



April 17, 2013

At long last, I am pleased to announce LCI's new website and logo, (see www.leanconstruction.org). A couple of new features and sections to highlight:

- On the homepage, you will find a scrolling list of our corporate members, as well as a carousel of images on the right hand side that shows Lean projects produced by our members around the country. Thanks to those who submitted photos and information for this section. (There is also room for many more – please [send us](#) an exterior photo of a successful project, and some basic facts and metrics about how Lean benefited it – we can provide a template.)
- A new section under “About Us” is titled “Lean in Action.” Again, this highlights photos of Lean in use, and even a brief video by one of our members on their use of Lean. The intent is to give the uninitiated at least some sense for what the Lean project design and delivery process is all about based on what it looks like in real-world application. Similar photos with captions may be seen in various sections around the site.
- One other area of note: there is now a section devoted specifically to owners and their needs and interests, in the “Membership” section.

You'll note that **our new Logo features a new tagline: *Transforming Design and Construction***. This is a reflection of the board's commitment and direction that LCI should be pursuing a *Big, Hairy Audacious Goal* (BHAG), to use the well-known term. Not that there won't be plenty of other BHAGs along the way to even begin to create the conditions for transformation, but the new tagline really sets forth an overriding objective against which to evaluate our current and future programs. Working together with our members and others committed to see Lean become the preferred methodology for project design and delivery, this will help keep us focused on that audacious end state we want to bring about.

Although we hope you will find the new website up-to-date and attractive in terms of its graphics, it is not yet all that different from its predecessor in terms of functionality. Much has been simply ported over from the previous site. The **real value enhancement will come as our committees, Communities of Practice (CoPs), and members begin to identify new functionality** for us to build in to help them meet their needs. In the near term, plans include organizing our learning materials to make them more accessible, and developing on-line capabilities that better support our CoPs in their programming. The site is intended to be an organic, ever-changing reflection of our members' successful use of Lean and the evolution of Lean concepts and practices.

I would be very remiss if I did not specifically recognize someone in the course of this announcement: Mr. Jim Stone. Jim has been our webmaster and IT support specialist over a number of years, and without him we could not have had the functionality and support that has kept the LCI website and email systems going strong. Jim has been extremely helpful and knowledgeable in supporting me and the other LCI staff. He matches heartfelt concern for the success of the Institute with technical skills that have been instrumental in the successful transition to the new website. On behalf of our Board and staff, **thanks Jim, for years of outstanding support to LCI.**

I have just returned from a **visit to Mortenson Construction**, an active LCI member with offices in Minneapolis, where I met with COO Dan Johnson and eight other senior members of the management team. Mortenson recently recognized **Lean as one of four key elements in its strategic plan**, and we had a great dialogue about how the company plans to implement Lean more fully in project delivery, including potential challenges and pitfalls. The discussion was greatly enhanced by the participation of **Rich Seiler, a co-leader in our Chicagoland CoP.** (Thanks to Rich for supporting the meeting, especially since we managed to schedule it right in the teeth of an unexpected April snowstorm!) Mortenson also looks forward to maintaining and expanding their support of several of our CoPs around the country, as well as helping us establish a new one in the Twin Cities. If you are based in Minneapolis or surrounding areas, and would like to help us in standing up this new group, please let me or Anne O'Donnell know.



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I'm also pleased to recognize one of our Board members, **Mr. Dave Crawford of Sundt**, who has been invited to give the keynote address at the April 26 meeting of the American Institute of Contractors (AIC) annual forum in Scottsdale, AZ. This is quite an honor and an opportunity to address an important industry forum. Congratulations Dave!

An LCI member company in the news. ENR recently reported on an American Bar Association forum at the Construction Industry's 2013 Midwinter Meeting, including a discussion on "Delay Damages – What's Hot, What's Not." The ABA speakers opined that, "...knowing who's at fault in a claim is only half the battle. The bigger question...is the ability to document the amount of damages suffered...Recovery will require a significant effort on the part of the attorneys...to prove such damages." I couldn't help reflecting on how much better it would be if attorneys instead encouraged their clients to AVOID litigation and mitigate delays through the use of collaborative forms of project delivery, such as Lean. I turned the page, and low and behold there was a piece authored by **Steven Charney, chairman of the law firm Peckar and Abramson**, one of our LCI member law firms. He noted that forward-leaning firms no longer see their primary role as litigation, but a broader advisory role, including the use of alternative mechanisms such as design-build and IPD, among others. (In a perfect world, I would love to have seen him mention Lean as well, but the overall thrust is still valid.) Law firms may not yet be among the most vocal standard bearers for Lean project delivery; but we can hope that over time more of them will see the benefits to their client relationships of LCI membership and advocacy of IPD, Lean and other "alternative delivery mechanisms" that reduce claims and litigation. To that end, our new LCI website will seek over time to better highlight the capabilities of LCI member consultants, law firms and other value-added service providers committed to Lean.

We were recently contacted by a Mr. Konrad Chan of the University of Sydney, Australia who is **conducting Lean-related research and would appreciate any help we can provide** him. He says:

"For my research, I am trying to establish quantified links between Lean Construction and Sustainability. In this case, I am using carbon emission reductions as a sustainability indicator. In this phase of my research, I am seeking out data regarding lean construction initiatives and their corresponding impacts (resource reduction, saving time, saving costs, etc.). Regarding the data, I am looking for real project data, but if that is not available, judgment/estimates from experience will suffice. I have created a brief survey in Survey Monkey. In my methodology, I will use some carbon accounting factors/ approaches to translate those impacts, gathered from the survey, into carbon reductions." Here is the URL to his survey posted online: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F2SWH5C> Konrad may be reached at this email address: kcha2202@uni.sydney.edu.au

Thanks for your support, and for all you are doing as companies and individuals to further the cause of **Transforming Design and Construction** through Lean tools and techniques.

Sincerely,

Dan C. Heinemeier, CAE
Executive Director

Lean Construction Institute
2300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 400
Arlington, VA 22201
Tel – (703) 837-5421
danh@leanconstruction.org
<http://www.leanconstruction.org>