



## ASCE Geo-Institute: Engineering Geology and Site Characterization Committee

### Geo-Congress 2014 Annual Meeting

**Meeting Date:** Monday February 24, 2014

**Meeting Time:** 8:00 – 11:59 PM

**Meeting Location:** Roswell 2

#### Committee Meeting Participants

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### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting started at 8:00PM. Bill greeted the attendees. Attendees made self-introductions.

### **2. Review and approval of minutes from 2013 conference call meeting**

Nick Sitar moved to approve the minutes from 2013 conference call meeting. Dick Gray seconded. Motion was passed.

### **3. Update from Technical Liaison (Roman Hryciw) and TCC workshop (Bill Yu)**

Roman provided update from Technical Committee Chair Meeting on the following items:

- A. EG&SC Committee has been selected for the committee of the year award 2014. The award comes with \$2000/- and should be spent before September 2014.
- B. Special projects fund: Board of Governors has recommended that special projects fund needn't be restricted in terms of the total amount that can be requested. Example projects could include short conferences.
- C. Committee special project proposal on educational videos of in-situ testing has been tentatively approved by TCC. More details about video production are needed.
- D. Bill did an excellent job in presenting the committee to TCC and peer committee during committee chair workshop.
- E. Conferences planned by G-I
  - a. 2016 conference will be jointly hosted with Structure Engineering Institute (SEI). There will be no GSP in the 2016 conference and submitting a paper will be optional. The conference attendees can submit just an abstract. However, a proposal could be submitted by a committee to have a small GSP.

Bill provided update from Technical Committee Chair Meeting on the following items:

- A. Geo-Institute's new strategic plan:
  - a. Response to member needs
  - b. Provide opportunities for CAREER development
  - c. Partnership and Collaboration
  - d. Define role of technical committees
    - i. Provide opportunity for rewarding engagement
    - ii. The source of tech content
    - iii. Lead our collaboration efforts
    - iv. Create products that are valued
- B. Bill provided plaques to recognize the services of Nick Hudyma (Past chair), Aaron Budge (former secretary and current Vice Chair), Annad Puppala (past Chair of Awards Subcommittee), John McCartney (past Chair of website subcommittee), & Dante Fratta (Chair of membership subcommittee).

- C. ASCE membership comes with five free webinars (*many members might not be award of this*)
- D. Membership outreach needed to add more members, particularly young member, international member, and female members.
- E. Bill will compile minutes from TCC meeting and provide to committee members.  
**(The following are additional notes besides discussed by Roman and Bill in the previous context)**
  - a. Rob Scheweinfurther, director of Geo-Institute, compiled a list of Geo-Institute conference under planning (A table from GeoInstitute included with the meeting minutes). Schedule for the next few years are booked. There is no opening for specialty conference until 2018 or 2019. There were discussions on a few events. For example, the issue with publishing GSP associated with the conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering. The conference currently does not publish GSP. There are also plan to make the IFCEE (joint event by ADSC, DFI, and G-I) to be every three years rather than every four years.
  - b. Peter Nicholson discussed management of committee activity (annual report, triennial report, meeting minutes, etc.)
  - c. Veron Schaefer provided update from the Annual Conference Committee. The committee is being formed based on the recommendation of ad hoc committee led by Jerry Miller. There will be 9 members of the committee on rotational basis plus Rob Scheweinfurther and a liasion from TCC.
  - d. Ken Fishman provided update from G-I Award Committee. G-I and ASCE awards include paper awards, professional development awards, and personal achievement awards, etc. The Committee is working on website improvements to make it easier to browse such information, for example, with tables to show awards deadlines.
  - e. Krishna Reddy provided a quick update on the GeoChicago 2016.
  - f. Yoga Chandran updated status with IBC code review. Responses have been received from every committee.
  - g. Berth Gross provided an overview about GeoStrata. G-I committees and members are encouraged to contribute articles to the magzzine. The magazine reaches to over 25,000 members and received overwhelming responses from readers.
  - h. Donna Dickert and Roman provided a brief overall about ASCE publication policy, particularly the GSP. For GSP proposal to be accepted, it need to involve Technical Committee. Reviews performed by the committees need to be maintained at high standards. There is no plan to publish GSP for GeoCongress 2016 (Joint G-I SEI conference). However, G-I committees can come up proposal for publishing GSP.
  - i. Geo-Institute conducted a user survey and is using the feedbacks to improve the G-I websites.
  - j. Rob provided an updated on Data Interchange for Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists (DIGGS). A special DIGGS group meeting was planned during GeoCongress 2014.
  - k. There were four committee presentations from Committees on Deep Foundation, Earth and Retaining Structure, Dam and Embankment, and Engineering Geology and

Site Characterization. Different strategies were used by different committees. For example, Deep Foundation has published a number of GSPs in honor of experts in foundation engineering; Dam and Embankment committee is involved in developing guidelines and specifications; Earth and Retaining Structures use bi-monthly meeting and social media to foster committee communications, etc.

1. Open Discussions: 1) Value of GSP and status of readership; 2) possibility to schedule committee meetings in day time during poster sessions (similar as TRB). 3) GeoCongress 2014 attendee is estimated to be around 1200 including students.

#### **4. Geo-Congress 2014 summary and lessons learned (Jeff Keaton, Nick Hudyma, Scott Anderson)**

Nick mentioned that he would provide a report to the committee after the conference.

#### **5. Committee Guest**

##### **A. ASCE Publication policy: Donna Dickert**

- a. Donna introduced and told that ASCE publications committee is available to help.
- b. Commented about the GSP program and that it is well structured and it is a model that ASCE uses to other institutes.
- c. ASCE library: Virtually all books are available both in print and online.
- d. Roy Olson's papers are not available because other publishers haven't given permission.
- e. Paula enquired whether the ASCE publications have any say on having a GSP for the 2016 conference. Donna suggested that this was not a decision made by the ASCE publication and if a committee is willing to do the GSP, they would support it.
- f. Khalid asked Donna about the length of review and Donna replied that it is less than 2 months.
- g. Bill suggested to include on the ASCE virtual library a search option for citation to assist the determination of papers for awards and Donna agreed that she would look into it.

##### **B. TC on energy geotechnics – Sanchez Castilla, Marcelo Javier**

- a. Marcelo Javier gave an update on the formation of a technical committee 308 Energy Geotechnics within ISSGE
- b. A copy of the details on the objective, tasks, and leadership of the TC-308 was provided (see appendix-B)
- c. An international conference on energy geotechnics is planned and the potential venue will be either Germany, Austria, or USA.
- d. Nick Sitar provided feedback to include power generation as a possible task. Sanchez agreed to consider that.

## 6. Committee Liaison Report

### A. ISSMGE- Paul Mayne

- a. Paul provided a report on the list of conferences planned by ISSMGE to the committee (see appendix-C)

### B. Joint CCI, EWRI, and G-I Task Force on Elk River Chemical Spill –Nick Sitar

- a. Not much to report and still waiting to hear from ASCE.

### C. ASTM D18.26 – Richard E. Gray

- a. The latest subcommittee of ASTM D18.26 will pursue an agenda that fills critical needs across all aspects of hydraulic fracturing including:
  - Background site investigation and permitting
  - Well installation and borehole integrity testing
  - Engineering and drilling techniques
  - Management and disposal of drilling fluids
  - Groundwater monitoring and remediation
  - Reinjection of produced well fluids
  - Permanent well abandonment and data reporting
- b. Committee recently met in Houston and it was well attended.
- c. ASCE Shale energy conference in Pittsburgh July 21-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.
- d. Dick will be organizing a 5 member panel for the SEEC conference.
- e. Bill said that he is also involved with the organizing of this conference and provided an update on the current status of the conference.

### D. IBC Code Task Force – Hong Yang

- a. Hong was not available to provide the update.

### E. AEG, IAEG, EEGS - Jeff Keaton

- a. Jeff was not available to provide the update. But would like to discuss a new method to account for uncertainty and risk in geotechnical design. (Appendix C).

### F. American GeoScience Institute - Roman Hryciw

- a. Roman said that he attends AGI meeting twice a year as a representative of Geo-institute.
- b. It is a well-endowed organization and has strong presence in Washington lobbying for funding in geoscience.
- c. Roman will prepare a minutes from that meeting and provide to the committee.

### G. DIGGS - Roman Hryciw, Murad Farsakh

- a. Roman had a conflict and was not able to attend the DIGGS meeting.
- b. Roman said that Rob from ASCE will be active for DIGGS.

**7. Submitted Reports- Bill Yu**

- A. Annual Report: Bill told that the Annual report was submitted in time (October 1<sup>st</sup> 2013). At that time we were the only committee that submitted the report.
- B. Triennial Report: Triennial report was also submitted in time. Bill thanked all the members for the input for the annual and triennial reports.

**8. Committee members in the news**

- A. Bill said that the EG&SC committee nominated Ken Stokoe for the cross country lecturer. The nomination was initialized by Mike Lewis. Ken Stokoe's nomination has been approved.

**9. Committee members in the news**

A. Committee Membership

- i. Bill reported that we have 46 members. Nick Sitar suggested to have a list of members on the committee website.
- ii. 2 members decided to drop last year
- iii. 1 new member was added
- iv. 30 members from academia, 16 members from industry, no from government agencies (FHWA, DOT)
- v. 1 young member and 1 international member
- vi. Bill said that we need to increase the young members and international members, and member from government agency
- vii. ASCE guidelines on the maximum number of committee that a person can be involved is 2, although it is not enforced.
- viii. Members of the committee need to attend the committee meeting at least once over three year period. It was suggested that we should check with members who have not attended meetings for a while whether they would like to continue. Dante agreed to track them down.

B. Sub-committee Updates

- i. Website Committee:
  - i. Bill indicated that John McCarthy will transfer the expertise to Joseph Coe. Joe said that he is in touch with John.
- ii. Membership Committee:
  - i. Dante Fratta is the chair of the subcommittee. Nick has championed the membership drive.
- iii. Awards Committee:
  - i. Nick will be in charge of the awards committee. He will find out the deadlines and would nominate for the awards. Typical deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- iv. Committee on special projects:

- i. Paul Mayne and Nick Sitar were appointed co-chairs for a committee to develop short educational videos on in-situ testing. This will start with one or two videos. Khalid indicated that LSU had put together some videos. The videos will be published on G-I youtube channel.

#### 10. Committee Future Plans:

##### A. Geocongress 2015 (IFCEE 2015)

- a. 3 sessions on CPT have been approved from our committee
- b. Bill said that instructors were not getting paid so the short course proposal from the committee were withdrawn. Committee asked Bill to find out more details on this and update the committee by email.

The following is the citation from a message from Billy Camp, chair of this conference: *"With respect to the short course proposal, the 2105 conference will not include any revenue sharing with the short course instructors. I informed Barry Christopher of this policy and he said that he and the other instructors would not be interested in teaching the course for free (which is understandable). The course was therefore withdrawn from our consideration. " – Billy Camp*

- B. Geo-congress 2016 A few members volunteered for this conference: (Nicholas Sitar, Joseph Coe, Andrew Cho, and Xiong (Bill) Yu)
- C. Special project on educational videos (proposal submitted and under review by TCC) Preliminary feedbacks are the proposal has been approved. But need to revise to include more details.
- D. Strategy to improve interactions with Engineering Geology committees (AEG, IAEG, Canada and Mexico)
  - a. Jean Louis Briaud said that he can put the committee in touch with the IAEG president.
  - b. Dick said that AEG is bidding to bring the IAEG 2018 annual conference to U.S. AEG will try for this in September at the IAEG meeting in Torino Italy. Committee suggested to let Jeff Keaton know that the EG&SC committee will be willing to support AEG in hosting the IAEG conference in 2018.
  - c. Nick Sitar will continue to try to connect with the Canadian geotechnical society. In addition, Bill will also try to help with these efforts.
  - d. Paul Mayne is meeting with the members of the Mexico geotechnical society to see for opportunities to collaborate.
- E. Committee Specialty conference
  - a. Two strategies were discussed for specialty conference.
    - i. Either propose a congress
    - ii. Connect with AEG and IAEG to host 2018 conference jointly
  - b. Bill will develop a draft proposal for these two strategies.

F. Webinar, GeoStrata special issue, etc.

- a. Paul indicated that he would need permission from Georgia Tech to provide webinar. Committee suggested that Bill might send out a call seeking volunteers to provide webinar.
- b. Barry said that NCHRP 1988 manual on subsurface investigation as a need to be revised. This is going to be an 18-months project.

**11. Other Business:**

- A. Conference call meeting: The next conference call meeting will be held in September.

**12. Meeting adjourned:**

Nick (Sitar) proposed motion to adjourn the meeting. Aaron seconded it. The meeting ended at around 10:20PM. Committee social hours followed.



## **List of Appendices**

- A. Conferences planned by G-I – Rob Scheweinfurther
- B. Information on TC on Energy Geotechnics- Sanchez Castilla, Marcelo Javier
- C. ISSMGE activities - Paul Mayne
- D. ASTM D18.26 minutes – Dick Gray
- E. A new method for incorporate uncertain and risk in geotechnical design and risk management - Jeff Keaton
- F. Current EG&SC membership roster – Xiong (Bill) Yu
- G. Presentation at the Committee Chair workshop – Xiong (Bill) Yu