

# ASCE GEO-INSTITUTE

## ENGINEERING GEOLOGY & SITE CHARACTERIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Sunday February 21, 2010  
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM  
GeoFlorida 2010  
West Palm Beach, FL

### Meeting Attendees:

Aaron Budge	Minnesota State University, Mankato	aaron.budge@mnsu.edu
Ethan Cargill	ConeTec, Inc.	ecargill@conetec.com
Bill Yu	Case Western Reserve University	xxy21@case.edu
Anand Puppala	University of Texas at Arlington	anand@uta.edu
Rick Coffman	University of Arkansas	rick@uark.edu
Roman Hryciw	University of Michigan	romanh@umich.edu
Mike Lewis	Bechtel	mlewis@bechtel.com
Murad Abu-Farsakh	Louisiana State University	cefars@lsu.edu
Paul Mayne	Georgia Tech	paul.mayne@gatech.edu
Dante Fratta	University of Wisconsin – Madison	fratta@wisc.edu
Paola Bandini	New Mexico State University	paola@nmsu.edu
Jeff Keaton	Mactec	jrkeaton@mactec.com
Amy Cerato	University of Oklahoma	acerato@ou.edu
Nick Hudyma	University of North Florida	nhudyma@unf.edu
John McCartney	University of Colorado – Boulder	john.mccartney@colorado.edu
Ning Lu	Colorado School of Mines	ninglu@mines.edu

### 1. Review and Approval of minutes from 23 October 2009 conference call meeting

Roman Hryciw moved to accept, seconded by Paul Mayne – motion passed.

### 2. Update from Technical Liaison (Roman Hryciw) and TCC meeting (Nick Hudyma)

a) Carols Bowers will be leaving her position with the Geo-Institute to become VP of Sustainable Infrastructure with ASCE. She will be leaving on 01 March 2010, with no replacement as of yet. This is sad news and Carol will be missed.

b) ASCE is revamping the website, including institute web pages, to use a new template for consistency and a uniform look. Phase I will be done by the end of April 2010. Phase II (which includes/incorporates committee web pages) will occur subsequently.

c) Beginning in September, with the new fiscal year, committees will have a budget of \$3000 (a fair increase from past fiscal years.) This additional budget should be used in part to help young/entering professionals be able to come to meetings. During the past fiscal year, \$300,000 was taken from the Geo-Institute for not having that money invested as required in the contract (much of this money came due to the success of the International Equipment Expo and Foundations Congress last year.) ASCE is trying to "reign-in" the institutes and maintain overall autonomy rather than institute autonomy. There will be ample opportunities to spend money to be considered by the Board of Governors, as appropriate, to avoid similar situations in the future.

d) There will be a cross country Geotech tour for the Terzaghi lecture at approximately five locations.

e) Another summer summit will be held this year as an attempt to increase involvement and the number of G-I chapters formed. This may also be an attempt to increase younger member involvement

**f)** The GeoFlorida Conference Coordination Committee Meeting will be held Tuesday (23 February 2010) between 12:00 and 4:00 pm in Room 1D. Feel free to attend and bring up issues with respect to the conference (paper submission, session scheduling, etc.) that need to be addressed for future conferences. Student activities take all of Tuesday afternoon, which forces the Technical Sessions to be mostly Monday and Wednesday. If we could re-vamp the system, what would we do?

**g)** United Engineering Foundation Grants (tabled until later in meeting pending Jeff Keaton's arrival)\*\*.

**h)** Sandra Houston gave an update from the Committee on Diversity and Women in Civil Engineering (CDWCE). She appealed for attendance at the Women Geo-Professionals reception Monday evening (22 February 2010) from 7:00 until 8:30 pm.

**i)** Sustainability discussion by Jeff Keaton. ALL committees must integrate such topics and support initiatives along this line. Perhaps this can be addressed on the web site. From our committee potential initiatives to consider: less rotary wash versus more hollow stem augering, more CPT testing versus rotary wash boring, incorporating geophysical methods, etc. which have the least impact on the environment. Can we do something within our committee? What are we doing already because it is sustainable? Consider sustainability packaging. The Sustainability Committee under the TCC is at the same level as the Continuing Education Committee. Good engineering is sustainable engineering.

**j)** Each committee must have a chair succession plan. We DO have a plan. Bill Yu currently serves as Vice-Chair. (Aaron Budge serves as Secretary.)

**k)** Annual reports are due 01 October (we submitted our report.) Meeting minutes are to be submitted within 30 days of the meeting. The Pavements Committee will be awarded the Committee of the Year recognition this year, which includes \$1500 for the committee. The Pavements Committee frequently offers multiple tracks at various conferences and is very involved and active. The award is given based on committee productivity.

**l)** Board Committee presentations

Awards Committee – everyone needs to nominate papers (submit to Anand P.)

Standards Development Committee – the Codes and Standards ASCE7 is the best selling code.

Geolegisative Committee – members need to sign up for the Key Contacts program. Sign up to help ASCE act as a lobbyist for engineering-related legislation. Mike Lewis and Aaron Budge (from EG&SC committee) are already involved. Others are encouraged to support this.

International Activities Council – we can have more than one member per country on the International Committee. Several bi-national agreements exist with various countries to promote participation in conferences and promoting collaborative efforts. Agreements are in place with the following:

India, Russia, Korea, Mexico, Japan, China, Canada

Consider developing workshops in conjunction with some of these countries. Do we have tie-ins to Mexico? Dante Fratta has some connections (Abraham Rodriguez.) There is money available (~\$5000). Previous workshops have included geo-environmental and ground improvement.

Investment Committee – no report.

Nominations and Elections Committee – committee now formed (committee to consider nominations and elections for the Board of Governors).

Student and Younger Members Committee – this is a strong and very active group. They are involved with the MSE Wall competition, the student papers/posters, shadowing/mentoring programs for undergraduates and graduates (respectively), the Geoprediction challenge, etc. Please consider a voluntary contribution for ASCE younger membership when renewing your G-I membership.

Technical Publications Committee – no report.

Organizational Committee – no report.

Engineers Without Borders – EWB needs people to sign up as advisors. These need to be EWB members (\$60/year). There are lots of potential projects, but not nearly enough advisors. The groups need practical, helpful advisors to provide a review of materials, troubleshooting assistance, etc. Please consider promoting either monetarily, as an advisor, or both.

**m) Upcoming Events:**

**2010** – GeoFlorida, Earth Retention Systems, Scour and Erosion

**2011** – GeoFrontiers (Dallas, TX – Abstracts to be due by 30 March?), GeoRisk (Specialty Conference - Atlanta, GA)

**2012** – GeoInstitute congress in San Francisco, CA

**2013** – ? TBD

**2014** – ? TBD

**3. Submitted Reports:**

**a)** Annual Report (submitted Dec. 2009) – late (due 01 October).

**4. Discussion Items:**

**a) New Members**

Paola Bandini – New Mexico State University

Ethan Cargill – ConeTec, Inc.

Rick Coffman – University of Arkansas

**b) Removed Members**

Edmund Medley

Miguel Pando (working on Slopes, Dams and Embankments Committee to pursue his research interests)

**c) Subcommittees**

**Membership subcommittee**

Dante Fratta will serve as subcommittee chair and collect full contact information from committee members.

**Website subcommittee**

John McCartney will serve as subcommittee chair. The web page <[www.asce-egsc.org](http://www.asce-egsc.org)> is functional, however there are no working links yet. Several members of the committee (Murad Abu-Farsakh and Mike Lewis) will help John develop content to place on the website. This will include a history of the committee, as prepared by Dick Gray and Jeff Keaton.

**Education/Outreach subcommittee**

Bill Yu will serve as subcommittee chair. A CPT webinar proposal has been submitted. FHWA has a CPT user group that meets by webinar regularly. (No charge for DOT personnel.) TRB has a similar setup (\$99 per site for LRFD recently.) Some webinars are on the order of \$500 per site, which becomes prohibitively expensive for small groups. Continuing education, practice-oriented webinars (90% participation from industry) are most effective. CEU's can be provided. How do you prove that attendees "participate"? If anyone is interested, talk to Bill Yu or Carlton Ho ([ho@ecs.umass.edu](mailto:ho@ecs.umass.edu)). Carlton heads the G-I Continuing Education group. ASCE pays the instructor to teach the webinar.

**Awards subcommittee**

Anand Puppala continues to serve as subcommittee chair. Amy Cerato and Paola Bandini volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

**d) Upcoming Events (several in addition to those listed in 2m.)**

2010 IAEG in New Zealand

CPT10 (9-11 May 2010) in Huntington Beach, CA

AEG in South Carolina (20-25 September 2010)

2011 GeoRisk (Anand, Bill, Paul, Glen Ricks involved). Open call for sessions (one submitted already.)

AEG in Anchorage (19-24 September 2011)

GeoFrontiers in Dallas, TX 2011. Four EG&SC sessions proposed (by Nick H., Amy C., Jeff K. and Bill Y.) Check with Unsat. Committee to avoid having similar sessions.

ISC4 – September 2012, Brazil

ISC5 – 2016? (Four year cycle in the past.)

**\*\*2.g) United Engineering Foundation (tabled from earlier in the agenda):**

Comments/discussion led by Jeff Keaton. The objective of the UEF is to "further engineering." Grants will be available for 2011, with the following deadlines:

01 June 2010 – Concept Paper submission

01 July 2010 – Grant Proposal invited for select Concept Papers

01 August 2010 – Grant proposals due

01 September 2010 – Prioritization of grants complete

Early October 2010 – Board of Trustees will select grants to be funded in 2011.

Total funding available is on the order of \$700,000. Jeff Keaton can provide additional information, or refer to the UEF website <<http://www.uefoundation.org/grants.html>>. EG&SC committee may not meet the requirements for participation.

**5. Future Plans:**

**a) Specialty Conference?**

Specialty conferences at "touristy" sites have not been well-received (by Carol Bowers), since groups are less-willing to send representatives to attend such conferences. Sites such as Cancun, Las Vegas, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico have been/will be shot down. Continuing discussion of the specialty conference is given in 5b. Perhaps AEG can pursue a specialty conference in Puerto Rico which might be of interest to EG&SC and/or GeoInstitute membership?

**b) Hosting (or co-hosting) GeoCongress**

For 2012 there is no date or hotel location, except that the conference will be held in San Francisco. Roman will be editing the proceedings.

The 2013 GeoCongress will be hosted through the Embankments, Slopes and Dams Committee.

It is proposed that the 2014 GeoCongress be hosted by the EG&SC Committee, perhaps with other committees (Unsat., etc.) as partners. Nick will get our name on the books with the TCC. Jeff Keaton offered to spearhead the effort as point person for the 2014 conference. The EG&SC committee decided to move from the specialty conference to the annual meeting push. Perhaps the conference can be co-sponsored by a non-G-I group (such as AEG?) Perhaps 2014 should be held in Las Vegas? Prepare a survey or questionnaire about the timeline for GeoCongress. The G-I will not sponsor an event within 6 weeks of the annual GeoInstitute meeting. The GeoCongress will stay late winter. Can we hold the conference at a university to reduce the costs? Potential locations to propose – Las Vegas, Albuquerque, Phoenix, El Paso? Jerry Miller is on the Task Force within the CCC for conferences and can provide policy guidance. The EG&SC committee should get our name in for the 2014 conference before others do.

c) Interactions with Engineering Geology committees (AEG, IAEG, Canada, Mexico, etc.)

We have opportunities to co-organize and/or co-sponsor meetings and conferences so that things coincide with the IAEG council meeting. Such an effort would be a "slam dunk" with nice participation from the international community. Consider working with an AEG/IAEG Specialty Conference.

**6. Other Business:**

a) Make sure (at the coordination meeting) we address the timeslots for EG&SC sessions. Having the sessions in the late afternoon on the last day of the conference is not ideal. Anything we can do to obtain more ideal timeslots for a few of the sessions would be helpful.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – Jeff Keaton motioned, Amy Cerato seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 pm.