

**Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Candidate Application for Dispute Review Board (DRB)**

A. Contact Information

Name: Thomas C. Larabel		Date: Oct. 7, 2012	
[REDACTED]	City: Traverse City	State: MI	Zip Code: 49686
Phone #: 231-633-8468		Email Address: lara6@ferris.edu	

B. Professional Licenses/Registrations (Please provide name/type of license, state, expiration date and number.)

<i>Name/Type of License/Registration</i>	<i>State and Number</i>	<i>Expiration Year</i>

C. Education/Related Training (Please list degree, college/other school and dates. Please indicate the location and date of your training.)

<i>University/College/Organization/Trade School</i>	<i>Degree/Certificate</i>	<i>Date/Year</i>
Michigan Technological University	AAS Civil Engineering Technology	June, 1973
Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI	BS Business Administration	June, 1984
Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI	Master of Management	August, 2007

D. Construction Experience Summary

I have construction experience working in the following capacities:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil Engineer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Builder/Developer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structural Engineer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electrical Engineer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Designer/Planner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geologist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Surveyor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mechanical Engineer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Contractor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accountant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chemical Engineer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Construction Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supplier/Manufacturer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Engineer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sub/Specialty Contractor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Owner Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape Architect
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Describe) I	Seven years experience as an educator in Construction Mgmt.			

I have substantial experience in the following types of construction:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bridge (Concrete)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge (Steel)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earth Retaining Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electrical Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscaping
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tunnel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Describe) I	Utility Work, Pumping Stations, Wastewater Treatment Systems			

E. Qualification Statement

Candidates shall have substantial experience in or directly related to public agency highway and bridge construction projects with or on behalf of federal, state, or local government agencies, particularly MDOT. Experience shall be a minimum of 10 years in active involvement, supervision, or management of public agency highway and bridge construction contracts preferably with an emphasis in resolution of disputes arising out of said contracts. Lawyers, attorneys, and/or legal counsel are not permitted to be DRB candidates nor are they permitted to serve on a DRB panel in any capacity.

**Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Candidate Application for Dispute Review Board (DRB)**

Provide a 500 word or less statement of your qualifications that explain how you meet the aforementioned criteria:

During my twenty year tenure as Senior Estimator and Project Manager at Diversco Construction Company in Grand Rapids, I was directly responsible for the profit and loss on over 100 infrastructure construction projects ranging in contract value from \$50,000 to 11 million dollars. The construction contracts included highways, bridges, underground utilities, buildings, pumping stations, and wastewater treatment plants. The contract owners included various state and local agencies. During this twenty year period, 1987 to 2007 (before the recession), the entire company averaged gross annual sales of twenty million dollars. We were able to complete over 400 million dollars worth of infrastructure work during this twenty year period without litigating any disputes for extra work through our judicial system. Although we made numerous claims for extra work, disputed and undisputed, during this twenty year period, we were always able to negotiate a fair and reasonable resolution for disputed claims for extra work with the owners and engineers involved in the project design and management. The resolution of disputed claims on construction contracts in a professional and equitable manner is one of the greatest challenges facing everyone involved in the design and construction process. During my forty years experience in the construction and engineering industry, I have learned that it is sometimes necessary to swallow your pride, especially when you are convinced that the preponderance of evidence is in your favor during a contract claim dispute, to amicably settle the dispute in order to preserve your reputation as a professional, dependable, and successful contractor.

I have also remained actively involved in the MDOT/MITA Advisory Committee for the past fifteen years. Participating in the MDOT/MITA committee meetings has enabled me to stay informed about the revisions, interpretations, and use of MDOT Contract Plans and Specifications. This information has been especially helpful for teaching our Construction Management Students at Ferris. Using the most recent MDOT Contract Specifications to instruct our students is vitally necessary for our students to be successful in their professional careers.

During the past six years, I have had the privilege of working with a very well educated, cross-discipline faculty group in the Construction Management Program at Ferris State University. Our faculty group includes four professional engineers, a professional surveyor, a registered architect, and four construction executives. The minimum level of education achieved by our faculty is a Masters Degree and the minimum level of experience acquired in the construction industry is ten years. Needless to say, the experience and expertise available in my faculty group has been a rich resource for the continuous development of my career in the Construction and Engineering Industry.

I have also had the privilege of working with numerous technicians and engineers at MDOT for the past two years in my position as the Interim Program Coordinator at the Ferris Construction Institute. At the Construction Institute we annually train and certify over five hundred technicians to perform quality control testing on infrastructure projects for the Michigan Department of Transportation. This position as program coordinator has given me the opportunity to become very familiar with many of the quality control test procedures used by the MDOT and it has given me the satisfaction of working with some very knowledgeable and professional engineers and technicians at the MDOT.

**Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Candidate Application for Dispute Review Board (DRB)**

F. General Experience Summary

Please provide a brief description of your experience in 25 words or less. If you are approved to be a DRB candidate, this information will be included next to your name on the Dispute Review Board Candidates List posted on MDOT's website.

<p>Description:</p> <p>Twenty years experience as Senior Estimator and Project Manager directly responsible for completing more than one hundred infrastructure construction projects including; highways, bridges, underground utilities, buildings, pumping stations, and wastewater treatment plants.</p>

G. DRB Experience (include past and current experience if applicable)

Dispute Resolution Board Training Completed on October 30, 2012

Experience	MDOT	Other Public Agencies	Private Construction	Total
# of Jobs as DRB Member	NA			
# of Jobs as DRB Chair	NA			

H. Conflict of Interest and Ethics Statement

I will provide a conflict of interest statement and a disclosure statement describing past, present, anticipated, and planned relationships, including indirect relationships through my present employer, to other parties involved in a construction project, including but not limited to, relevant construction engineering and inspection (CEI) firms, contractors, or suppliers to the parties, parties' principals, or parties' counsel. Furthermore, I will disclose any close professional or personal relationships with all key members in the project. This will be completed prior to accepting a nomination to serve on a DRB panel for any construction project.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I agree		<input type="checkbox"/> I do not agree
-------------------------------------	---------	--	---

I. Compensation

I agree that I will be fully compensated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract and Dispute Review Board Agreement. This will be full compensation for on site time, review time, travel expenses, transportation, lodging, time for travel and incidentals for each day, or portion thereof that I am at an authorized DRB hearing. In addition, I will be paid the appropriate rate specified in the Dispute Review Board Agreement for additional days necessary to conduct a hearing that has been authorized.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I agree		<input type="checkbox"/> I do not agree
-------------------------------------	---------	--	---

**Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Candidate Application for Dispute Review Board (DRB)**

J. Professional References

Provide the following information for at least two references to attest to your professional experience as depicted in this application. In addition, these references should be able to attest to your suitability to perform as a DRB member and provide additional information about you.

Name:	Address:	Phone:
Jim Klett	KLETT CONSTRUCTION [REDACTED] Paw Paw, MI 49079	269.655.1394
Steve Elliott	Materials Testing Company [REDACTED] Grand Rapids, MI 49505	Ph: 616.456.5469 or 800.968.TEST (8378)
Dave Maas	Diversco Construction Company [REDACTED] Grand Rapids, MI 49503	616-458-6379

Certification and Acknowledgement

The information in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. Moreover, I acknowledge that submittal of this application is not a guarantee of work as a DRB panel member. I further acknowledge that there is a selection and approval process that must occur in order to be a part of a project specific DRB panel. (Must be checked to submit form).

Signature of Applicant: _____

Send Completed Form to: R. Jason Clark, P.E.
Construction Contracts Engineer
8885 Ricks Rd
PO Box 30049
Lansing, MI 48909
ClarkJ25@michigan.gov

**Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Candidate Application for Dispute Review Board (DRB)**

Thomas C. Larabel


Traverse City, MI 49686
Mobile 231-633-8468 Office 231-591-5826

Interim Program Coordinator, The Construction Institute (ICET), Ferris State University, 2011 to present

- Manage the MDOT Technician Training Program at the Construction Institute
- Annually Train and Certify over 500 highway technicians to perform quality control tests on infrastructure projects in Michigan
- Manage ICET staff, prepare schedules, organize the online registration system, revise manuals to include new specifications
- Coordinate training efforts with MDOT Staff to teach correct testing procedures
- Teach Aggregate, Density, Bituminous One Classes as needed to supplement staff loads

Assistant Professor, Construction Management, Ferris State University, 2007 to present

- Teach civil discipline classes in the Construction Management Program including; Construction Surveying, Soils and Foundations, Quantity Estimating, Cost Estimating, Advanced Materials, MDOT Certification Preparation, and Field Engineering
- Advise students regarding completion of degree requirements
- Actively participate in university committees and events
- Actively participate in department meetings and student association activities

Adjunct Faculty, Ferris State University, 2005 to 2007

CONM 122 Construction Surveying, Grand Rapids Campus, 16 Students
CONM 122 Construction Surveying, Big Rapids Campus, 52 Students
CONM 423 Professional Construction Methods, Grand Rapids Campus, 16 Students
CONM 499 Professional Construction Management, Grand Rapids Campus, 11 Students

Project Manager/Estimator, Diversco Construction Company, 1987 to 2007

Summary

Directly responsible for profit and loss on over 100 construction contracts ranging in value from \$50,000 to \$11 million dollars. Contracts include Bridge work, Highway work, Site work, Utility work, Pumping Stations and Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Candidate Application for Dispute Review Board (DRB)

Experience

- Select contracts to bid based on available resources and opportunity for profit
- Thoroughly review plans and specifications and identify any unique or extraordinary aspects of the contract
- Prepare a quantity take-off for a lump sum contract or verify the quantities on a unit price contract including incidental costs.
- Request and review material quotations from suppliers
- Estimate production rates to allocate labor, equipment, material, and overhead costs into estimated job cost
- Define scope of work for subcontractors and request quotations
- Review subcontractor quotations for compliance with specifications, defined scope, and competitive pricing
- Request clarifications from engineers and architects for ambiguities, insufficient detail, omissions, mistakes, and unusual schedule demands
- Prepare schedules based on production rates, available resources, weather, and any unique or extraordinary aspects of the work
- Coordinate proposed work with owner, engineer, utility companies, regulatory agencies, and the public at preconstruction meetings, weekly progress meetings, and weekly public meetings
- Layout all components of specified work using a total station instrument with coordinate geometry software and a data collector
- Compute earthwork volumes from data collector files
- Schedule, direct, and coordinate the daily performance of crews, suppliers, subcontractors, and utility companies
- Prepare and process shop drawings and submittals from suppliers and subcontractors
- Prepare, negotiate, and process periodic and final pay requests
- Negotiate changes in scope of work and process change orders for cost increase or decrease
- Prepare and negotiate value engineering proposals
- Prepare concrete mix designs and trial batch mixes for approval and use in portable concrete batch plant operation on site
- Prepare soil erosion and sedimentation control plans for review by the Department of Environmental Quality and local enforcing agencies
- Proficient use of Windows, Excel, Paydirt Sitework, Foresight, Field Survey, Expedite Bid 4.0, and Bid Express
- Perform start-up and testing and operation of mechanical systems
- Schedule final inspections and secure occupancy and use permits

Major projects and unique characteristics

- Combined Sewer Overflow Contracts 2A and 2B (2005/2006), Contract Value \$11 Million Dollars. Owner: City of Grand Rapids. Engineer: Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber.
 - Construction of an 11' by 16' Box Sewer under US 131 using auger cast piling and sheet piling for extensive earth retention systems.
- Devos Place Convention Center (2001-2003), Contract Value \$5 Million Dollars. Construction Manager: Erhardt/Hunt
 - Mass Excavation, Site Utilities, and Site Restoration Work including Cofferdams in the Grand River and Earth Retention Systems. Over 200,000 tons of contaminated soils removed from site.

**Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Candidate Application for Dispute Review Board (DRB)**

- Monroe Street relocation/reconstruction(2000), Contract Value \$11 Million Dollars. Owner: City of Grand Rapids; Engineer: Black and Veatch
 - Construction of a 9 foot diameter trunk sewer 22 feet deep in limestone bedrock adjacent to high pressure steam lines, natural gas lines and high voltage power lines

- US 131 Downtown Grand Rapids Off/On Ramp (1999), Contract Value \$6 Million Dollars. Owner: MDOT, Engineer: URS Greiner
 - Retaining Wall supported on a pile foundation, Roadbed built on Styrofoam blocks, 6000 cubic yards of concrete batched on site

- Arcadia Bluffs Golf Course Storm Water Outfall (1998-1999), Contract; 1.2 Million Owner: RVP Development, Engineer: Exxel Engineering
 - Restore the erosion of 50,000 cubic yards of sand dune washout into Lake Michigan, Build a new storm water outfall to carry storm water from the dunes bluff into Lake Michigan

- Wealthy Street Stormwater Pumping Station (1993- 1994), Contract Value; 6 Million Owner: City of Grand Rapids, Engineer: Black and Veatch
 - Construction of a 120 foot square, 25 foot deep, poured in place concrete pumping station capable of pumping 1 billion gallons of stormwater per day. 5000 cubic yards of concrete batched on site.

Resident Engineer, Prein and Newhof, P.C., Engineers and Surveyors, 1987 to 1980

- Administer multiple construction contracts in the West Michigan area primarily involving road improvements and municipal water and sanitary sewer improvements.
- Coordinate all aspects of construction activities with the general public, township, city, and county officials.
- Supervise the construction of all components of work defined in the contract and ensure compliance with all standards, details, and specifications.
- Supervise the duties of daily on site inspectors and as-built records of completed work.
- Prepare, negotiate, and process periodic and final pay requests. Resolve damage disputes between property owners and the contractor.

Largest single project; Administer and supervise the construction of a new wastewater collection system for Spring Lake Township, 14 construction contracts valued at 22 million dollars, built over a two year period.

Survey Crew Chief, Prein and Newhof, P.C., Engineers and Surveyors, 1980 – 1973

Perform topographic surveys, boundary surveys, and construction layout surveys for property developments, road improvements, utility systems extensions and improvements using theodolites, electronic distance meters, and coordinate geometry calculators.