

## ANNUAL MEETING SEES RECORD TURNOUT

The November 1 – 2 events in Houston were some of the most successful that the Council has held in the last decade. Over 250 people attended, largely the result of the strong cosponsoring support seen from the Texas Department of Transportation, the Association of Water Board Directors of Texas and the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council.

The NCPPP Board of Directors met on the 1<sup>st</sup> to consider a number of items, including the election of new members of the Executive Committee. **Art Smith** (Management Analysis, Inc.) became Chairman, and **Ken Butler** (Capital Partnerships) moved up to the post of President. **Judge Bob Hebert** (Fort Bend County, Texas) became President-elect and **Don Levine** (Veolia Water) became VP of Finance. **Bob Jennings** (Scannell Properties) was elected VP for Membership and **Chip Foley** (American Iron and Steel Institute) was reelected for VP for Policy. Also reelected were **Parker Williams** (ACS) as VP for Education and **Dave Anderson** (Fargo-Moorhead Downtown Community Partnership) as Member-at-Large/Public.



*Don Levine [right] passes the Chairman's gavel to Art Smith.*

Another action taken by the Board was to consider an endorsement of a legislative model for PPPs developed by the American Bar Association. **Steve Sorett** (McKenna Long & Aldridge) presented the proposal, and the Board called for a committee to review the document and report to the Executive Committee's January meeting. The Board also heard reports for each of the Council's institutes, as well as on the financial condition of the NCPPP. It was noted that the Council had a solid performance in 2007,

eliminating the last of a long standing deficit and creating a reserve fund.

The annual Awards Dinner was also held as part of the events in Houston. This year's awards were presented in three categories: innovation, service and infrastructure. The innovation award went to Fort Knox, Nolin RECC and Harshaw Trane for the development of a geothermal energy system for the military facility. The service award went to Great Falls, Montana and Veolia Water North America for 30 years of a continuous partnership. The infrastructure award went to the US Army and Clark Realty Capital for the development of the Herryford Village at Fort Belvoir. Case studies on each of these project are on the NCPPP Website.

In a break from recent tradition, the Annual Meeting included three simultaneous workshops that were held on Friday, November 2. Separate sessions were held for water/wastewater, economic development, and transportation, with the latter two merging into one afternoon session on transportation oriented development. Key leaders addressed each session: **Michael Deane**, Senior Policy Advisor for the EPA; Texas Transportation Commission Chair **Ric Williamson**; Texas Department of Transportation's Executive Director **Amadeo Saenz**; **Mayor David Wallace** of Sugar Land Texas; and President of Houston Metro **Frank Wilson** were just a few of the luminaries. Evaluations for all three sessions clearly indicated that the participants approved of the new format – the ratings (on a scale with a 5 as "perfect") ran in the mid to upper 4s, one of the higher ratings seen in recent years.

In all, the meeting was a major success, enough so that the format and approach will be repeated next year. The strong financial support supplied by Balfour Beatty, Capital Partnerships, CH2M Hill OMI, HDR, Herzog and Veolia also made this meeting a success for the Council.

Planning for next year's event is already underway, following the Board's approval of the location for the 2008 meeting to be Indianapolis, Indiana.

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## PRESIDENT BUTLER ADDRESSES BOARD

Upon his election by the Board of Directors as the new **President of the NCPPP, Ken Butler** (Capital Partnerships) took a few minutes to outline his goals for his two-year term. Butler has served on the Executive Committee for seven years, most recently as President-Elect and prior to that as the Vice President of Finance.

Butler spoke of his desire to increase the activity of all the Council's institutes – International, Real Estate, Transportation and Water. Specifically he called for more seminars, meetings and communications activities that all aid in educating the Council's primary audience, the public sector. Butler also wants to increase the impact of the NCPPP in all of these areas. He noted that the institutes serve as the most effective way of meeting the needs of our individual members.

Secondly, Butler called for “re-energizing our education of decision makers at the federal, state and local levels” about the benefits of PPPs. He noted that the recent increase in the tone and level of debate at all levels of government clearly indicates that an objective voice needs to be heard, especially in light of the tremendous challenges for upkeep and growth of our infrastructures.

Finally, Butler proposed establishing a scholarship fund for qualified students in the field of public administration who are focusing on the implementation and management of public-private partnerships. The Board responded by asking the Executive Committee to investigate the feasibility and methods for implementation of this proposal.

## TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE MEETS

Members of the NCPPP Transportation Institute (TI) met on December 12 to prepare plans for their activities for 2008.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by students of The George Washington University Graduate School for Public Policy & Public Administration. As part of their curriculum, five students presented the findings of their Capstone Study of a comparison of the public policy processes for public-private partnerships in Maryland and Virginia, and how this impacts projects for Interstate 495, the Washington Beltway. As Professor Nancy Augustine (who directed the project) explained, this is the final course requirement for completion of the student's graduate degrees.

The over 60 page academic study substantiated a number of impressions held by TI members. While Virginia has strong legislative and administrative support for public-private partnerships, Maryland's options are much more limited. As revealed in the interchange between TI members and the Capstone team, this in large part is the result of the differences in how projects are initiated and approved – in Maryland, there is a greater level of local control over this process.

The TI meeting also discussed the improving prospects for a one-year contract with the US DOT Federal Transit Administration for conducting a series of four workshops on Transit Oriented Development (TOD). In addition, the October action of the Association of General Contractors to initiate a training program for their members about PPPs (to be done in conjunction with the NCPPP) was also reviewed. One other action was to initiate a review of the American Bar Association's model legislation for PPPs, which was presented at the Board of

Directors' meeting on November 1.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included NCPPP's work with the Volpe Center and the Federal Highway Administration on the PPP “Tool Box” Website, prospected for reauthorization of SAFETEA, and development of additional transportation workshops to be held in 2008.

This meeting saw one of the larger turnouts, with over 25 people in attendance.



*George Washington University Professor Nancy Augustine, with the graduate students of the Capstone team and Parker Williams prepare for the study findings presentation to the Transportation Institute*

## NCPPP CONDUCTS A NLC WORKSHOP

A team from the NCPPP conducted a day-long session on November 13, as part of the National League of Cities Congress of Cities, held in New Orleans. An audience of 65 mayors and other elected officials participated in the session that explored the use of public-private partnerships for economic development, transportation and water/wastewater projects.

The NCPPP team included **Dan Sugarman** (United Water), **Bob Jennings** (Scannell Properties), **Charles Hales** (HDR) and **Rick Norment** (NCPPP). Following a morning of presentations on PPPs in each sector, the group broke into four discussion groups to examine options in greater detail.

Countering the normal tendency for a third of the audience to leave after the afternoon coffee break, this group stayed to the very end of the sessions, making this a full eight hour day for everyone involved. The presentations used at this meeting are available on the NCPPP Website.

One common theme throughout all the discussions was the challenge of political leadership in making PPPs possible. Methods to counter public misperception and interest group resistance were actively discussed throughout the day, illustrating the strong interest of these attendees in finding solutions to the challenges in their individual cities.

## NCPPP AND TOYO UNIVERSITY SIGN AGREEMENT

In 2006, **President Art Smith** (Management Analysis Inc.) participated in a PPP Forum conducted by Toyo University in Tokyo, Japan. As a direct response to his participation, three NCPPP representatives were asked to return to the University's campus for another forum, held on September 27 of this year.



*NCPPP President Smith and Toyo University Chairman Tsukamoto conclude the signing ceremony, with Norment, Jennings and Toyo University leadership looking on.*

**Smith, Bob Jennings** (Scannell Properties) and **Rick Norment** (NCPPP) all made presentations before an audience of over 500 civic leaders, politicians and students.

Of particular interest to the audience was the Sandy Springs, GA project that received an NCPPP Award in 2006. Extensive discussions covered the mechanisms of this city's government operations that have been totally outsourced to CH2M Hill OMI. There are efforts in Japan to replicate this approach. Another area of interest was the use of PPPs for economic development, particularly in mid- and smaller-sized cities.

As part of the trip to Japan, NCPPP signed a joint agreement with Toyo

University to provide and exchange information on PPPs, participate in future Forums, and for the University to become a member of the NCPPP. The official signatories were NCPPP President Smith and Toyo University Chairman Masarobi Tsukamoto.

Smith, Jennings and Norment also conducted a special session for the graduate school for public-private partnerships within Toyo University. Participants included students and local officials from one small Japanese community where partnerships for economic development are being used. Professor Sam Tabuchi (pictured above on the left) organized all of these events (the graduate school tutorial, the signing ceremony and the PPP Forum). As a result of these efforts, Toyo University has become a member of the NCPPP.

### NEW RESOURCES

~ Presentations from the National League of Cities meeting on November 13, 2007:

1. Fundamentals of Public-Private Partnerships: Rick Norment (National Council for Public-Private Partnerships)
2. Avenues and Vehicles - Transportation-Oriented Development: Charlie Hales (HDR)
3. Economic Development & Public-Private Partnerships - FORM Meets FUNCTION: Bob Jennings (Scannell Properties)
4. Water/Wastewater Public-Private Partnerships: Dan Sugarman (United Water)

~ NCPPP 2007 Public-Private Partnership Award recipients case studies are now available:

1. Great Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant
2. Hammerhead Barracks Energy Renovation
3. Herryford Village at Fort Belvoir

~ NCPPP's 2007 Annual Report

~ NCPPP'S 2007 Annual Meeting Presentations

## WATER ASSOCIATIONS MEET

On December 5, the associations representing the water and wastewater sector met to discuss areas of mutual interest. Participants in the meeting included both volunteer leadership and staff of the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), the NCPPP, US Conference of Mayors' Water Council, Water Design-Build Council (WDBC), Water Partnership Council (WPC) and the Water & Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA).

**Michael Deane** of the Environmental Protection Agency (see "Special Note" on page 6) participated in the meeting, outlining some of the "retooling" of the Agency's programs. He noted that EPA Administrator Steven Johnson has water issues as a "top priority." The EPA is now stressing the "Three Rs": Reduce, Reuse and Restore (all of which were topics at the NCPPP Annual Meeting).

Of particular interest to this group of associations are public education efforts, through workshops and public relations campaigns. The target audiences continue to be local and state elected officials, in the belief that

they are the key segment of the public for implementation of PPPs. Recent regulatory and legislative developments (or lack of them) at the federal level were another area of discussion.

In reporting on the Council's activities, NCPPP's Rick Norment included a reference to the ongoing work of the Council for the United Nations. The resulting lively discussion concluded that this international aspect can have a strong impact on the US domestic debate, for two reasons. First, the case studies prepared by the NCPPP (and on the Website) include the notorious Cochabamba, Bolivia partnership which has often been distorted by some groups opposing PPPs and is more accurately portrayed in the UN case study. Secondly, the source of the case study is the United Nations, viewed as an objective third party in this matter. Several participants in this meeting will be using this case study in the education efforts.

These meetings are held periodically, usually annually, and have proven useful in developing common approaches to common problems. This year's event was hosted by the WPC in Washington, DC.

## FEDERAL PROPERTIES MEETING SET

Planning for the repeat of last year's highly successful meeting is now well underway; it will be held on February 6, 2008 in Washington, DC. A program planning committee has been formed, with **Anita Molino** (Bostonia Partners), **Steve Surprenant** (HDR), **Steve Sorett** (McKenna Long & Aldridge) and **Bob Jennings** (Scannell Properties) as members. Other NCPPP Members interested in participating in this committee should contact Rick Norment at the NCPPP offices.

As with last year's event, the purpose is to explore the federal government's approach for the more efficient management of agency properties by using

PPPs. Enhanced Use Leasing (EUL), Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs), and other types of partnerships will be discussed by senior officials from the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, NASA and other major agencies.

Last year's event was "sold out" and the surprising number of early registrations strongly suggests that the turnout will be substantial for this meeting as well. Registration information is available on the NCPPP Website – register early to assure your place at the meeting.

## NEW MEMBERS

**Caribbean Industrial Construction, SE** became a general private member. The official representative is Gustavo Hermida, Managing Partner. Caribbean Industrial Construction, SE is a privately owned special partnership, began operations in 1983, specializing in pharmaceuticals projects. Today the firm is engaged in providing Integrated Construction Services to industrial, commercial and institutional projects of all types. Caribbean Industrial Construction self performs civil, structural and architectural works. Our mission is to provide quality construction services that exceed our clients expectations and to be the Construction Services Company of your choice.

**EFI Japan Office** became a general public member. The official representative is K. Sam Tabuchi, Director. EFI is a PPP organization and interested in PPPs. Tabuchi teaches PPPs at a graduate school in Tokyo.

**Johnson Controls** returned as a sponsor private member. The official

representative is Mark Wagner. Johnson Controls is a global leader in automotive experience, building efficiency and power solutions. The company provides innovative automotive interiors that help make driving more comfortable, safe and enjoyable. For buildings, it offers products and services that optimize energy use and improve comfort and security. Johnson Controls also provides batteries for automobiles and hybrid-electric vehicles, along with systems engineering and service expertise.

**Paul MacPherson** became an individual public member. He is Chief, Enhanced Use Leasing & New Business for the Air Force Real Property Agency.

**Saxon, Gilmore, Carraway, Gibbons, Lash & Wilcox, PA** became a general private member. The official representative is John Wilcox, Attorney. Saxon, Gilmore, Carraway, Gibbons, Lash & Wilcox, P.A. is a business and litigation law firm, with a primary focus on environmental, water, land

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**12/11/07 – The South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SFLHCC)** recently recognized **PBS&J** as the “Engineering Company of the Year,” during their 13th Annual Sunshine Awards luncheon. The award honors members that shine and excel in their respective careers through their work, leadership, and community service. PBS&J was one of several finalists for the award, chosen by the members of the SFLHCC based on a rigorous selection process. Finalists were required to be actively involved in the Chamber and committed to the Hispanic business community in South Florida through leadership and community service.

**12/7/07 – Bechtel has been awarded an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract** to execute Anglo American’s Los Bronces Development project. The work on this US\$ 1.7 billion project will start immediately. The Los Bronces mine is located 65 kilometers from Santiago and the existing operations comprise a mine, a 58,000 tons per day (tpd) copper concentrator, and two solvent extraction and electro-winning plants. The Los Bronces Development project will increase the daily throughput by 87,000 tpd by adding a new concentrator facility at Confluencia and Tórtolas II, both sites nearby the existing plant facilities.

**12/7/07 – Fulbright partner Brian Greig has joined a select national team** of 148 attorneys honored for delivering superior client service. Each year BTI interviews more than 250 individual corporate counsel at Fortune 1000 and large organizations in choosing its BTI Client Service All-Stars.

**12/6/07 – Sixty-four Mayer Brown lawyers are ranked by Chambers Global: The World’s Leading Lawyers** in its just-published 2008 edition. Among the individually-ranked lawyers, eight are in the top tier for their practice areas. Chambers Global ranks Mayer Brown practices in a total of 34 national, regional and global categories. Chambers says clients feel that the US firm possesses “great strength around the world” in Business Process Outsourcing.

**12/5/07 – Nossaman Guthner Knox & Elliott LLP announced that Partner and local Irvine resident, David Colgan, have been awarded the Gwen Rosebeary Award** by the Building Industry Association, Orange County Chapter (BIA/OC). The award is presented each year to an individual who has demonstrated a long-term commitment and outstanding dedication to the building industry in Orange County.

**12/4/07 – HDR is part of a team that was selected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** to continue providing program and project management support for its South Louisiana Water Resources Program. The team was previously selected in April 2006 for a three-year contract. The new contract will be in effect until 2012. Encompassing hurricane protection and ecosystem restoration, the program includes levees, floodwalls, floodgates and pump stations, as well as coastal protection measures. As a subconsultant to Evans-Graves Engineers, HDR’s responsibilities include program and project management and analysis, database management, resource management and environmental planning.

**12/3/07 – The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) selected Veolia Water North America – Central LLC** to manage a

regional wastewater system serving the greater Milwaukee area under a 10-year contract valued at approximately \$400 million. Approved today by MMSD commissioners, the public-private partnership represents the nation’s largest wastewater contract and is expected to save approximately \$35 million over the contract term compared to MMSD’s estimate to manage the system through public operations.

**12/07 – Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP (K&L Gates)** has been named one of the top 30 law firms in client service as compared with more than 500 other leading firms by The BTI Consulting Group in its latest national Survey of Client Service Performance for Law Firms, released last week. Through a survey including more than 250 independent, individual interviews with corporate counsel at Fortune 1000 companies and other large organizations, BTI Consulting Group identified 17 key activities that drive client service.

**11/29/07 – Earth Tech, Inc. was awarded a five year blanket purchase agreement** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide logistical support services during emergencies and incidents of national significance. The agreement has a potential value of up to \$5 million per year. Under the scope of the agreement, Earth Tech will provide the EPA’s on-scene coordinators and other Federal officials with support in a variety of areas including helping to locate and set up temporary housing, office space and other facilities and coordinating security and medical services.

**11/29/07 – Washingtonian magazine has once again unveiled its highly regarded rankings of the Capital’s top legal talent** in its just published December issue. This year, **Venable LLP** made one of its best ever showings in the rankings with 14 attorneys named to the list.

**11/27/07 – Ernst & Young has been recognized as a Most Admired Knowledge Enterprise (MAKE)** for the tenth consecutive year and was ranked first in the categories: ‘Developing Knowledge Workers Through Senior Management Leadership’, and ‘Delivering Knowledge-Based Products and Services’. Ernst & Young was the only Big Four professional services organization to be awarded.

**11/16/07 – Johnson Controls, Inc. announced that it acquired Skymark International, Inc.** an indoor packaged HVAC products manufacturer headquartered in Ontario Canada. Specific terms of the agreement were not disclosed. Skymark designs and manufactures indoor, through-the-wall and self-contained packaged HVAC products used in new, retrofit and renovation projects throughout North America.

**11/15/07 – Merrill Lynch announced that it has acquired approximately 10 percent of the TRUST Banking Group (TRUST Investment Bank and National Bank TRUST) ahead of the merger of these two banks under the National Bank TRUST (“TRUST”) name.** The purchase was a secondary market transaction between the majority shareholders of TRUST and Merrill Lynch, for an undisclosed amount.

**11/15/07 – United Water announced that the company has signed a new contract with the city of Indianapolis to manage the wastewater**

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treatment facilities and sewage collection system. United Water, whose current contract ends December 31, 2007, has operated the Indianapolis facilities through a public-private partnership since 1994. The City County Council selected the firm for the new contract period following a competitive proposal process. The new nine-year contract with Indianapolis, which takes effect January 1, 2008, is renewable in 2017 and 2023.

**11/14/07 – LCOR-developed and managed U.S. Patent and Trademark Office campus headquarters in Alexandria, Va. has earned an ENERGY STAR rating from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, reflecting the property's "superior energy performance" and identifying it as "one of the most efficient buildings in the nation," according to the EPA. By designing an energy-efficient property, the EPA said in a letter to LCOR, "you are preventing the release of greenhouse gases and protecting the environment."**

**11/12/07 – For the second straight year, finance law firm Chapman and Cutler LLP has ranked Number 1 among law firms in Chicago in America Lawyer's annual survey of summer associate satisfaction. Chapman also placed Number 14 among the 169 firms covered in the magazine's measure of quality of work and life issues at U.S. law firms, from the candid vantage point of young summer associates.**

**11/9/07 – Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP (Blakes) announced that it has been named "Canadian Law Firm of the Year" by Chambers and Partners Legal Publishers, one of the world's leading publishers of legal directories and trade periodicals. Blakes also won this award in May 2004.**

**11/9/07 – The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) awarded a contract to PB to provide engineering services for a major expansion of the SR-91 toll road in Riverside County, CA. The project will study the addition of one general purpose lane and two toll lanes in each direction on SR-91 from SR-241.**

**11/8/07 – Parsons received a \$16 million construction contract from Clallam County, located on the upper Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, for the Elwha River Bridge Replacement Project—the largest public works project in the County's 153-year history. The 94-year-old bridge, which consists of a one-lane span, closed to traffic in August. Parsons is responsible for removing the existing steel truss structure and replacing it with a cast-in-place box girder bridge built by a balanced-cantilever technique.**

**11/6/07 – McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP (MLA) congratulated Eric J. Tanenblatt, Senior Managing Director of Government Affairs, on his presidential nomination to The Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency. Led by a Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer confirmed by the Senate, its mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. The position is expected to be a five-year term.**

**11/2/07 – American Water announced the acquisition of South Jersey Services Inc. by its subsidiary, New Jersey American Water. The acquisition will expand American Water's presence in South Jersey, adding more than 7,200 customers. South Jersey Services Inc. is comprised of two regulated utility subsidiaries, the Penns Grove Water Supply Company of Salem County and the South Jersey Water Supply Company of Gloucester County. With the addition of Salem County, the company will have a presence in 17 of the state's 21 counties.**

## SPECIAL NOTE

**EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson has appointed Michael Deane as Associate Assistant Administrator for Water. Deane previously served as a Senior Policy Advisor for Infrastructure Finance for Johnson. Deane has been a member of the NCPPP Executive Committee and Board of Directors.**

**11/2/07 – Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. completed the acquisition of Carter & Burgess, a 3,200-person professional services firm headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, early today. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.**

**11/1/07 – Fluor Corporation celebrated its 50th anniversary of being listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) by ringing The Closing Bell(R) on November 1 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Alan Boeckmann, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, was joined by Mike Steuert, Chief Financial Officer and members of Fluor's Board of Directors.**

**10/30/07 – The North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) announced a study to determine the costs to build track for commuter rush hour rail service on its existing line from Goldsboro to Greensboro. HNTB, a national engineering firm experienced in both freight and commuter rail, was awarded the study contract.**

**10/11/07 – Denver-based regional law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck will merge with the California law firm Hatch & Parent effective January 1, 2008. The merged firm will be based in Denver and will retain the name Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. The merger brings together a real estate and political powerhouse with California's largest water practice.**

**10/5/07 – The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) elected Pete Rahn to serve as the group's president during its Sept. 2 annual meeting. Rahn, director of the Missouri Department of Transportation and former director of the New Mexico Department of Transportation, told participants at the meeting that the United States is losing ground to other nations as they invest strongly in their transportation infrastructure, while the United States has been delaying investment.**

**10/5/07 – Veolia Water North America named Chibby Alloway executive vice president and chief technical officer. Alloway will report directly to Joe Burgess, president and CEO, Veolia Water North America. A 37-year water industry veteran, Alloway has been president of Veolia Water North America – West since 2005. Prior to that, he had served as vice president and technical director of the company beginning in 1996, directing the western U.S. business until 2005, when he assumed the role of president.**

**10/3/07 – Council members in Farmington, N.M., have voted to extend the city's contract with CH2M HILL OMI for another eight years, allowing the company's experts to continue operating and maintaining the city's water and wastewater system. The contract, signed Oct. 2, takes effect Jan. 1, 2008, and builds on an earlier agreement through which CH2M HILL OMI has served the city since January 2000.**

## partnerships in the news

### Public/Private Partnership Funds Historical Markers for Two Target Communities

"It's always great to brag about what we can do when we have the resources," said Mayor John Peyton Tuesday at the Main Library.

He was joined by representatives from Comcast and two preservation organizations that have received grants totaling \$70,000 for the installation and maintenance of new historical markers at a number of sites in Old Arlington and Northwest Jacksonville.

The Comcast Foundation funded the project in cooperation with the mayor's office's "Seeds of Change" initiative that was started in 2006 to help residents in the two neighborhoods take pride in their communities.

"We're very proud of our work with Seeds of Change," said Peyton. "Jacksonville is a collection of neighborhoods and we're only as good as they are. In both Old Arlington and in Northwest Jacksonville, lots of folks are joining hands to make those areas better places to live. There are many stories in these neighborhoods we must not lose and must celebrate."

Tom Horn, Comcast vice president and general manager of the Jacksonville area, said the grants were funded by the Comcast Foundation, which was established in 1999 and has since donated more than \$43 million nationwide for projects that improve communities.

December 12, 2007, Max Marbut, *Financial News & Daily Record*

### U.S.-Palestinian Public-Private Partnership Holds Inaugural Session

President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice officially launched Monday, December 3, the U.S.-Palestinian Public Private Partnership, a new initiative creating economic opportunity for the Palestinian people, with a special focus on providing opportunities for Palestinian youth.

The new collaboration will encourage additional American private sector support for the Palestinians, and is a critical component in facilitating progress toward a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine live side by side, in peace, security and prosperity.

"The peace and security that we seek in the Middle East requires the active engagement of private citizens, civil society groups, and the business community," Secretary Rice said Monday. "Focusing this partnership on projects that reach young Palestinians directly, that prepare them for responsibilities of citizenship and leadership can have an enormous, positive impact."

Secretary Rice has asked President and CEO of the Aspen Institute Walter

Isaacson, to lead the initiative, along with co-chairs Citigroup Chairman Emeritus Sandy Weill; Material Service Corporation Chairman Lester Crown; American Task Force for Palestine President Ziad Asali; and Case Foundation CEO Jean Case. Executive Director of the Aspen Institute's Middle East Strategy Group Toni Verstandig, will direct Aspen's efforts on this initiative.

December 4, 2007, Source: U.S. Department of State

### South Dakota Announces Public-Private Partnership for High Speed Data Network

South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds announced plans for the High Speed Research, Education and Economic Development Network (High Speed REED). In a public-private partnership, SDN Communications of Sioux Falls will build the network connecting all six state universities plus the EROS Data Center and the Sanford Laboratory at Homestake.

The High Speed REED Network will give the universities and research centers the ability to share massive amounts of research data quickly with scientists worldwide by utilizing the highest network speeds available.

"This is a giant leap forward in our effort to achieve goal three of the 2010 Initiative and become a recognized leader in research and technology development," Rounds said. "This will be as important to South Dakota commerce as the interstate highway system was four decades ago."

December 4, 2007, Source: *Government Technology*

*New Members continued from page 4*

use law, golf and resort, public finance and real estate, public housing and affordable housing, and creditors' rights. With twenty-one attorneys on staff, we are able to combine the talent, capabilities, and resources normally found in much larger organizations with the flexibility, responsiveness, and personal attention of a smaller firm.

**Cynthia Shallit** became an individual public member. She is the Housing & Redevelopment Manager for the City of Woodland Redevelopment Agency in California.

**Toyo University PPP Graduate School** became a general public member. The official representative is Yuji Menoto, Professor. The graduate school of PPP teaches public/private Partnerships.

**John Turpin** became an individual public member. He is the Chief Appraiser – Office of Realty Services for the Federal Highway Administration.