

SMPS

Alabama

SMPS NEWSLETTER

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What one does easily,
one does well.

—Andrew Carnegie

I'm not convinced that
the world is in any worse
shape than it ever was.
It's just that in this age of
almost instantaneous
communication, we bear
the weight of problems
our forefathers only read
about after they were
solved."

—Eric Hoffer

STIMULUS INFORMATION DRAWS A CROWD FOR DAVID STEWART

How federal stimulus money will be distributed in Alabama and what a shovel ready project is were two of the questions addressed by J. David Stewart III of law firm Bradley Arant Bout Cummings at SMPS's June 26 meeting.

A big misconception about federal stimulus money to infrastructure is that there is one source of information about it—there are many sources, Stewart said, and he handed out a booklet thick with resources for attendees. (If you are an SMPS member and want a copy, please contact Don Marzella.)



Robin White, left, of Alabama Power Company makes a point with speaker J. David Stewart III of Bradley Arant Bout Cummings. The book White is holding is Stewart's handout.

The money flows two ways—through federal agencies and through the states and grants. The state's economic stimulus website, recovery.alabama.gov, shows what the state has received and what the projects are. The federal government's stimulus website is <http://www.recovery.gov>. Both have links to the state and federal agencies

administering the funds.

There is no definition of shovel ready, Stewart said. In Alabama, of \$3 billion stimulus money 95% went to existing programs with projects already in line for funding. Therefore partnering with companies pre-qualified for federal or state work may be the best way for many

companies to participate, whether in highway, water and waste water, or school construction. Qualifying for projects at the federal level, while not too onerous, requires a number of steps and must be tracked, he said. More information about registration and projects can be found online at FedBizOpps.gov.

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY

SMPS needs your help in planning next year's programs! Please give us that help by filling out your member survey.

On the survey you will find space to suggest programs you would like to hear, and to

give your input on which day of the week is the easiest for you to attend. Just for filling out the survey you can receive \$5 off the next SMPS luncheon!

If you would like to serve on a committee of SMPS next year please contact Erin P. Elliott,

chapter president, at ErinE@mjharris.com.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall! In the meantime, let us hear from you!