

# DISTRICT THREE DESIGN NEWSLETTER



Volume 11, Issue 1

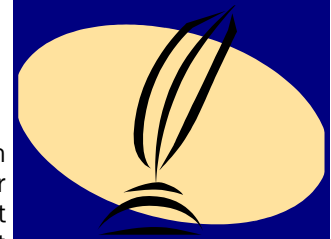
January—March 2006

### Inside this issue:

From the Editor's Desk	1
Design Spotlight- Jonathan Harris	2
Supplemental Agreement Report— November/December	2
Design Exception/ Variation	3

## From the Editor's Desk

Larry Kelley, P.E., District Design Engineer



“March Madness” has a different meaning to different people. In DOT it might mean the rush to get the last of the fiscal year projects processed for a June letting. For a school teacher it might mean the behavior of the kids before spring break. For me it means the collegiate basketball playoffs. It’s always been exciting to me to follow the progress of the teams in the NCAA tournament. It’s a great month for sports. I’ve also been fortunate to catch a few baseball spring training games the last couple of years. In addition to spring training, this year the World Baseball Classic was held.

I want to use what I saw in sports this month and relate that to another observation on “Quality”. As any of you sport fans know, many of the big basketball powerhouses got knocked off by small, lesser known schools. Also, in the World Baseball Classic the USA team didn’t win the tournament as many expected.

The big basketball schools have the best athletes and certainly the USA baseball team had its share of the star professional, big money athletes. In my opinion what led to their defeat was a lack of passion and concentration.

Great talent, coaching and playbooks do not guarantee success. Neither does a good quality control plan in our business. The basics must be mastered, but In the end the individual must apply his passion and concentration for success. I think passion and concentration are traits that individuals come to us with as a result of upbringing or personal motivation. However, management that recognizes their importance will spend time and energy ensuring that an atmosphere exists that encourages and enhances passion and concentration. Good talent always has the potential for passion and concentration.

For whatever reason, some of the big basketball schools and the USA baseball team lacked the passion and concentration that converts to details.

I suggest that we all take an interest in individuals and learn what gets them excited at work. Certainly give passion a chance and even promote it once you’ve got some clues as to what motivates certain individuals. By the same token we should all tell our supervisors what releases our passion and concentration and give them a chance to create that environment for us, also.



*Have a Safe and Happy Easter Holiday*

### District III Quarterly Design Newsletter

Editor.....Larry Kelley

Layout/Graphics.....Eddie Register

#### SUBMISSIONS BY:

.....Larry Kelley

.....Jason Peters

.....Eddie Register

**“Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds.”**

**Orison Swett Marden**



## *Design Spotlight-Jonathan Harris*

Larry Kelley, P.E., District Design Engineer

Jonathan Harris is relatively new to DOT and Design, but in short term has earned great respect for all who interact with him. Jonathan is a man of few words, but we listen up when he speaks. He is a wealth of knowledge in the electronic delivery field.

Jonathan was born in 1969 and has had the unique pleasure of living in the same area (southwest of Bonifay, FL) all his life. Jonathan graduated from Vernon High School in 1987 and then earned a degree in Electronics Engineering Technology from Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, FL.

Jonathan's work history involves surveying, machine shop business and a 10 year career with West Florida Electric Cooperative. With West Florida Electric Cooperative he was involved in right of way contracts management and also served as Information Technology Manager. He also worked for a few years with Phillips and Jordan, Inc. in their utility services division.

In March of 2004 Jonathan joined the FDOT Design Department. Here in Design, we were looking for electronic expertise as we were gearing up for fully electronic plans and deliveries. Jonathan is now the electronic guru. He is everyone's "go to" person for electronic questions and problem solving. The electronic delivery section would not be the success it is without Jonathan's expertise and work ethic.

I know now that Jonathan has a good sense of humor because when I asked him for his philosophy on work he replied "not often".

But, after he got serious again, he replied "An employee should do more than what is expected of him and maintain a positive attitude. Certainly employers have responsibilities to the employee, but we as employees should strive to give our "customer", our employer, the products they are purchasing." I hope Jonathan has a long career in Design. He is a valuable asset and a key to our success.



## *Supplemental Agreement Report-Nov/Dec '05*

Larry Kelley, P.E., District Design Engineer

This is the Supplemental Agreement Report for the months of November and December 2005. The two (2) categories of supplemental agreements that are included in this report are codes 101 and 118. This report is included in the Quarterly Design Newsletter as a tool to inform designers of errors and omissions that can lead to Supplemental Agreements and unnecessary costs to the public.

Below is a description of those areas and our responses:

**Description Code 101: Necessary pay item(s) not included.**

**Reason:** Improvements under this contract consist of milling and resurfacing, drainage improvements, replacement of bridge rails on Bridge Number 570043, and signing and pavement marking on SR 85 (Eglin Parkway) in Okaloosa County. Sheet B-3 of the contract plans directed the contractor to utilize temporary Type K Barrier Wall during the removal and construction of bridge traffic railings for Bridge Number 570043. However, the designer failed to include in the contract the necessary pay items for either furnishing and installing or relocating Type K Barrier Wall.

**Increase = \$27,500.00**

**Response:** This supplemental agreement was the result of a design error. However, no premium cost was incurred.

**Description Code 118: Inadequate/improper signing, signalization/pavement marking design or features.**

**Reason:** Improvements under this contract consist of milling and resurfacing, drainage improvements, guardrail construction, signing and pavement marking and signalization on SR 295 in Escambia County.

The Prime Contractor requested a meeting on behalf of the Subcontractor to discuss and clarify some signal items. Following that meeting the Designer of Record issued plans revisions confirming the concerns raised during the meeting. These plans revisions deleted 4 original signalization pay items and incorporated 4 new pay items.

**Increase = \$47,775.95**

**Response:** This supplemental agreement was the result of a design error. However, no premium cost was incurred.

## *Design Exception/Variation*

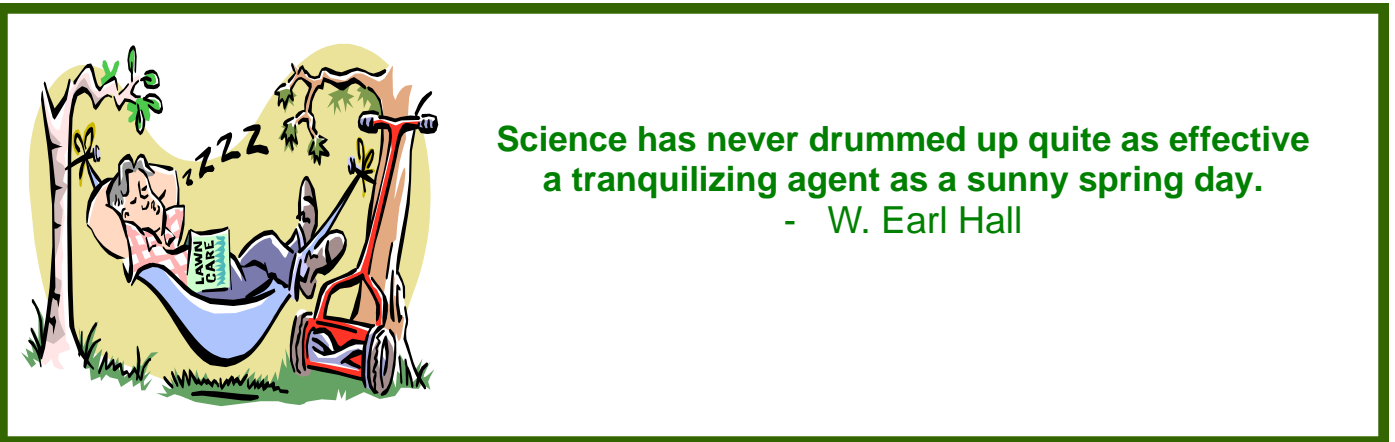
Jason Peters, P.E., Assistant District Design Engineer

Many of you are aware that an FDOT-wide Design Exception/Variation Report is now being generated every month informing the Districts of projects that required a Design Exception/Variation and the timeliness of the submissions. District 3 has been listed many times in this report with a "late submittal" label.

Central Office deadlines are very important and every possible attempt to meet them is highly encouraged. The new electronic process gives some a sense of instant submittals but there are many processes that are between your submittal and Central Office acceptance of a project and its issues.

Exception/Variation issues submitted to Central Office late in the process reflect negatively on the District. While it is understood why some Exception/Variation issues occur, it is important to all involved that we work together in a joint effort to submit these as early as possible so that the approval process will not affect project production dates and lettings. If it is unavoidable, it is important that information be provided as soon as possible so that Central Office reviews and District deadlines can be met.

Many of you are meeting the new challenges we appreciate your efforts in helping us meet our 100% accuracy goal.



**Science has never drummed up quite as effective  
a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.**

- W. Earl Hall

The sun was warm but the wind was chill.  
You know how it is with an April day.  
When the sun is out and the wind is still,  
You're one month on in the middle of May.  
But if you so much as dare to speak,  
a cloud come over the sunlit arch,  
And wind comes off a frozen peak,  
And you're two months back in the middle of March.  
- Robert Frost