



The Certified Environmental Professional

The Newsletter of the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals

<http://www.abcep.org>

MAY-AUGUST 2018

President's Message

It's summer time and that always makes me think of spending time with family and friends. People taking time away from work to take family vacations while the kids are out of school, taking advantage of the beautiful weather, and taking time to enjoy the great outdoors. We spend so much time at work that we need to remind ourselves that a healthy work/life balance is critical to our personal and professional success.

Are you ready to give back to ABCEP? Here are some ways:

- ◆ Arrange a lunch meeting with CEPs, CEP-ITs, and those who might be interested in being a CEP in your local area.
- ◆ Attend a local chapter of an NAEP meeting and get on the Agenda to do a short presentation on the CEP.
- ◆ Become a Mentor – we have a robust mentoring program in need of Mentors. It's a small time demand with a great reward.
- ◆ Join the Candidate Review Board – this is a great way to drill down into our candidates to make sure they have what it takes to be a CEP.
- ◆ Join a BoT Task Force – anyone have skills in the website design area? We need you!

Here are some upcoming events where ABCEP will be present!

July 2018: Marco Island – Florida Environmental Network

September 2018 : FAEP/Orlando

Until Next Time!

Elizabeth R. Johnson, CEP, PWS

ABCEP President

Liz.johnson@ocfl.net/407-836-1511



Elizabeth R. Johnson
ABCEP President

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No matter the mode – train, truck, car, plane, streetcar, ferry, bus, ride-share, or bicycle – CEPs are involved in the planning, modeling, evaluation, maintenance, and regulation of issues associated with transportation. The country is in a constant struggle between providing needed capacity while maintaining deteriorating infrastructure. Many of us play a part in determining what types of projects should be developed, what the impacts of these projects will be on communities and the environment, and how to make the approval process faster.

The September-October edition of *The Certified Environmental Professional* is devoted to telling the stories of **CEPs in Transportation**. Whether you are a planner, NEPA guru, environmental compliance specialist, or regulator, we want to hear your story. Share the challenges and victories you have been a part of in addressing one of the Nation's largest and most pointed issues – transportation.

Deadline for article submittal is September 28, 2018
to scannonmackey@burnsmcd.com

Articles should be submitted in Word, with all graphics/photos provided in either tif or jpg formats. Do not send PDFs. All exhibits/figures/photos must have sources documented and all permissions to use obtained by the author of the article prior to publication.

For questions, please contact
Shari Cannon-Mackey, CEP, ENV SP, Editor
at 512-872-7132 or by email to
scannonmackey@burnsmcd.com

The Environmental Professional - Newsletter Topics 2018

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

CEPs in Transportation
(due September 28, 2018)

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

CEPs in the Construction Sector
(due November 23, 2018)

We encourage our membership to provide articles related to the topics noted, but an article on any subject can be submitted at any time. By focusing each newsletter on a specific topic, we hope to provide a more robust reading experience for our membership.

**KEEP
STRONG
AND
MAINTAIN ON**



**Log on to
CEP-EXPRESS
today and take
credit for all your
hard work!**

In need of some maintenance hours? How about:

- Attending a conference, agency presentation, or participate in a Webinar
- Volunteering as a CEP mentor
- Volunteering on an ABCEP Committee or Task Force - contact Andrea at office@abcep.org

NEW SERIES - Ethics Matters

Reader's thoughts and feedback are welcome!

What is Ethical?

Richard Burke, CEP

Introduction

You might be asking yourself, "Why should I be concerned with ethics? I behave ethically, so why should I give this topic any thought? I don't cheat or lie or steal, so why should I care? What is an article on this topic going to teach me? What does it matter?"

Let's examine this response. First, are you sure you are behaving ethically? Do you have well-reasoned ethical standards for behavior? If so, what are they based on? Do they encourage treating members of your group (family, friends, profession, gender, religion, nation) differently than those who are not in those groups? When you have a choice between your own well-being and that of others, or of future generations, or of other species, what do you do? Are you sure that is the right way to behave?

This series of articles will examine these questions and other matters, and will offer possible approaches to answering them that have been developed by ethicists past and present, based on a workshop convened at the 2018 NAEP Annual Conference in Tacoma, WA. We will consider the following topics:

- ◆ What is ethical?
- ◆ Which ethical system is best?
- ◆ Environmental and ecological ethics
- ◆ Ethics in the working world
- ◆ Ethics for the Environmental Professional

This article will briefly address the first topic, What is Ethical?

What are Ethical Values?

First, a working definition of ethics:

Ethics is a system of values that guide how people should behave toward other people and things.

Morality is a subset of ethics that focuses on the most vital human behaviors: actions that begin or end human life (sex, adultery, murder), and actions that violate basic principles of cooperative society (lying, stealing, cheating). Since this series of articles is intended for use by environmental professionals, the more inclusive terms "ethics," and "ethical," will be used instead of "morality," and "moral."

It is the prioritization of ethical values that determines what behavior is "good" and what behavior is "bad." Values may be organized around one or more goals, such as inner peace, personal success, family accord, national unity, natural harmony, or a better life after death. To a great degree, the attempt to achieve differing goals creates the greatest ethical conflicts for individuals and societies. For example, if your ethical beliefs value your family over business, then at some point your personal success may suffer; or, contrarily, if your personal success is most prized, family accord may become in jeopardy (see **Figure 1**).

Similarly, a society may value individual power over collective well-being, thereby resulting in greater inequalities than a society that considers consensus behavior to be "good" and shuns self-aggrandizers. Some philosophers say there is only 1 ethical value: minimize suffering (and maximize happiness).¹ But different people value the types of suffering they want to avoid and types of happiness they want to experience differently, and whose suffering or happiness they want to minimize or maximize which results in different behavior they consider to be ethical.

¹ Harari, Yuval Noah, Homo Deus. 2017. New York: Harper Collections.

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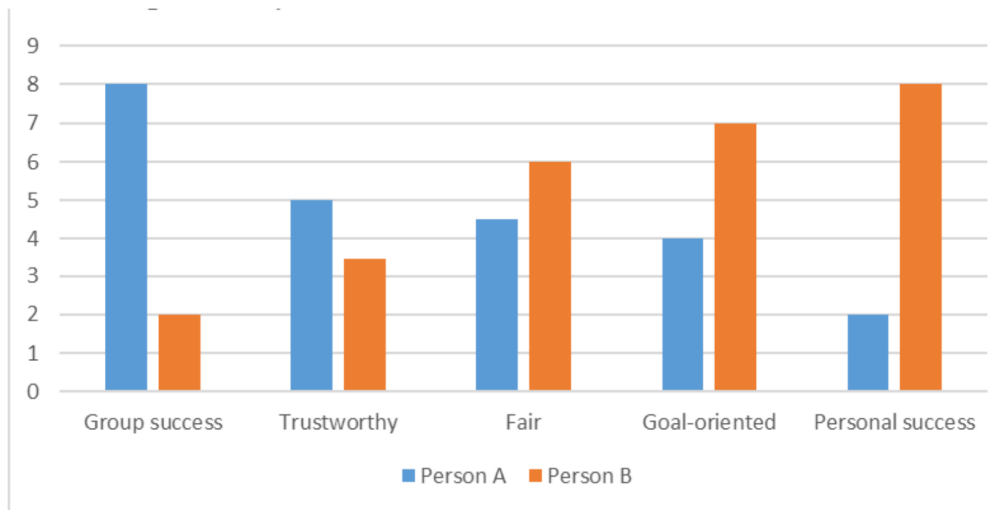


Figure 1: Emphasis on different values drives behavior

What Does It Mean to Behave Ethically?

If everyone's values differ, what does behaving ethically mean? They all seem like good values. Is one set of values more ethical than another? Can an ethical system be valid if it doesn't apply to every person? How would you answer the following questions?

Question 1: In Greek, *ethos* is translated as "customs or behavior." So are actions that are not customary unethical? Is Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart's remark that "I know it when I see it" a sufficient basis for making ethical decisions?¹ Are we unethical if our values do not match society's? For example, if you value the health of your baby and you breast feed in public in a jurisdiction that has laws against showing female breasts, are you behaving unethically (or immorally, since this behavior is related to sex)?

Response: We can't rely on "I know it when I see it" standard, since, as we have seen, we all have different values. We also don't say you are unethical just because you violate one of society's laws, or ethical just because you follow them. For example, we champion many civil rights protestors who we believe have acted ethically even when laws at the time may have proscribed their behavior. Conversely, we often vilify tycoons who gain at the expense of others, even if they act within the law.

Question 2: Are you unethical if your behavior doesn't follow your values? What if you don't "follow your conscience," your inner moral voice? If you follow your conscience, are you ethical, and if you don't, are you behaving unethically? What if your voice isn't talking to you or you aren't listening? For example, if you consider bravery to be one of your top values, do we say you are unethical if you run from an explosion? If you put compassion, are you unethical if you don't give to every homeless person you see, or just when it pains you to see them? What if you eat too many sweets or smoke by yourself, even if you know it is wrong for you?

Response: No, we usually don't consider people to be unethical just because they don't perfectly adhere to their principles, or if they do things that only hurt themselves. Ethics is a discipline that focuses on actions that affect others.

¹ Jacobellis v. Ohio, 378 U.S. 184 (1964).

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Question 3: And what if we change our values? Are we being unethical then? If we say we want to be strong, so we eat meat, and then we come to value other creatures and we become vegetarian, is changing values unethical?

Response: No, we usually don't say someone is unethical just because they used to have other values. Of course, if you espouse one set of values and act according to another set, you would be considered hypocritical and, therefore, unethical.

Question 4: How about if you are not aware of your impact on others. Is unintentionally hurting someone unethical? Is "taking" an endangered species by killing it on the road, if you were driving at posted speed limits, unethical?

Response: No, we usually don't say someone is unethical if they can't make discerning conscious judgments pertaining to moral issues, or if their acts aren't willfully violating ethical principles. That is why, in American law, why we don't sentence insane people to death and the penalty for homicide is less than that of murder. It is also one of the reasons that the US Department of Interior used in December, 2017, when it directed USFWS not to penalize any taking of an endangered species if the act is unintentional.³

Question 5: What about truth? Surely, if you don't tell the truth, you must be unethical.

Response: In most cases, yes. But if a childless man tells a vendor in a bazaar that his children will die unless he gets a better price for the vendor's bread, we don't consider this an ethical offense. Rather, societies tend to admire those who bluff well. As long as both sides understand that statements may or not be true, we don't consider false statements to be unethical. On the other hand, in our professional work, reporting facts in a verifiable, unbiased manner is essential. In such a setting, intentional obfuscation, exaggeration, or understatement is unethical and can cause severe adverse consequences.

So if these actions are sometimes ethical and sometimes unethical, how can we define ethical behavior? The answer seems to be that, in our society, we usually define ethical behavior as behavior that takes into account "others." We often say people are ethical if they put the well-being of others above their own. For example, people who avoid participating in corruption or harassment in their organization may lose their jobs but would be called "ethical" because their behavior may help reduce damage to others even at the expense of their own careers. On the contrary, people who see the same problems may be considered unethical if they benefit from the situation and don't report it. Thus, when a decision is to be made regarding alternative courses of action, an ethical person, or business, or group values **cooperation** over **self-preservation**.

Two people may both consider themselves to be ethical even when their actions are diametrically opposed. For example, WikiLeaks' indicted Julian Assange releases secret government information with the reasoning that "these 'books' have educated many, and in some cases, in a literal sense, let the innocent go free."⁴ Thus, Assange seems to value cooperation with the less powerful more than his own personal safety, a typical ethical stance. On the other hand, those who are opposed to these actions value cooperation with the government as paramount, and consider his behavior to be anti-cooperative and unethical.

The next article will discuss cooperative and self-preservation behavior in living things and early humans.

Author - Richard Burke, CEP; has achieved more than 35 years of experience managing transportation-related environmental planning, permitting, and compliance practices, and in serving major clients in the capacity of technical, project, and program management. Richard may be contacted at rburke@trcsolutions.com.

³ US Department of Interior Memorandum M-37050, The Migratory Bird Act Does Not Prohibit Incidental Take. December 22, 2017.

⁴ SPIEGEL Interview with Julian Assange 'We Are Drowning in Material', July 20, 2015. Accessed at <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/spiegel-interview-with-wikileaks-head-julian-assange-a-1044399.html> on 5/13/18.

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NEW SERIES - Ethics Matters

We want your feedback!

Which groups do you choose to cooperate with and which groups do you most want to preserve? Do you have any examples of people you have encountered in your professional world who have acted in a spirit of cooperation, even at the expense of themselves or their group? Please submit your thoughts to the ABCEP Newsletter (office@abcep.org or scannonmackey@burnsmcd.com).

Help spread the word that ethics matters.



SUMMER SAFETY TIPS!

- ➔ Let it shine - wear sunscreen - start with SPF 15 at a minimum and re-apply often
- ➔ Drink up - stay hydrated with water, sugar-free juices, iced tea; avoid alcoholic beverages
- ➔ Look up - watch the weather forecast - storms can blow up fast, be aware of the potential for lightning
- ➔ Bug off - keep your repellants handy, look into using natural compounds (citronella, lemon, eucalyptus)
- ➔ Tick, tick, tick - use repellants including those that contain DEET in areas where deer ticks are common; wear light colored clothing; tuck in your shirt bottom and pant legs when hiking in dense vegetation or tall grass
- ➔ Get personal - with your flotation device - wear them at all times while in a boat or on another type of watercraft
- ➔ Skin deep - make sure you can identify poison ivy and stinging nettles, wash your hands, and carry along anti-inflammatory ointments for quick treatment
- ➔ The heat is on - take family walks (including pets) in the cooler early morning hours or after sunset; don't leave children or pets in the car for any amount of time!

Most of all - ENJOY, RELAX, and HAVE FUN - IT'S SUMMER!

CEPs in the NEWS

The ABCEP Board of Trustees would like recognize and congratulate Ron Deverman, CEP, for being named a Fellow by the National Association of Environmental Professionals - only the 10th Fellow named by the organization in its 43-year history. Ron also received the HNTB Fellow Award, the highest technical honor in the firm, from his employer within the same week in March!



Ron Deverman, CEP, is an Associate Vice-President and Principal Environmental Planning Manager for HNTB, managing environmental impact assessment projects for transportation infrastructure improvements such as transit, passenger and freight rail, roadways, and bridges. Ron has more than 32-years of experience in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with special expertise in community impact assessment, cumulative effects analysis, and other federal environmental regulations, such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Threatened and Endangered Species Act.

Ron is currently the Program Manager for IDOT's Office of Intermodal Project Implementation for the CREATE Program, a program of 70 rail improvement projects in the Chicago area; Ron is managing all activities for Phase I environmental, Phase II design and Phase III construction (see www.createprogram.org).

His education includes a BS in civil/environmental engineering from the University of Illinois in Urbana, an MA in English (literature and creative writing) from the University of Illinois in Springfield, and post-graduate studies in NEPA and related environmental studies. Ron is a Past President of the NAEP. He has also chaired their national NEPA Symposium, NEPA Working Group, Transportation Working Group (co-founder), and NAEP's 2016 Annual Conference, among other positions of leadership. He is a Past President of IAEP, the Illinois chapter of NAEP, founded in 1975 as one of the original three chapters of NAEP. Ron was recently awarded the NAEP Fellow Award for his exemplary service and commitment to NAEP and the environmental professions. He is also a founding Board member of the International Professional Association of Transport and Health (I-PATH).

Ron has conducted numerous training courses on NEPA, environmental compliance, project and interdisciplinary team management, and effective community engagement. He has also been a key speaker for several national webinars for NAEP and American Public University. Ron is also a published poet and has spoken nationally on many subjects, including key competencies for environmental professionals, environmental stewardship, and public health impacts and benefits of our transportation choices. Ron comes from generations of farmers in Illinois' heartland and has farmed for a living. In 2009, the U of I Alumni Association awarded Ron the *John Knoepfle Creative Writing Award for Poetry*, a particularly memorable award as John Knoepfle has been a life mentor to Ron since his days at the university.



The Certified Environmental Professional

The ABCEP Newsletter is published bi-monthly and is intended to be a:

- ◆ Communication vehicle for the Board of Trustees and ABCEP Committees to inform and engage with CEPs and CEP-ITs on current activities within ABCEP and its future direction.
- ◆ Forum to report on current and emerging environmental issues, regulation and policy changes, and professional trends.
- ◆ Forum to provide professional guidance and advice to expand the professional growth and knowledge of members.
- ◆ Means for members to communicate with one another on current accomplishments, interesting projects, or lessons learned on the job with new approaches and successful problem solving solutions.
- ◆ Platform to acknowledge, highlight, and welcome active CEPs and CEP-ITs.

All members are encouraged to be active in their profession and affiliated professional organization.

If you have an article or a topic of interest that you would like presented in *The Certified Environmental*

Professional newsletter please submit your completed article or topic request to Shari Cannon-Mackey, CEP ENV SP, at scannonmackey@burnsmcd.com; or to Andrea Bower at office@abcep.org.

Thank you,

Shari Cannon-Mackey, CEP, ENV SP; Editor

What are CEPs and CEP-ITs doing in your area?
Let us know - no event is too small nor too big!
Send your photos and descriptions to
Shari Cannon-Mackey at scannonmackey@burnsmcd.com