



2021 Annual Meeting
Friday October 29, November 5 & November 12
8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon MT
Zoom Webinar

Friday, October 29

- 8:00 – 8:50 State of the Idaho Board of PE/PLS**
Jim Szatkowski, PE - Interim Director, Idaho Board of PE/PLS
NSPE Presentation
Rick Guerra, PE - NSPE President
- 9:00-9:50 R&D Tax Incentives for Private Companies**
Smith Miller - CEO, Strategic Tax Solutions
Many companies (including engineering companies) perform work that qualifies for the research and development (R&D) tax credit and are unaware, in this presentation we will explore the who, why, & how to capture these tax credits.
- 10:00-10:50 ITD TECM Program**
Dave Tolman, ITD
- 11:00-11:50 Treasure Valley Growth**
Liisa Itkonen, Ph.D., AICP
The presentation provides an overview of regional transportation planning, and how recent population growth and related trends in housing and employment are reflected in the update to the regional long-range transportation plan.

Friday, November 5

- 8:00 – 8:50 Ransomware: Prevention and Recovery**
Adam Eldred - Solutions Architect, CompuNet
Todd Martin - Systems Engineer, CompuNet
This session will be a discussion covering the "must-know" aspects of Ransomware - What is it? How has it become such a large threat? How can we prevent it? How can an organization recover from an attack? This will be in broad terms. Presenters encourage the audience to come with questions on their own specific areas of interest relating to Ransomware.
- 9:00-9:50 Climate Change & Wildfires in the West**
Dr. Mojtaba Sadegh, PhD - Assistant Professor,
Department of Civil Engineering, Boise State University
Warming and legacy of land-use changes and fire exclusion have changed fire behavior, resulting in an increase in destructive fires. This presses human and environmental systems, sometimes to and beyond their limits.

10:00-10:50 Idaho QBS

*Jeremy Chou - Partner, Givens Pursley LLC
Elizabeth Conner - Principal, Conner Community Consulting*

11:00-11:50 Boise's Carbon Neutral Goal

Steve Hubble - Climate Action Manager, City of Boise

The City of Boise will present information on the development of our community climate and clean energy goals and provide an update on the supporting initiatives related to these goals.

Friday, November 12

8:00 – 8:50 Idaho Power -

Southern Idaho Demand Growth and Idaho's Future Energy Resources

Jared Hansen, Jim Burdick, Erik Schellenberg

Topic 1 (~20min)– Effective Load Carrying Capability of Renewables – How can renewable resources be directly compared to traditional fossil resources?

Topic 2 (~20 min) – Summer grid operations during the Pacific Northwest heat wave, and Idaho Power's all-time peak demand.

Topic 3 (~20 min)– Distributed Battery Storage – Deferring or avoiding traditional wires solution.

9:00-9:50 Emerging Constituents in Wastewater

Dr. Sondra M. Miller, Ph.D., P.E. -

Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Boise State University

Emerging Constituents (ECs), also called Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs), are defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as: "... pharmaceuticals and personal care products.". We discuss results from sampling and analysis of a targeted set of ECs from the Lander Street Water Renewal Facility (LSWRF), which is the oldest of the City of Boise's two wastewater treatment facilities.

10:00-10:50 Next Generation Solar Thermal Energy

*Dr. Todd Otanicar, P.E - Chair & Associate Professor,
Mechanical & Biomedical Engineering, Boise State University*

The next generation of solar thermal energy requires cost reductions to be competitive with other technologies, much of which can be achieved through higher temperature operation. A number of unique challenges and design approaches are being pursued to address this and will be discussed here.

11:00-11:50 ID Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (IDOPL)

Keith Simila, PE

Discussion of the transition to the IDOPL organization and the opportunity for ISPE members to assist in future interactions with the staff of the IDOPL relative to laws, rules, and other actions.

Biographical Sketches



Smith Miller, CEO, Strategic Tax Solutions

Smith is the CEO and founding member of Strategic Tax Solutions (STS). He has more than 15 years of experience working with various size companies providing research & development (R&D) tax credit services. Prior to starting STS, Smith spent numerous years with two regional accounting firms building some of the industry's best tax credit and incentive programs. During his career, Smith has developed a reputation for his expertise and strategic approach as a leader in federal and state research and development tax credits and incentives. This extensive experience has led to successfully defending companies during federal IRS and state examinations.

His experience spans industries that include: architecture and engineering, software developers, design build contractors, construction materials, chemical manufacturing, aerospace, CNC machining, CADD/Modeling/3d, code development, food and beverage, equipment, entertainment, pharmaceutical, semi-conductor, and agricultural. He performs preliminary studies for these and many additional industries.

Smith enjoys educating small, mid-size and large companies on the importance of claiming the R&D tax credits. His goal is to help these companies receive the full benefit of federal and state tax incentives aimed at creating jobs and spurring American innovation. He believes in thinking "outside the box" when approaching R&D tax studies. No two clients are the same and therefore, no two research credit studies should be the same. At STS each R&D credit study is custom tailored to make the best use of the documentation available from each client.

His Professional Affiliations include:

ProVisors, Bay Area - Member

Boise Chamber of Commerce-Member

Meridian Chamber of Commerce-Member

SPAN – Founder and Director (2015-2018)

Southwest Idaho Manufacturing Association – Member

CFMA, Buy Idaho board member, Idaho Technology Council (ITC)



Liisa Itkonen, Ph.D., AICP

Lisa is a Principal Planner for transportation. Prior to joining COMPASS in March 2008, she worked for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality as a planner and project coordinator. She is a native of Finland and has a Master's Degree in Social Policy from the University of Helsinki, Finland and a Doctorate in Environmental Sociology from Washington State University.

Adam Eldred

Adam is a Solutions Architect with CompuNet in Boise, ID. He supports clients throughout the Northwest, specializing in cyber security and application delivery.

Adam graduated from the University of Advancing Technology with a B.S. degree in Software Engineering. He also holds over a dozen industry certifications including Project Management Professional (PMP), F5 Certified Solution Expert – Security, and various cloud certifications with both Azure and AWS. Prior to working at CompuNet, Adam filled several IT consulting and leadership roles in the healthcare and finance sectors.

Todd Martin

Todd is a Systems Engineer with CompuNet in Boise, ID. Todd's focus is on endpoint security and policy, he supports clients throughout the Northwest.

Todd graduated from California State University, Northridge and is presently a master's degree student in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance. He also holds several certificates including the OSCP (Offensive Security Certified Professional), CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker) and is a certified Penetration Tester. Before working at CompuNet, Todd worked for Micron Technology, Inc. as a Security Solutions Architect and oversaw policy and endpoint strategy and compliance throughout the global infrastructure.



Dr. Mojtaba Sadegh, PhD, Boise State University

Dr. Sadegh earned his BS and MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering in Iran and his PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Irvine. He has worked on a wide range of research topics, from water resource management to climatic extremes and modeling human-environmental systems. His recent research is focused on wildfires in the Western U.S. and how they change in response to a warming climate. He is also interested in understanding the interactions between humans and extremes, and how climate extremes translate to human-impacting disasters.

Jeremy C. Chou, Partner, Givens Pursley LLC

Jeremy began his career in 1992 working as a staffer for U.S. Senator Steve Symms and a Legislative Correspondent for U.S. Senator Dirk Kempthorne in Washington, D.C. In 1999, he opened the first Washington D.C. Office of the Governor for the State of Idaho. In 2003, he returned to Idaho to work in the Office of the Attorney General, Civil Litigation Division. Jeremy has advised the Idaho State Legislature on constitutional issues including abortion, gambling, tribal compact/relations, and represented state entities including the Office of the Governor, Idaho State Legislature, Idaho Supreme Court, Idaho State Lottery Commission, Idaho State Bar Association, Idaho Department of Correction, Idaho State Police, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Idaho Department of Administration, Idaho Department of Labor and Commerce, Idaho Department of Transportation, and the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licensing. His past experience includes cases involving the Idaho Tort Claims Act, Idaho's Open Meeting Law, license revocation proceedings, employment law, breach of contract, administrative proceedings, government procurement, construction litigation, and insurance coverage litigation.

Elizabeth (Liz) Conner, Principal, Conner Community Consulting

Ms. Conner has 25 years' experience of working with local governments, agencies, and associations in the Treasure Valley. Her background includes positions in the Mayor's Office of the City of Boise and the City of Garden City. As the Deputy State Coordinating Officer for the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, she was responsible for coordinating State and Federal disaster recovery efforts throughout Idaho. Liz also served for six years as the Executive Director of the Treasure Valley Partnership where she worked on land use planning issues in the Treasure Valley. Her role required a high level of collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including elected, administrative, and professional staff of local cities as well as members of the public.

In 2018, Liz founded Conner Community Consulting after identifying that most cities, counties, and associations in Idaho are struggling to navigate complex municipal projects, manage personnel or administer their operations due to limited staff. Her goal is to assist those regional organizations in addressing that challenge by providing flexible and affordable consulting services.

Liz is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trained State Disaster Coordinating Officer. She has specialized training in Human Resources, grant writing and grant management. She also has experience lobbying in the Idaho State Legislature.

Liz graduated from Boise State University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science.



Steve Hubble

Steve is the Climate Action Manager for the City of Boise. Steve and the climate team implement Boise's climate action, clean energy, sustainability, and air quality programs and support related initiatives across the city. Prior to his time at Boise, Steve worked for thirteen years with the Department of Public Works in Stafford County, Virginia in various roles. Steve has a Bachelors in Geography from Radford University and a Master's in Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. Steve lives in Boise with his wife Sarah.



Dr. Sondra M. Miller, Ph.D., P.E.

Dr. Miller is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at Boise State University. She served as Associate Dean for the College of Engineering until June 2021. Dr. Miller's area of specialization is environmental engineering with research interests in water and air quality as affected by contaminant fate and transport. She worked as an Associate Engineer with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality prior to joining Boise State University. Dr. Miller holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from The University of Iowa, a M.S. in Environmental Engineering and B.S. in Civil Engineering from the State of University of New York at Buffalo.



Dr. Todd Otanicar, PE, Boise State University

Dr. Otanicar is Chair and Associate Professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering at Boise State University. His expertise is in solar thermal energy, heat transfer, and desalination. Prior to his life in academia, he worked for GE Aviation. He is a licensed professional engineer in Oklahoma.



Keith Simila, P.E.

Keith Simila was the Executive Director of the Idaho Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. He retired in that capacity on April 30, 2021 but served in that capacity starting May of 2013. The executive director position included oversight of PE and PLS licensure in the State of Idaho. His prior assignments involved various staff and management positions in the US Forest Service in Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and Washington, DC. After 33 years, he retired as the Director of Engineering in Ogden, UT. During his tenure with the Forest Service, Keith worked on roads, bridges, buildings and related infrastructure, and cleanup of hazardous wastes at former industrial and mining sites.