

2010 PAEP Founders Award

Duane Peters

*Board of Directors 2009-2010, Vice President 2010
A.D. Marble & Company*

In his first year on the PAEP Board of Directors, Duane Peters has, in the spirit of the PAEP Founders, effectively focused his energy on making the PAEP of 2009-2010 more relevant to the membership for which it was created to serve. Over the past year, Duane has concentrated his efforts on the following:

- ***Development of the PAEP Forum (<http://www.paep.org/forum>)***

Duane envisioned the creation of an online message board, recognizing the absence of and need for an easy, user-friendly mechanism for today's environmental professionals to directly interact through PAEP outside of traditional sectional events and the annual conference. Using his technical computer knowledge, Duane created the PAEP Forum. He designed the Forum to meet all of the current recognized needs of the membership with areas for general/section/program announcements; environmental subject areas for initiating discussion and sharing of technical expertise; PAEP business discussion areas related to the sections, the annual conference, awards, programs, the new book club, etc.; and areas for non-PAEP topics. The Forum is not static; there are endless possibilities for Duane to modify and expand the message board to serve PAEP needs in the future as they are identified with the addition of new sections, membership polls, and features.

- ***Establishment of a PAEP Student Chapter***

Duane successfully initiated discussions and has been working towards the creation of a Susquehanna University student chapter with Angela Schreffler. Faculty advisors have been identified, and coordination continues. It has been a long time goal of PAEP to reach out to college and university environmental students and provide professional development assistance, as well as potential future employment and networking opportunities.

- ***Conservation Heritage: The Goddard Legacy Project and PAEP Golf Fundraiser***

Duane volunteered to serve as PAEP Board Liaison on the DCNR/PHMC Goddard Legacy Project and attended meetings on behalf of PAEP. Wayne Kober, PAEP Co-Founder, stresses the importance of researching and maintaining the history of the Pennsylvania environmental movement so that we, as environmental professionals, have that perspective in order to know where we are headed in the future. Additionally, in order for PAEP to have a dedicated fundraising mechanism for supporting an annual conservation heritage internship (and other future environmental internships), Duane proposed that PAEP organize a golf fundraiser, which the Board agreed upon and is planning.

- ***PAEP/NAEP relationship with the new Chapter Affiliation Agreement***

On behalf of PAEP, Duane has initiated discussions with NAEP regarding the draft chapter affiliation agreement's costs/benefit effects on PAEP.

- ***Improving the Function of the PAEP Board of Directors***

Beyond the efforts described above, Duane has also provided valuable leadership, guidance, and insight to the current PAEP Board, gleaned through his experience on other non-profit organizational boards. Duane has recommended and/or is leading the following new Board initiatives to help both with Board member transitions and in the Board's overall function for the membership:

- Compilation of a list of important organizational information/passwords/files to be maintained by the Board (continuity of government)
- Establishment of an Ex-Officio Board member position
- Development of PAEP Board operating guidance to transition new Board members
- New Section Leaders standard operating procedures
- First electronic PAEP Board election ballot and acceptance of ballots via email
- Membership poll to obtain feedback on the PAEP website

Nominated By: Virginia Bailey

2010 PAEP Young Professional Award

Chris Spahr

Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.

Chris Spahr is a natural leader. He is the epitome of an environmental steward in the community and is the perfect nominee for the Young Professional of the Year Award. Chris's community involvement includes being a mentor for at-risk youth in the Allison Hill area of Harrisburg with the Joshua Group. Chris's work consists primarily of writing grants and tutoring/mentoring neighborhood youths. During these tough economic times and a spike in violence in the City of Harrisburg, offering educational support to low-income youths is a key element to providing hope for our future. He is also a leader of Baker's Next Generation group, whose goals include volunteering in the community. As part of NextGen, Chris assists in raising funds for various organizations, volunteering at soup kitchens, clean ups, and natural resource plantings. Chris is always there to help and volunteer with whatever is needed.

Further, Chris is a key player in projects involving rail and transit throughout Pennsylvania, including the Keystone Corridor project. As part of the Keystone Corridor High Speed Rail project, Chris led the Baker team in completing an EA addressing several improvements proposed throughout the 105 mile rail corridor, coordinating with 46 municipalities, 4 MPOs, 3 federal agencies, 6 state agencies and 7 other interested parties, as well as the public. The EA investigated two alternatives, focusing on cultural resources, socioeconomics, and natural resources. Chris has also been involved in environmental clearance activities for various transit projects sponsored by 15 different transit agencies throughout Pennsylvania. He routinely participates and leads projects throughout our office involved with NEPA and planning (including a hand in Section 4(f), cultural resources, natural resources, hazardous waste, socioeconomic issues, and public & client meetings). In addition to working with co-workers, Chris has established relationships with clients and other consultants who equally respect his work quality and character. Chris naturally leads by example and inspires everyone he works with to strive to be a better person.

Nominated by: Angela Schreffler

2010 PAEP Corporate Member Award

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

Baker is a corporate sponsor of PAEP, a silver sponsor of the 2009 PAEP annual conference, and gold sponsor of the 2010 PAEP annual conference. Sponsoring PAEP is important to keep employees in contact with other professionals, as well as staying informed on the latest regulatory and technical updates. Baker encourages participation in professional societies, such as PAEP, especially leadership roles including the Board of Directors and various planning committees.

Outside of PAEP, Baker is an environmental steward in the local community. At least monthly, Baker employees are volunteering in the community for a wide variety of organizations as part of a corporate wide group, called Baker's Next Generation. Baker's Next Generation program includes a community service component, as well as employee mentoring and social activities. Whether it be raising funds for the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association, or collecting canned food for the St. Francis soup kitchen, Baker employees have been very generous this past year. Baker has also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, sponsored a corporate team in the Harrisburg Mile (benefits the youth and childcare programs at the Harrisburg YMCA) and served a meal at the St. Francis Soup Kitchen. Specific to the environmental realm, some examples of Baker's community activities include PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program, Fairmount Park Clean up, trail maintenance at Wildwood Park, and volunteering for seasonal rain garden plantings with the Paxton Creek Watershed and Education Association. Baker also had an environmental education display at this year's Environmental Fair associated with the Central Dauphin East High School musical production. The display contained information on areas where individuals could become more sustainable by using transit, water conservation techniques, and energy conservation techniques in their own homes. The display also included games where participants had to answer a conservation fact trivia question to win a prize. Prizes included items made of recycled materials and/or items with websites to further educate the attendees regarding conservation issues. In addition, the display contained an Enviroscope ® model that demonstrated water quality pollution and prevention (borrowed from a local watershed organization).

Baker's corporate vision statement for the company is "Creating value by delivering innovative and sustainable solutions for infrastructure and the environment." Sustainability is part of Baker's operations, as well as an integral part of its projects. Baker's corporate sustainability initiative includes: 1) the internal greening or "walk the talk" practices, as led by the corporate Green Team, 2) the marketing of sustainable services to our client base and integration of sustainability concepts into project work, and 3) recruitment and retention of employees with an interest and skills in sustainability.

Corporate-wide, Baker has reviewed its day-to-day operations and made changes to become more sustainable. Styrofoam was replaced with reusable products, double-sided defaults for printing and recycled paper is used by all offices, publications are available online, and local green teams were formed. Publications and other printed marketing material are printed on materials certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. In 2009, Baker has reduced its paper usage by 36% by increasing scanning usage and printing double-sided sheets. Coming in 2010, Baker will be implementing an integrated real estate management/sustainability software system to assess its real estate portfolio's carbon footprint. In Pennsylvania, the main offices include Pittsburgh (corporate), Beaver, Harrisburg, Horsham, and Philadelphia. In addition to corporate changes, individual offices have made their own changes. Sustainable changes within the PA offices include lighting controlled by timers, power management systems on computers, and recycling items outside municipal collections such as batteries, Styrofoam, and electronics. The additional items recycled program includes items used in the office as well as items employees bring from their homes. Also, Baker's local green teams assist in educating the offices with conservation measures and environmentally friendly practices that can be used in the office or at their individual homes and communities (i.e. free native tree seedling sign up for this coming Earth Day, conservation related emails/websites). Over the past few years, Baker has kept track of our sustainability initiatives. For example, our western Pennsylvania offices have reduced their landfill deposits by 60%. This was accomplished by increasing items that are reusable and recycling 84% of waste generated. In the past several months, Baker's western PA offices have also kept track of their printer toner recycling efforts and have diverted 808 pounds of plastics away from landfills.

In 2009, Baker formed a Sustainable Technical Services Network to ensure Baker projects are sustainable and use the best available low impact and natural resource conservation technical practices. A large portion of Baker projects in Pennsylvania are related to transportation. For major transportation projects, Baker conducts an evaluation of sustainability for the project, based on the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Green Leadership in Transportation Environmental Sustainability (GreenLITE) program. The "GreenLITE" program recognizes transportation project designs, operations, and maintenance practices that incorporate a high level of environmental sustainability. In an attempt to have a bigger impact on more sustainable transportation projects,

Baker has presented this idea to PennDOT for future use throughout the state of Pennsylvania. A short description of some example projects in Pennsylvania that Baker is currently involved with is listed below:

FEMA Climate Change Project – Baker is a member of a team tasked with providing an assessment of the impacts of climate change on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Services provided by Baker include review and summarization of current climate literature, identification of projected climate indices which impact flood hazards, statistical analyses, Monte Carlo simulations, and floodplain mapping expertise. Baker has developed scenarios for sea level rise and changing storm frequency and intensity for over a dozen regions throughout the United States based on findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, augmented by the most current results from journal articles focusing on climate science. Projections have been made through the year 2100 at 20-year intervals. Baker is using these projections to estimate future changes in Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) as well as the extent of riverine and coastal floodplains.

Keystone Corridor Improvement Program - PennDOT requested Baker's services to draft an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Keystone Corridor High Speed Rail Program. This EA was developed at an expedited pace and completed in 20 days. The EA addressed the affected environment and environmental consequences of two alternatives, focusing on cultural resources, the human environment, and natural resources, and thoroughly addressed the secondary and cumulative impacts of improvements along the 105 mile Keystone Corridor East. The process included extensive coordination with 46 municipalities, 4 Metropolitan Planning Organizations/Rural Planning Organizations, 3 federal resource agencies, 6 state resource agencies, and 7 interested parties, as well as opportunities for public comment. The EA was a supporting document for the Keystone Corridor Improvement Program application for \$517 million in funding from the Federal Railroad Administration. Baker has also provided NEPA services for the Elizabethtown, Middletown, and Mt. Joy Train Station Improvement Projects. Baker has been successfully working alongside the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation to provide various Environmental and Planning Services for these train stations. With improvements along the Keystone Corridor, Pennsylvania will gain momentum in moving toward more sustainable forms of transportation.

PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation Management Contract- Baker has provided extensive environmental services for over 15 transit agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For transit agencies to receive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to improve their facilities, they must first receive NEPA approval from the Federal Transit Administration. Baker has worked alongside PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transportation and individual transit agencies to provide efficient NEPA documentation to receive approval and release of funds from FTA. The efficiency and thoroughness in which Baker addressed all environmental, social, and cultural aspects of projects that transit agencies have been undertaking, has helped secure funding to improve the operations of transit agencies and move toward a better public transportation system in the Commonwealth.

PennDOT Air Quality Monitoring Program (2006-2011) - This is the fourth consecutive contract under which Baker provided technical, policy and programmatic support to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in its efforts to implement the mobile source requirements of the Clean Air Act of 1990. The work areas of this project include Conformity Process Development and Data Assembly, Conformity Analysis, State Implementation Plan Inventories and Forecasts, Climate Change / Energy Policy Support, Technical Support to Metropolitan Planning Organizations statewide, and other on demand air quality tasks.

S.R. 28, Sections A09 & A10, Final Design (East Ohio Street Improvement Project, Pittsburgh, PA)- This project consisted of a two-mile section of Route 28 from the Chestnut Street Ramps in the City of Pittsburgh to the Millvale Interchange in the Borough of Millvale. The corridor is constrained by a steep and unstable hillside to the west and the Bay Valley Foods plant, active Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks, and the Allegheny River to the east. There are also historic resources within the project limits, as well as acid mine drainage impacted waters. The combination of several roadway deficiencies has resulted in fatal accident rates higher than the statewide average. Baker is providing environmental services, pre-final design, and final design services, as well as consultation during construction. This project was evaluated against the "GreenLITE" criteria utilized by the NYSDOT. The project scored in the 98th percentile based on the extensive environmental and sustainable features that were incorporated.

As evidenced by our voluntary practices and project designs, Baker is committed to the mission of PAEP by providing environmental education, planning, management, and innovative and sustainable design solutions. Baker continues to promote the importance of environmental awareness by providing continuing employee training, creating a sustainable working environment, and contributing to the field of environmental science.