

**Engineering Geology & Site Characterization Committee**  
**Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday March 05, 2013**  
**Geo-Congress 2013 in San Diego**  
**8 PM Pacific Standard Time**

**Meeting Participants**

Aaron Budge	Minnesota State University, Mankato	<a href="mailto:aaron.budge@mnsu.edu">aaron.budge@mnsu.edu</a>
Xiong "Bill" Yu	Case Western Reserve University	<a href="mailto:xxy21@case.edu">xxy21@case.edu</a>
Nick Hudyma	University of North Florida	<a href="mailto:nhudyma@unf.edu">nhudyma@unf.edu</a>
Thomas Oommen	Michigan Tech	<a href="mailto:toommen@mtu.edu">toommen@mtu.edu</a>
Nick Sitar	University of California at Berkeley	<a href="mailto:sitar@ce.berkeley.edu">sitar@ce.berkeley.edu</a>
Joseph Coe	Temple University	<a href="mailto:joseph.coe@temple.edu">joseph.coe@temple.edu</a>
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Paola Bandini	New Mexico State University	<a href="mailto:paola@nmsu.edu">paola@nmsu.edu</a>
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Roman Hryciw	University of Michigan	<a href="mailto:romanh@umich.edu">romanh@umich.edu</a>
Abdolreza "Reza" Osouli	Southern Illinois Univ. – Edwardsville	<a href="mailto:aosouli@siue.edu">aosouli@siue.edu</a>

Meeting called to order at 8:10 pm.

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Attendees noted above in "Meeting Participants" list

**2. Review and approval of minutes from 21 September 2012 conference call**

Motion to approve – N. Sitar

Second – T. Oommen

Approved unanimously by committee members in attendance.

**3. Committee Elections**

Nick Hudyma has reached his term limit as chair of the EG&SC committee.

Bill Yu will now become chair, having served as vice-chair.

Aaron Budge will now become vice-chair, having served as secretary.

Thomas Oommen was elected as the new secretary by those present.

#### 4. Update from Technical Liaison (R. Hryciw) and TCC Workshop (B. Yu)

An emphasis is being placed on the activities of committees, with a special push for webinar development. (This push is partially due to financial concerns by ASCE.) The webinars bring in between \$3000 and \$4000 per offering, with \$1000 being paid to the instructor. ASCE is looking for new webinars, to be approved by ASCE and not to compete with existing webinars.

Action Item #1 from TCC – The Geo-Institute is to get involved with International Building Code efforts. EG&SC needs a liaison for this IBC review.

Action Item #2 from TCC – For the TCC, Jeff Keaton needs to be replaced on the committee as his term has ended. The individual to replace Jeff needs to be a practitioner that has been involved with committee work and preferably has served as committee chair. Gordon Matheson has been approached by J. Keaton. Ray Martin, retired from Schnabel, was suggested by EG&SC committee members.

DIGGS – M. Abu-Farsakh and R. Hryciw participated in a workshop for DIGGS. The Geo-Institute may take over DIGGS. The Computational Geotechnics Committee has folks who could support this project, which was originally promoted by FHWA.

Committee demographics – R. Hryciw's focus as TCC Chair will include evaluating committee demographics. Is there a balance on the committees? Ethnic/gender diversity, academic versus practice, etc.? EG&SC was noted to have strong diversity within the committee.

Opportunity for special project funds – Requests for funding may be submitted at any time, but it might be wise to submit special project requests at the same time as annual reports are submitted.

Committee of the Year – The EG&SC committee is a strong candidate for Committee of the Year, especially with current efforts underway by the committee as a whole and by individual members.

Specialty Conferences – There are always opportunities to consider establishing specialty conferences. No specialty conference may be held within 8 weeks of another Geo-Institute conference. Perhaps a Karst Conference in Puerto Rico?

GeoCongress Notes – A Committee Task Force has reviewed past GeoCongresses and will now be tasked to approve and establish future GeoCongresses. GeoCongress 2013 preparations prompted this change, due to delays in scheduling, etc. which caused a variety of problems throughout the process. GeoCongress events will no longer be run through individual committees, as has been done in the past, but through this newly-established Geo-Institute Task Force. Other co-sponsoring organizations have driven locations for the conference in the past (and will likely continue to do so). For example, the 2015 conference in San Antonio, co-sponsored by PDCA, ADSC, DFI, etc. was placed in San Antonio based on input from the co-sponsors. While it was noted that it would be financially beneficial to rotate through only a few places instead of a different location each year, the general consensus (based on feedback from the Jerry Miller survey) was to keep the GeoCongress event location rotating from year to year. This discussion was also taken up by Ed Kavazanjian's Committee Task Force.

**AI#1 – IBC liaison/point person? Send out an e-mail to the EG&SC committee with the request.**

**AI#2 – TCC committee member? J. Keaton will check with Ray Martin. Make other suggestions to Jeff if other names come to mind.**

## 5. Submitted Reports

- a. EG&SC Annual Report (submitted October 2012)

## 6. Committee Members in the News

- a. Paul Mayne elected Vice President of ISSMGE (North America)
- b. John McCartney awarded the Shamsheer Prakash Foundation Teaching Award
- c. When committee members receive special recognition, please send that information along to Bill Yu for inclusion in the annual report.

## 7. Committee Discussion Items:

- a. Committee Membership

The EG&SC Committee currently has good diversity in all aspects.

No one was removed from the committee this year, but we may consider taking out folks who haven't been active.

It was proposed that a message be sent to ALL committee members at the time of tri-annual review. Some guidance from G-I or TCC is pending. It was suggested sending a "Thank you" note to inactive committee members, thanking them for their involvement and letting them know that their term has expired. There are guidelines as to how someone is removed.

Every three years each committee is reviewed. The date for the three-year review for EG&SC is 31 December 2013. The review process is streamlined. EG&SC is a very supportive group, so the review should be positive at the end of the calendar year.

- b. Sub-committee updates

- i. Website Committee – J. McCartney not present

Updates to the website haven't happened recently.

**AI#3 - Upload a photo of the committee meeting this evening.**

**AI#4 – Send website address to Thomas Oommen.**

- ii. Membership Committee – the spreadsheet has been updated

- iii. Awards Committee – our committee needs to nominate papers for awards. Papers for consideration may be either journal papers or conference proceedings. Geomechanics, JGGE and other ASCE journals are acceptable. The organizing committee selects the Hero Award.

**AI#5 – Circulate list of past award recipients.**

## 8. GeoCongress 2014 Update (Jeff Keaton)

Planning is well underway for the conference. The call for abstracts was extended through the weekend (~09 March) since Helen Cook is overloaded. Papers for 2014 will be due in May. Due to the process, publications are a year old from paper receipt through actual publication. Over 600 abstracts were received prior to the recent 2014 planning committee meeting, which would indicate 300-350 papers given typical attrition. The Atlanta venue allows people to take a shuttle from the airport directly to the hotel lobby. The conference will be held from 23-26 February 2014. Paul Mayne has responsibility for the list of topics for keynote speakers. Have the MIRA process allow session chairs to see how many abstracts have been submitted PRIOR to the submission deadline so that requests/reminders can be sent for sessions with only a few

abstracts. Keynote speakers and panels will now become the focus of the planning committee. The ASCE Sustainability Committee will be meeting right before the 2014 GeoCongress, which opens the possibility for a keynote from that group.

Members of the organizing committee include the following (from EG&SC):

Jeff Keaton – private industry

Nick Hudyma – academia

Scott Anderson – FHWA

There was intentional diversity and geographic distribution in the committee, including those above.

Innovative ideas for sessions:

Tom Sheehan (Northeastern) – soil properties and modeling

David Frost (Georgia Tech)

Short course proposals – Site Investigation by Jason DeJong may repeat in Atlanta.

Assign committee meetings/rooms by August so committee members can plan accordingly (as opposed to past conferences.) Make session assignments early for similar reasons.

Poster sessions will be beneficial. The Geological Society of America and AGU have very successful poster sessions. These sessions will be referred to as “Interactive” sessions rather than “poster” sessions and may include refreshments. Flat screen presentations may be arranged, perhaps via conference sponsors? These sessions must avoid conflicts with other activities.

## 9. Committee Future Plans

a. GeoCongress 2014 (see Item #8 above)

b. GeoCongress 2015 – Deep Foundations in San Antonio

Potential sessions mentioned: ‘Reliability-based design for engineering geology’ (or, ‘Uncertainty in site characterization’, or ‘Geologic variability over time’, etc.); ‘In situ testing for pile capacity’

Session proposals will be due in June.

Send proposals to Helen Cook.

c. Subcommittee for Educational Initiative (see attachment to agenda)

EG&SC needs to figure out the format for this to get it right.

Focus on undergraduate instruction (not graduate student, or practice, etc.) SPT, CPT, Geophysics – improve knowledge of in situ testing.

University + Industry can capture students’ attention. Industry could provide real datasets to be used. Generic, REAL data. That data is available.

Look at 40-minute videos, aimed at undergraduates, knowing/realizing that most of them will NOT become geotechnical engineers but will pursue other career paths in civil engineering.

Involve the Younger Members Committee, the Student Leadership Council, and other groups, as appropriate.

Prepare a short video that captures students’ attention and is available on our EG&SC website.

Have a sign-in on the website to know who is accessing/using the videos.

Establish a sub-committee to coordinate the effort.

Consider 5- to 15-minute segments on a range of topics.

Paul Mayne, Nick Sitar, Roman Hryciw, Ethan Cargill mentioned as potentially involved.

Committee members can pick up and submit short videos of various pieces relating to Site Characterization (field trips, demonstrations, etc.)

Have the sub-committee identify topics and extend the discussion

Nick Sitar – sub-committee lead

Paola Bandini

Ethan Cargill

Plan on a six-month delivery time for a draft plan.

**AI#6 – send out a request to the EG&SC list regarding the project.**

Short, educational and on the EG&SC website!

d. Interactions with other organizations

EEGS, AEG, IAEG, Canada and Mexico are related groups

CGS has an Engineering Geology subcommittee (Cory Freeze – contact)

American GeoSciences Institute

Collaborative effort?

International joint meetings on a regular basis? Jointly sponsored Specialty Conference?

Nick Sitar will reach out to CGS (Richard Bathhurst)

**10. Other Business**

- a. Plan conference call for late August/early September (to allow for work prior to report submission, award deadlines, etc.) Note the AEG meeting 8-12 September and the ISSEG meeting 2-6 September.
- b. 2016 GeoEnvironmental Specialty Conference (June or July 2016) – perhaps Chicago? Las Vegas? New Orleans? EG&SC can play a major role.

**Action Item Summary**

AI#1 – IBC liaison/point person? Send out an e-mail to the EG&SC committee with the request.

AI#2 – TCC committee member? J. Keaton will check with Ray Martin. Make other suggestions to Jeff if other names come to mind.

AI#3 - Upload a photo of the committee meeting this evening.

AI#4 – Send website address to Thomas Oommen.

AI#5 – Circulate list of past award recipients.

AI#6 – send out a request to the EG&SC list regarding the project.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm by general consensus.