, the audit said.



The Port of Seattle is one of the largest public agencies in the state and has spent more than \$500 million on construction and capital projects in each of the past three years. The performance audit covered all construction projects and related consulting agreements at the port from January 2004 through March 2007. The auditor also recommended restructuring the port's internal audit function and appointing a chief procurement officer.

For additional information, see <http://www.pmforum.org/blogs/news/2007/12/fraud-or-just-bad-project-management.html>.

### Interstate 5 reopens after week-long shut down

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) reopened Interstate highway 5 (I-5) through Chehalis at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, July 7 after being closed for most of the week due to flooding. WSDOT crews worked around the clock for four days to reopen the 20-mile stretch of I-5 that had been under nearly ten feet of water in places. (See <http://www.pmforum.org/blogs/news/2007/12/projects-life-in-northwestern-usa.html> for story on the severe weather in Washington state.)



Crews opened a single lane in each direction on I-5 to commercial trucks by Thursday evening. Hundreds of truckers rolled smoothly but slowly through the night in narrow lanes with no barrier separation. No major backups or problems were reported. Friday morning, WSDOT crews completed clean up and repair work and repositioned hundreds of 4,000-pound Jersey barriers that were shifted by swift flood waters. By 11 a.m. Friday, road crews reopened two lanes in each direction to all traffic.

The flood water began receding Wednesday evening, after WSDOT crews used a track-hoe to breach Airport Dike in Chehalis. By Thursday afternoon, the receding waters revealed less highway damage than engineers had feared. WSDOT engineers will be closely monitoring the previously flooded portion of I-5 for any undetected road damage. Interstate 5 is the backbone of the West Coast states' transportation system, crossing three states and linking three nations (Canada, USA, Mexico). As the most heavily used highway in the state, it is critical to the regional, state and national economy. There is no practical and close alternative route for freight trucked through the West Coast's major north-south corridor.

"Our crews have been working around the clock and getting I-5 open this fast after the flood is a great accomplishment," stated Transportation Secretary **Paula Hammond**. "We've still got work to do to get all of our highways back open to traffic."

WSDOT crews also had to repair flood damaged highways at over 60 other locations. For more information on state highways projects, visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/news/>.

### Blue Tooth Now! Washington State requires hands-free Driving

On March 15, 2005 the Washington State Senate passed a bill by a vote of 28-18 seeking to eliminate the use of hand-held cell phones while driving. While hands-free headsets would still be permitted, the fine for being caught with a phone in hand could be upwards of \$101.

Known as Senate Bill 5160, it took another two years to vote into law. A new law restricting the use of hand held devices while driving has now been signed by Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire.



According to the new law, hands free cell phone devices are required while operating a vehicle (eff. 7/1/2008). Exempts drivers of emergency vehicles and tow trucks, drivers who have hearing aids and drivers reporting emergencies or illegal activities. Secondary enforcement. Drivers may not send, read or write a text message while driving (eff. 1/1/2008) unless operating an emergency vehicle or reporting an emergency or illegal activity. Not

part of record, not given to insurance companies. Secondary enforcement.

Under the new laws, drivers who read and compose text messages or talk on a cell phone without a hands-free device could face a pricey ticket. The text-messaging ban takes effect Jan. 1; the cell-phone law will be enforced starting in July 2008.



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