

Charter of Organization - Construction and Materials Regional Consortium (CMRC)

Effective April 2026

Charter Revision 6a, Replacing the Previous Charter Dated May 2025

CMRC, formerly known as the Construction Materials Research Center, aims to advance the state of the construction and materials industries with a particular focus on highways and transportation system infrastructure, though all construction materials and associated construction practices are considered. CMRC aims to be impactful through research, development and education/training. CMRC's primary area of interest is Mississippi and surrounding states (i.e. the primary region of interest), though materials or construction issues outside of this region are also included when appropriate. CMRC aims to simultaneously serve applicable industries, agencies, undergraduate students, and graduate students. Effectively, CMRC aims to be an "industry, agency, and university partnership," and a "sound program at all levels that couples discovery and education." CMRC is located at Mississippi State University (MSU) within the Richard A. Rula School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) housed within the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering (BCoE).

Within CMRC, MSU employees may serve in the five roles listed below. Of these, roles 1 to 4 may be allocated a portion of the earnings from the CMRC Endowment that is described later in this charter. The total allocation to these four roles over a period of time may not exceed the level of currently held un-allocated assets plus the projected allocation from the endowment over the time period of interest. Roles 1 to 3 have no official accountability to each other; each of them reports individually to the Director of the Rula School of CEE and/or the BCoE Dean as appropriate.

1. Materials and Construction Industries (MCI) Chair. This Endowed Chair role is responsible for the following: teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, writing proposals to secure external funding and leading the work of these externally secured proposals, publishing in high quality peer reviewed journals, working with undergraduate and graduate students in and out of the classroom as a work supervisor, serving as a major professor to graduate students, and laboratories oversight (examples include accreditation, calibration, equipment, safety, training, and overall operations). This role is comparable to other endowed chair faculty positions within MSU or at peer institutions, and is a three-year appointment. It is possible to have more than one MCI Chair at a point in time depending on program needs and endowment capacity.
2. Materials and Construction Industries (MCI) Professorship. This Endowed Professorship role is responsible for the following: teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, writing proposals to secure external funding and leading the work of these externally secured proposals, publishing in high quality peer reviewed journals, working with undergraduate and graduate students in and out of the classroom as a work supervisor, serving as a major professor to graduate students, and laboratories oversight (examples include accreditation, calibration, equipment, safety, training, and overall operations). Professorship duties are in the same categories as those of a Chair, albeit at a somewhat reduced output expectation. This role is comparable to other endowed professorship faculty positions within MSU or at peer institutions, and is a three-year appointment. It is possible to have more than one MCI Professorship at a point in time depending on program needs and endowment capacity.
3. CMRC Coordinator. This role is responsible for fundraising in coordination with the MSU Foundation, BCoE Development Office, and MSU administration. This role is also responsible for working with others in the group to help select CMRC priorities, with industry/agency communications, meetings, the CMRC website, and some modest research and student

advisement duties as needed. This role may be performed by the Director of the Rula School of CEE provided the current Director has measurable accomplishments in construction and/or construction materials as defined by the BCoE Dean. This role may also be performed by an MCI Chair. It is highly preferable for an MCI Chair to serve CMRC for at least three years prior to also being considered for the CMRC Coordinator role. This is a three-year appointment.

4. Rula School of CEE Director. Serves in ex officio capacity and may serve as CMRC Coordinator. This role is, in conjunction with the BCoE Dean as appropriate, responsible for evaluating the performance of an MCI Chair(s), an MCI Professorship(s), and the CMRC Coordinator unless the CEE School Director is filling this role and in this instance the BCoE Dean is solely responsible for evaluating coordinator performance. The Director works in conjunction with the BCoE Dean as appropriate on appointments and/or re-appointments of CMRC roles.
5. BCoE Dean. Serves in ex officio capacity and appoints/re-appoints an MCI Chair(s), an MCI Professorship(s), and the CMRC Coordinator. The Dean also evaluates performance of these positions as appropriate.

CMRC Appointments

- Thomas D. White (MCI Chair – Inaugural – 2003 to 2012)
- Isaac L. Howard (MCI Chair – 2013 to 2025)
- Nazimuddin Wasiuddin (MCI Professorship – 2025 to Present)
- Isaac L. Howard (CMRC Coordinator – Inaugural – 2026 to Present)

MCI Chair, MCI Professorship, and CMRC Coordinator positions are endowed by gifts made by members of the construction and materials industries into the CMRC Endowment. Any contribution made to the CMRC Endowment is collectively managed as per the most current version of the charter (i.e. this document). Any individual or entity that has contributed or pledged to contribute \$1,000 or more to the CMRC Endowment is defined as a Voting Contributor, and any individual or entity who has contributed or pledged \$50,000 or more is offered a seat on the CMRC Board as a Contributing Member. Active pledges are taken as contributions so long as the pledge is fulfilled. The CMRC Board serves in an advisory role providing advice and direction with regard to priorities and other relevant matters. A key purpose of the CMRC Board is to serve as a conduit for industry, agency, and government input, while also helping to secure funding for CMRC activities. In addition to the CMRC Board and Voting Contributors, anyone (individual or entity) who is interested in CMRC's activities is welcome to participate in most activities. Non-financial contributing entities are referred to as Affiliates. CMRC has a website and an email list that are used to inform affiliates, contributors, and in the case of the website the public at large of happenings within the CMRC group.

The CMRC Board consists of the Board Chair and Contributing Members. One Board seat is allocated per Contributing Member.

Board Chair: An agency representative serves as chair of the Board. This representative is to come from the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) or the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) unless conditions warrant otherwise. The Board Chair is elected to a 3-year term unless a mid-term election is needed, and there is no limit to the number of terms that can be served. Current and Past Board Chairs are listed below.

James Williams, MDOT, January 2016 through December 2019 (4 years – past inaugural chair)

Brian Ratliff, MDOT, January 2020 to December 2023 (4 years – past chair)

W. Griffin Sullivan, MDOT, January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2026 (current chair)

Contributing Members: Contributing members can be changed by the company or entity with no vote. As of the date of this charter revision, there are 26 contributing member seats as listed below.

1. APAC Mississippi (Dwayne Boyd)
2. Ergon, Inc. (Patrick Nation)
3. Southeast Cement Promotion Association (Wayne Wilson)
4. Mississippi Lime (Eustace Conway)
5. Vulcan Materials (Greg Norwood)
6. Hill Brothers Construction (Vacant)
7. MMC Materials (Kyle Beckman)
8. Dickerson & Bowen (Mark Hughes)
9. Dunn Roadbuilders (Korey Beckman)
10. Mississippi Asphalt Pavement Association (Colton Robison)
11. Key Constructors, LLC (Paul McPhail)
12. Sunbelt Sealing (Joe Lauderdale)
13. Mississippi Concrete Association (Les Howell)
14. Delta Industries (Kelly Harrington)
15. Hunt Refining Company (James Rawson)
16. Huey P. Stockstill, LLC (Jonathan Easterling)
17. Warren Paving, Inc. (Jeremy Patterson)
18. Hemphill Construction Company (Stephen Rula)
19. Tim and Linda Cost Estate (Tim Cost)
20. Eutaw Construction Company (Chip Hussey)
21. B & B Concrete (Victor McMillan)
22. Dunn Utility Products (Mark McCormick)
23. Lehman-Roberts (Eric Lowstuter)
24. Puckett Machinery-Caterpillar (Rob Puckett)
25. Brasfield & Gorrie (Matthew Agostinelli)
26. Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. – ADS (Allen McKnight)

Voting: Every Voting Contributor has one vote, and all votes are equally weighted. If a company is a Voting Contributor and is purchased by another company who is also a Voting Contributor, the purchasing company has both votes. A vote can be called for by an MSU employee affiliated with CMRC either through contacts in the CMRC email list, or at a regular meeting. Votes can be cast by mail (physical mail or email) or in person so long as the votes are received within the acceptable time frame outlined when the vote was requested. A quorum is required to conduct official CMRC business, and this quorum can be defined by either of the following: 1) a majority of the CMRC Board; 2) 20 Voting Contributors. A simple majority is used to determine the outcome of a vote once a quorum is in place. As of the date of this charter, there are 53 Voting Contributors within CMRC.

Charter Updates: Charter updates related to Contributing Members on the CMRC Board, CMRC Appointments, and the number of Voting Contributors do not require a vote and are denoted as, for example, charter revision 6a, 6b, and so forth.