



IMPROVING PROJECT OUTCOMES

Inaugural Event April 19, 2017

Improving Project Outcomes is a collaborative initiative that strives to facilitate better results for projects within the state. AIA of PA, COAA of PA, DBIA, and KCA have teamed up with a similar interest to establish a commitment to create meaningful conversations on design and construction excellence. During April of 2017, this group held their first Improving Project Outcomes event at the Appalachian Brewing Co. in Harrisburg. Some major topics discussed included: pull planning, early collaboration, legislation reform, design and construction challenges, and current industry trends. This event allowed small breakout groups to separate and collaborate to discuss the best practices. Attendance was great with over 50 people representing roughly 35 companies.

What did this event do well?

At the end of the event, questions were asked regarding what went well. The top three responses were having the four groups in attendance (KCA, DBIA, AIA, COAA), having a diverse range of attendees. Having representatives from the hosting groups enabled real discussions on real topics. Not only does their attendance maximize

efficiency, but the groups were also able to take advantage of the diverse perspectives. Their

differences in view points gave this event a wider range of insight to tackle discussion topics. Facilitating change is one objective that Improving Project Outcomes ventures toward. Micah Sayles, PM at Civil Environmental Consultants stated that “the event was a very inventive way to facilitate change in areas that need it.”

"The event was a very inventive way to facilitate change in areas that need it."

- MICAH SAYLES, PROJECT MANAGER AT CIVIL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



Breakout groups listen to facilitator John Bechtel of PSU at Appalachian Brewing Co.



Next Time!

Just as the attendees had taken the time to discuss the positive traits at this event, we also took the time to discuss any areas of importance for the next discussion. The top responses were having a more focused discussion on a specific topic and to develop a list of action steps to develop beneficial change. As this was the inaugural event, the attendees look forward to developing a more formal mission and vision for this event. In the future, an agenda will be made available to review in advance. This way those who plan on attending will have time to prepare accordingly.

Future Events

AIA of PA, COAA of PA, DBIA, and KCA plan on holding the next Improving Project Outcomes event on September 6, 2017. The location is TBD.



A breakout group closely listens to the facilitator

For any additional information regarding the event please contact:

- Jon O'Brien **KCA**- (717) 731-6272 - jon@keystonecontractors.com
- Steve Swarney **AIA PA**- (717) 236-4055 - sswarney@aiapa.org
- Richard Thomas **DBIA** - (202) 454-7516 - rthomas@dbia.org
- John Bechtel **COAA** - (814) 865-7079 - jrb115@psu.edu