

New Hires

Welcome to: Steven M. Aeschbach, E.I.T. - Engineer 3; Matthew C. Boone, P.L.S.; Samantha J. Douds – Marketing/Administrative Assistant; Dakota D. Dumm - Resident Project Representative 2; Jared Hart - Resident Project Representative 2; and Kyle Radachy - Survey Technician

LSSE Annual Company Picnic

LSSE's company picnic was held on August 18, 2017 at Moon Park. Awards were given to recognize and thank employees for their years' of service as follows: John Heyl for 20 years; Veronica Ninness for 15 years; Jeffrey Rininger and Dan Jageman for 10 years; Kerri Hummel for 5 years. The picnic included a barbecue, after dinner ice cream stand, and activities such as a softball game, closest-to-the-pin golf contest, corn-hole, and kids crafts.



LSSE's 2017 Company Picnic



2017 Light the Night (LTN) Walk

LSSE again sponsored the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's LTN Walk in Pittsburgh in October 2017. LSSE employees participated in the walk and together with LSSE raised over \$7,500 to provide aid to those battling blood cancers.

2017 LSSE Tournament

LSSE employees split into two teams to participate in the 2017 tournament which included bowling, beach volleyball, and ended with a softball game at the Annual Picnic. Congratulations to the winners on Team Wright!



LSSE Night at PNC Park

LSSE employees, family, and friends enjoyed an evening at PNC Park in September 2017, which consisted of a tailgate party, Pirates vs. Reds game, followed by fireworks.

Erie Yacht Club/American Red Cross Charity Regatta

LSSE again sponsored Dan Gilligan's A'ile-Muir which placed third in its class in the annual Charity Regatta race involving 50 sailboats. The August 2017 event raised over \$45,000 to benefit local disaster relief through the Greater Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross.



A'ile-Muir Jib and Main Sail Under Power

New Arrivals

Larry Lennon, Jr. and his wife Jen welcomed Abbie Rose Lennon on March 31, 2017. Abbie was 6lbs 15oz and 21" long.



Abbie Rose Lennon

John Wright and his fiancé Holly welcomed John Robert Wright IV on June 24, 2017. John IV arrived three weeks early at 6lbs 7oz and 19½".



John Robert Wright IV

Matt Sopher and his wife Melissa welcomed Nolan Joseph Sopher on September 9, 2017. Nolan was 8lbs 4oz and is 21" long.



Nolan Joseph Sopher

Dan Housley and his wife Kristen welcomed Nathaniel Ryan Housley on September 18, 2017. Nathaniel was 8lbs 7oz and 21" long.



Nathaniel Ryan Housley

Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc.

LSSE News is published for the benefit of our clients, associates and friends.

www.lsse.com | info@lsse.com

Headquarters Office: 846 Fourth Avenue, Coraopolis, PA 15108
(412) 264-4400 | (412) 264-1200 Fax

Branch Office: 4536 Route 136, Suite 1, Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 837-1057 | (724) 838-9811 Fax

Managing Principals:

Lawrence J. Lennon, P.E., D.WRE and Daniel S. Gilligan

Principals: Ned Mitrovich, P.E.; Jason E. Stanton, P.E.; Kevin A. Brett, P.E.



Visit www.lsse.com



Lennon, Smith, Souleret
Engineering, Inc.
Civil Engineers and Surveyors

Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc. (LSSE) offers one of the region's largest engineering units, which is dedicated solely to civil engineering

LSSE Performance Rating Program
Passes Major Milestone



During a recent meeting with a prospective client we were asked to distinguish LSSE from our competition with regard to quality of work and client satisfaction. Actually, we encounter that question many times in interviews where prospective clients have created a "shortlist" of qualified firms.

With respect to project/contract management philosophy, we approach every day as "game day" and play (work) to win. That means delivering a quality work product, which

meets the industry standard of care as well as our client's expectations. We've never had a client who didn't expect complete, accurate work at a fair price, and who didn't consider their project as priority number 1. As for client satisfaction, we have differentially left that measure up to our clients, and routinely ask them to rate our performance on 1) Communication, 2) Product Quality, 3) Cost management, and 4) Overall Assessment.

We are excited to announce that we have recently passed a major milestone with the receipt of our 550th Client Project review. Our clients have rated our performance at 4.6 on a scale of 1 – 5! That's better than "good", and between "excellent" and "outstanding" in the rating hierarchy.

We generally attribute that score to continuity in management and dedication to a Strategic Business Plan (SBP) that has kept us focused on our core markets and services. However, we acknowledge that the intangible, client confidence factor, trust in our people and working relationships weighs heavily in that performance rating.

During the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our success possible. It is in this spirit that we say thank you and best wishes for the holidays and New Year!



LSSE SALUTES VETERANS



In this season of giving thanks, LSSE offers a sincere thanks to all veterans, and active service members currently serving our country at home or abroad. We'd also like to recognize LSSE employees who have served:

Lawrence J. Lennon

U.S. Army
AMERICAL Division – Infantry (Vietnam)
Sergeant (E-5)
1968 - 1970

Matt Boone

U. S. Army
396th Medical Company
Sergeant
2005 - 2013

Bill Spanbauer

U.S. Army
1st Infantry Division
Special (E-4)
1977-1980

Dan Gilligan

U. S. Coast Guard
Oceanographic Division
Marine Science Technician (E-6)
1969 - 1973

Alan Main

U.S. Army
1st Cavalry Division & 2nd Armored Division
Sergeant
1981-1985

Localized Municipal Flooding
What Price Protection? Is This The New Normal?

Since the occurrence of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in 2017, national engineering publications have been “flooded” with articles signaling a “new-normal”, as in the case of Harris County Texas, where the County Chief Executive exclaimed, “We’ve had three 500 year floods or above in the past two years, so there is a new normal”. Whatever the cause of these off-the chart storm events (some believe it’s climate change), there is no denial that the frequency and intensity of storm and flooding events has caused national and local agencies to take pause and consider alternative control and management approaches including adaptive design strategies together with implementation of new zoning, building and design standards. In some extraordinary cases, officials have concluded that solutions may actually require conceding to mother nature, and admitting that it just can’t be fixed/controlled. This alternative involves buying flood prone properties, and repurposing the land to avoid repetitive economic impact associated with what FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) refer to as “Multiple Loss Properties”. The Wall Street Journal reported that since 1979, a home in Kingwood Texas flooded 22 times, making it one of the most flood damaged properties in the Country”, and over time NFIP paid out \$1.8 million in flood damages for that house, which had a market value at between \$600 - \$800 thousand before hurricane Harvey flooded it to rooftop level.

Like many of the coastal impact areas this year the Pittsburgh region has suffered its share of extraordinary wet weather events. Call it the “New Normal” or whatever you want, determination of feasible and sustainable solutions will require unprecedented cooperation and engagement among affected municipal officials, their constituents and respective advisors. Some communities have formed Stormwater Management Authorities for the purpose of financing and implementing capital improvements to mitigate flooding. Others have dedicated stormwater facilities improvement budgets.

Decision-making among municipal officials, developers and their respective financial and engineering consultants is challenged by evolving zoning and building codes (e.g. zero runoff impact, Green Stormwater Infrastructure utilization, sustainability standards, etc.), and of course by Federal and State environmental / storm-water regulations. Unfortunately landowners expect storm systems to convey ALL tributary flow and eliminate flooding, however that goal is not realistic when utilizing “industry standard of practice” design programs that rely on prevailing textbook/regulatory and life-cycle standards and estimates of cost effectiveness or ROI



Photo courtesy of the Dormont Stormwater Authority

using conventional cost - pricing, metrics. Consideration of the acquisition of Multiple Loss Properties, whether in downstream flood – prone areas, or far up in the watershed in mature, high density residential developments introduces inestimable emotional and political factors. Selection of a sustainable, affordable municipal infrastructure flood control alternatives is further challenged as a result of the elimination and/or reduction of many traditional grant/loan programs.

Is the “New-Normal” decision-making paradigm more complicated than say 50 to 100 years ago when most of the region’s infrastructure was planned and designed? Probably. It’s a fact that regional infrastructure that was designed to then prevailing textbook and regulatory standards hasn’t accommodated recent storm / runoff characteristics (for many different reasons). Ultimate decision-making by municipal officials at public meetings, in front of stakeholders includes in part, engineering, legal and financial opinions that are based upon facts that are within relatively easy reach. But is that enough? Unfortunately, no one can predict the weather, the occurrence of future events of “biblical” proportion and when a system will fail. So absoluteness in terms of flood protection may be impossible to achieve while a “do nothing” approach may be both ethically and politically unacceptable.

So what price protection, and how do we make decisions on future capital projects? Whatever the selected design and financing approach, public education and calibration of expectations on the part of municipal officials and stakeholders will be critical to success. LSSE works diligently to inform clients and stakeholders with the goal of achieving best practicable solutions.

PA Small Water and Sewer Grant Program

On November 15, the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) and the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) opened up the second round for funding applications for the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant Program. The program is funded with \$25M in state funding (included in the recently adopted state budget).

The program is open to municipal authorities and municipalities for projects involving the construction, expansion, repair or rehabilitation of a water supply or sanitary sewer system. Construction and soft costs are generally eligible for projects ranging in cost from \$30,000 to \$500,000. A 15% match is required.

Applications are due February 28, 2018. Additional information is available at the CFA website at <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/pa-small-water-sewer/>. If you have a project in mind or have any questions about this or any other funding source, please feel free to contact LSSE’s Funding Specialist, Emily Palmer at Ext. 206 or epalmer@lsse.com.



© MEE Photography

LSSE owners and employees devote considerable time and effort engaging other professionals and stakeholders in many different professional/technical forums. LSSE also sponsors various business related seminars and community development activities. Recent examples include:

Professional Presentations:

1. 3 Rivers Wet Weather Annual Conference
October, 2017:
 - a. MS4 Pollutant Reduction Plan:
Implementation and How to Utilize Your GIS Asset Management Tools; Kevin A.Brett, P.E., Shawn Wingrove, E.I.T.
 - b. SFRFT Consensus Based Approach;
Lawrence J. Lennon, P.E., DWRE
2. 2017 Joint PWEA/ PA- AWWA/PMAA Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Summit, November 2017, State College, PA::
 - a. MS4 Pollutant Reduction Plan:
Implementation and How to Utilize Your GIS Asset Management Tools; Kevin A. Brett, P.E. Shawn Wingrove, E.I.T.

Business/Community Activities:

1. Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce (PAACC):
 - a. Premier Sponsor, 2017 Community Impact Awards Banquet, November 2, 2017
 - b. Breakfast Briefings Premier Sponsor (including Annual State of the County Address)

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Ramsey

Michelle is a Project Engineer in LSSE’s Environmental Unit. Michelle’s background includes a BA in Civil Engineering and AS in Architecture from Fairmont State University. Beyond work at LSSE Michelle has established herself as an accomplished photographer. Her portfolio includes special events, unique Western Pennsylvania scenery and striking images like that of the adjacent photo of the Milky Way she captured on a recent trip to Banff, Canada.