



ASCE Geo-Institute: Engineering Geology and Site Characterization Committee

Conference Call Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014

Meeting Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

Meeting Location: Telecon

Toll Free: (800) 832-0736

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Room Number: * 986 0907 #

Committee Meeting Participants

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Anand J. Puppala	University of Texas at Arlington	anand@uta.edu
Amy Cerrato	University of Oklahoma	acerato@ou.edu
Paola Bandini	New Mexico State University	paola@nmsu.edu
Dave Saftner	University of Minnesota, Duluth	dsaftner@d.umn.edu
Roman Hryciw	University of Michigan	romanh@umich.edu
Zhen (Leo) Liu	Michigan Tech	zhenl@mtu.edu
Jean Louis Briaud	Texas A&M University	briaud@tamu.edu
Shidlovskaya, Anna	National Mineral Resources University, Russia	shidanna@bk.ru
Dante Fratta	University of Wisconsin	fratta@wisc.edu
Mala Ciancia	Parsons Brinckerhoff	ciancia@pbworld.com

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting started at 1:00PM. Bill greeted the attendees. Attendees made self-introductions.

2. Review and approval of minutes from 2014 Annual Meeting at Geocongress

Nick Hudyma moved to approve the minutes from 2014 annual meeting at Geocongress. Anand Puppala seconded. Motion was passed.

3. Update from Technical Liaison (Roman Hryciw)

Roman provided update from Technical Committee Chair and Board of Governors meet in August 2014.

- *Reported that the board of governors is very impressed with the work of this committee*
- *TCC has approved the special project proposal by the EG&SC Committee to develop video based educational resources for field instrumentation. A resubmission is advised in light of the ASCE fiscal year budget circle. The proposal needs to clarify that the proposed activities is not duplicate of the available resources. The budget for the special project can also be increased based on project needs. Bill will coordinate with Paul and Nick to refine the proposal.*

4. Subcommittee Updates

- Awards subcommittee – Nick Hudyma
One paper has been nominated for Norman Medal. In the process of completing the application.
- Website Subcommittee – Joseph Coe
Joe was not able to attend the meeting due to family engagement (a new baby!). He is in the process of transferring the website to a new domain. Bill indicated that if any committee member is willing to help Joe, it will be much appreciated.
- Membership Subcommittee – Dante Fratta
*Is in the process of updating the membership list. Dante has sent a request of information asking whether people would like to continue in the committee.
Bill explained that, to be a member of the committee one needs to first be a member of GI and then in the committee membership application form mention that he/she would like to participate in this committee. Further, the Chair would add that member to the committee. Dr. Shidlovskaya is invited to join the committee.*
- Education Activities on Engineering Geology- Nick Hudyma
*Nick updated the committee that, a set of slides from the panel session on engineering geology education at Geocongress 2014 is being developed as an educational material on Engineering Geology and its role for Engineering. The goal is to finalize this by the 2015 Geocongress and to make it available.
Dr. Anna Shidlovskaya indicated she is interested in participating this effort.*
- Committee Special Project – Paul Mayne and Nick Sitar
Paul and Nick both have travel and teaching commitments. Couldn't join to provide update.
- Committee Liaisons
 - ISSMGE – Paul Mayne was not available for update.
 - ISSMGE – TC308 Chair: Marcelo Sanchez was not available for update. *Jean Louis Briaud updated that, this committee had a meeting at the Unsaturated Soils conference in Australia. The meeting was well attended. TC308 is also in the process of planning a technical conference. Anand provided additional information based on his observation at Sydney.*
 - ASTM D18.26 – Richard E. Gray was not available for update.
Bill indicated that, the Energy conference in Pittsburgh was reasonably well attended.
 - IBC Code Task Force – Hong Yang was not available for update.
 - Joint CCI, EWRI, and G-I Task Force on Elk River Chemical Spill –Nick Sitar was not available for update.

- vi. Other organizations: AEG, IAEG (Jeff), EEGS (Jeff), SEG, CGS (Canadian Geotechnical Society), American GeoScience Institute (AGI, Roman), TRB.

Jean Louis Briaud gave an update that in Italy Torino Prof. Scott Burns was elected as the president of IAEG. It was also reported that the 2018 IAEG conference is going to be held in San Francisco. There was discussion on how this committee can participate with IAEG and AEG in the 2018 conference. The committee suggested to explore these possibilities and probably propose a short course on Site Characterization with Instrumentation. Thomas Oommen volunteered to meet with Scott Burns during the AEG Annual meeting to see how we could cooperate in these activities.

Roman Hryciw mentioned about an educational material that is available from AGI as part of the earth science week. AGI prepares this material for school education. Please contact Roman if anyone would be interested in copies of it.

- vii. Other (G-I technical committee updates) : No update
- g. Subcommittee structuring
Bill mentioned that as a committee we are doing well in terms of committee structuring. The committee membership drive led by Nick was pretty successful. The next goal of the committee is to engage more female members, young members, and international members.

5. Geocongress 2014 Summary

Bill provided a summary of the involvement of our committee members for the 2014 geocongress.

- b. Conference update -
 - i. Conference Chairs - Jeffrey R. Keaton, Nick W. Hudyma, Scott A. Anderson
 - ii. Technical Program Chairs - Anand Puppala, Paola Bandini, Thomas Sheahan
 - iii. Technical Publication Committee - Murad Y. Abu-Farsakh, Xiong (Bill) Yu, Laureano R. Hoyos
 - iv. Short Courses/Workshops Co-Chairs - Andrew Kyuho Cho, Ranjiv Gupta
 - v. Local Liaison Chair - Paul W. Mayne
 - vi. Poster Session Chair - Ning Lu
 - vii. Young Geotechnical Engineers - Amy Beth Cerato
 - viii. Exhibits and Sponsorships Chair - J. David Frost, Andrew Robert Shinnefield
 - ix. International Liaison Chair - Ian Jefferson
 - x. Student Paper Competition Chair - John Scott McCartney
 - xi. Student Design Competition Chair - Richard A. Coffman

- c. Committee sponsored sessions for GeoCongress 2014

Bill also noted that nine sessions were sponsored by our committee. The sessions and chairs are listed below:

- i. *Recent Advances in Characterizing Coastal Deposits*, Malay Ghose Hajra
- ii. *Conservatism in Geo-Characterization, Analysis, and Design*, Session Number: 18, Track B - Innovation, Standardization, and Regulation, Nick W. Hudyma

- iii. *Modeling and Characterization of Frozen Unsaturated Soils*, Session Number: 41, Track D - Sustainable Design, Visualization, and Communication, Xiong (Bill) Yu and Bin Zhang
- iv. *Remote Sensing Techniques for Geo-characterization*, Session Number: 13, Track A – Geo-Characterization
Thomas Oommen and Richard A. Coffman
- v. *Improvement of the Practices for Selection of LRFD Design Soil/Rock Properties that Consider Project Site Variability*, Session Number: 14, Track A - Geo-Characterization, Naser Abu-Hejleh
- vi. *Recent Advances in Characterizing Coastal Deposits*, Session Number: 24, Track B - Innovation, Standardization, and Regulation, Malay Ghose-Hajra
- vii. *Underground Space Characterization*, Session Number: 40, Track D - Sustainable Design, Visualization, and Communication, Ian Jefferson
- viii. *Geo-Characterization for Mega Projects*, Session Number: 6, Track A - Geo-Characterization, Hong Yang
- ix. *Innovative Rock Characterization and Analysis*, Session Number: 9, Track A - Geo-Characterization, Fulvio Tonon

6. IFCEE 2015 - International Foundations Congress & Equipment Exposition, San Antonio, Texas, March 17-21, 2015

Bill mentioned that three session proposals and one short course proposal were submitted by our committee members for the IFCEE 2015. These sessions' proposals are listed below:

- a. Session Proposals by Members of the Committee
 - i. *Direct CPT Methods for Axial Pile Evaluation* by Paul Mayne
 - ii. *Geotechnical Instrumentation and construction performance monitoring* by Malay Ghose-Hajra
 - iii. *Engineering Geology and Site Characterization for Underground Energy Utilization* by Bill X. Yu and Bin Zhang
- b. Short Course Proposal:
 - Geotechnical Instrumentation Performance Monitoring for Construction by W. Allen Marr, Barry Christopher, Rob Nyren, and Malay Ghose-Hajra (withdrawn)

A few session proposals were merged by the program committee. The short course proposal has been withdrawn due to the revenue sharing structure by IFCEE2015. Roman mentioned that the Geo-institute exec director directly handles the IFCEE 2015.

7. GI-SEI Joint Conference in 2016

Bill mentioned that, the GI-SEI Joint conference will be held in Phoenix from 14-16 Feb 2016. Roman mentioned that Youssef Hashash and Richard Finno are in charge of this conference. This conference will not have GSP because the structural engineering institute is not familiar with this process. However, committees are welcome to have their own GSP or coordinate with other committees for a joint GSP.

8. Other noteworthy activities:

- a. SEEC 2014 – Shale Energy Engineering Conference (SEEC), Pittsburgh, PA, July 21-23, 2014

Bill and Gray organized a panel session during this conference. Bill updated that the conference had around 300 attendees, and about 140 papers were submitted. The conference also included a student poster session and it was well attended by government agencies. This was the first conference organized by ASCE Energy Institute and the conference had 4 conference tracks:

1. *Water Resources Management*
2. *Geological/Geotechnical*
3. *Environmental Regulatory/Public Policy*
4. *Supportive Infrastructure/Technology*

9. Specialty Conference

Bill suggested that as a committee we should plan for a specialty conference. According to Roman the earliest we would get a specialty conference is probably 2020. Jean-Louis suggested that we should coordinate with the 2018 IAEG conference rather than planning for a separate specialty conference. It was decided that Thomas and Bill will check with Scott Burns first to explore how we can participate as a committee in the IAEG 2018 conference in San Francisco.

10. Webinars, contributions to GeoStrata issues

Bill indicated that an abstract from Thomas has been submitted to Geostrata issue for Geohazards. Other abstracts for this issue from our committee are being prepared.

Bill indicated that our committee needs more push in organizing webinars. The committee suggested the slides that are being prepared by Nick on Engineering Geology Education to be turned into a webinar.

11. Other issues

Bill posed the question to the committee on how we can improve the role as a technical committee. Jean-Louis suggested that if there are young professors who are going up for tenure it would be good to provide a certificate to acknowledge their contributions to the committee. The committee deemed it as a good idea and suggested to implement it. Roman suggested to everyone to include in their CV that this committee received the Technical Committee of the Year Award last year.

There were discussions on having a GeoStrata issue on Engineering Geology. It was noted that there was an issue on this topic in 2013.

The action items of the committee include: 1) special project proposal and implementation; 2) plan for committee specialty conference; 3) opportunity to partner and engage in IAEG2018; 4) potential webinars in conjunction with the special project activities; 5) contribution to Geostrata; 6) Promote rewarding engagement for members.

The meeting was adjourned at around 2:00PM.