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**BY LAW CHANGE PROPOSED**

RAMCA members were recently mailed a proposed amendment to the RAMCA By Laws. The purpose of the suggested revision is to provide more members the opportunity to serve on the RAMCA Board of Directors while invigorating the Board with a more diverse group of member firms. This By Law revision, along with the election of the 2006 RAMCA Board of Directors, will be considered and acted upon at the Annual Meeting of the Association, scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton South Hotel on Midlothian Turnpike. In addition, members will hear reports from the President, Treasurer, and Executive Director along with Committee Chairmen. Want to know what your association did in 2005 and where we are going in 2006? This is the meeting that answers those questions. Please make every effort to attend.

**RAMCA MEETS WITH VDOT/  
CHESTERFIELD RESIDENCY**

RAMCA President Jim Patterson (F.G. Pruitt), Joint Cooperative Committee Chairman Monty Gatewood (Shoosmith Bros.), and your Executive Director met with Dale Totten, Resident Engineer at the Chesterfield Residency of VDOT on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss RAMCA concerns centering on requirements for geotech testing primarily in the area of trenches and ditches.

VDOT is performing less and less of these tests with their own forces thereby requiring owner/developers to hire geotechnical engineers to certify that trench compaction is per VDOT specs. Some geotechs are not willing to certify compaction just by observing the way the work is performed (as most VDOT inspectors did). If they are not, a strict interpretation of VDOT requirements would necessitate actually doing compaction analysis in the bottom of these ditches and trenches, many of which are well in excess of five feet in depth,

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thereby requiring shoring, trench boxes or other safety requirements in order to comply with OSHA regs. These safety requirements would not work well as moving trench boxes would disturb the fill, and have a possible impact on compaction. And given the depth of some utilities like older sewer lines (10-20 feet deep) shoring is impractical. Most importantly, putting someone in a ditch that deep for just a short period of time to conduct a compaction test would be very expensive and very impractical.

Our discussion with VDOT was very productive and a number of possible solutions emerged, including:

Requiring stone instead of dirt as backfill up to five feet below grade thus eliminating the need for compaction tests, until the last five feet, which would allow an inspector to enter the trench without any safety concerns;

Put more info on the plans and specs better detailing the geotechs responsibilities and options;

Have a meeting with all affected parties, (County utilities, VDOT, RAMCA, Developers, geotechs) to discuss ways to provide VDOT with the proper certifications, without getting into the OSHA catch 22, and providing some comfort to the geotechs that they can certify compaction in deep trenches without actually descending into the trench.

Mr. Totten is considering all of these approaches and intends to get back with RAMCA when a course of action has been determined. Most importantly, VDOT agrees that RAMCA has identified a serious problem that needs fixing. Stay Tuned.



## CHANGE THE SUITE NUMBER, PLEASE!

The RAMCA office recently moved from Suite 904 to Suite 1200. All other information regarding the address, phone, fax, email, etc. of the RAMCA office remains the same. We are, however, experiencing some lost mail that continues to be sent to Suite 904, including checks and other important association correspondence. Please take a moment now and ensure that your office has noted the suite number change indicated above in your files and database.

Thank you.

## RAMCA CONTINUES DIALOGUE WITH HENRICO COUNTY

RAMCA has been engaged in an ongoing dialogue with Henrico County officials over the last five years that has proven mutually productive. Past meetings with the County's Environmental Section, along with senior representatives from both the Works and Utilities Departments have all yielded positive results for all parties. On September 30<sup>th</sup> RAMCA once again sat down with County officials to discuss a broad range of issues.

While no formal action was taken, discussions included:

- Classification of permits (utility vs. plumbing) when utility lines approach a building and leave the right-of-way;

- Limiting the possible locations of water meter boxes;

- Update on the use of fixed price and unit price contracts;

- Comments on new inspection forms being used by Utilities Dept;

- Discussion of making contractors responsible for water sample approvals;

- Discussion of having acceptable CCTV of all sanitary sewers from developers certified by engineer before tentative acceptance by County;

- Discussions about Henrico adopting a split-paving program for their sub-division roads similar to the RAMCA initiated program recently adopted by Chesterfield.

It was obviously a busy agenda with plenty of input provided by the six RAMCA representatives in attendance. RAMCA will keep you posted if any of these issues move forward.



### THE RAMCA WEBSITE IS GREAT- USE IT!

Members are encouraged to visit the RAMCA website for up to the minute information on RAMCA activities and events, along with industry information and links to other important sites such as Virginia's One Call Center, VDOT, OSHA, legislative contacts, and countless other valuable industry connections. The RAMCA website was created last year at considerable expense because your Board of Directors believed it would further enhance member services. Use it, it will help you and your business succeed. Check it out at [www.ramca.info](http://www.ramca.info)

## RAMCA SUMMER GOLF THE USUAL – A GREAT TIME!

Despite very threatening weather to our east, RAMCA's Annual Jack Bargamin Memorial Summer Golf Outing never saw a drop of rain as 135 members and guests descended upon Hunting Hawk Golf Course for a great day of golf.

RAMCA wants to thank the many hole, raffle, beverage cart and grand prize sponsors that helped ensure the success of this event. The level of membership support of this event is always most gratifying and RAMCA greatly appreciates the continued member support. Special thanks to Mike Harcum and Carter Machinery for managing, storing, and delivering all of the signage for this event. Attached to this newsletter is a list of all sponsors. Once again we say thank you!

And now the winners:

Flight 1 - First Place

Lyttle Utilitites #1

Flight 2 – First Place

Water Works

Flight 3 – First Place

APAC Atlantic

Flight 4 – First Place

Hanson Pipe and Products #2

Flight 1 – Second Place

Martin Marietta

Flight 2 – Second Place

Carter Machinery

Flight 3 – Second Place

White Oak Equip.

Flight 4 - Second Place

Southers Concrete

Longest Drive

First Flight – Jeff Fox, Second Flight – Jack Jones, Third Flight – Harry King, and Fourth Flight – Craig Arnold.

Closest to the Pin

First Flight – Jeff Fox, Second Flight – Glen Mitchell, Third Flight – Brian Atkins, and Fourth Flight – Jason Boyd.

CONGRATS TO ALL THE WINNERS. You will definitely want to mark your calendars now for next year's two big RAMCA golf outings. May 18<sup>th</sup> at Royal New Kent and September 21<sup>st</sup> at Mattaponi Springs. Two great golf courses for two great events. We look forward to seeing you there.

**RAMCA Officers**

President  
Jim Patterson  
F.G. Pruitt, Inc.

Vice President  
Bill Howard  
G. L. Howard, Inc.

Secretary/Treasurer  
J. Michael Todd  
Keiter, Stephens, Hurst, Gary &  
Shreaves

Immediate Past President  
Monty Gatewood  
Shoosmith Bros., Inc.

**RAMCA Directors****Contractors**

David Cosby  
Sovereign Paving, Inc.

James H. Martin, Jr.  
J.H. Martin & Sons Contractors, Inc.

Johnnie Barr  
Ward & Stancil, Inc.

**Associates**

Ben Steele  
Martin Marietta Aggregates

Keith Frazier  
ACF Environment

**Staff**

Executive Director  
Mark I. Singer

Office Manager  
Judy Frederick

**FRED W. BARNES – IN MOURNING**

Long time RAMCA member and utility industry pioneer Fred W. Barnes passed away on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Fred's firm, Lyttle and Barnes Construction Company, was a charter member of RAMCA. Fred served on the association's initial Board of Directors and was our fourth and nineteenth President. In his later years, Fred came out of retirement to provide volunteer assistance to RAMCA at our many events. RAMCA's Executive Director was honored to deliver one of many eulogies at his funeral. The entire membership of RAMCA has benefited from Fred's contributions to our association and our industry. Our condolences go out to his family and many friends.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

RAMCA welcomes its newest contractor member:

Ivy H. Smith Company, LLC

RAMCA Representatives – George Summers & Richard Krauss

Contact Info – Phone 770.484.2130 or

[gsummer@anscoinc.com](mailto:gsummer@anscoinc.com)

**WELCOME TO THE RAMCA FAMILY!**

And speaking of members, all RAMCA member firms are reminded that the association encourages members to consider doing business with other RAMCA member firms. Your willingness to do business with other RAMCA members provides value to membership in the association. All things being equal, consider supporting our member firms.

**ATTACHMENTS****RAMCA Golf Sponsors**

Henrico County Dept. of Public Utilities Current Construction Bid Schedule

Excerpts-Former VDOT Comm. Phil Shucet: Transportation Funding Crisis

ESOP Fact Sheet- Compliments of RAMCA member Mike Todd

Two Henrico County Product Approval Letters