Committee Meeting Participants

Thomas Oommen | Michigan Technological University | toommen@mtu.edu
Xiong (Bill) Yu | Case Western Reserve University | xxy21@case.edu
Tejo Bheemasetti | University of Texas at Arlington | tejo.iitkgp@gmail.com
Navid Jafari | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | njafariz@illinois.edu
Mike Lewis | Bechtel Corp. | Mlewis@bechtel.com
Hanna Moussa Jabbour | Lehigh University | Ham413@lehigh.edu
Suguang Xiao | Lehigh University | sux211@lehigh.edu
Mohammed Khan | University of Missouri | mkzv8@mail.missouri.edu
Paola Bandini | New Mexico State University | paola@nmsu.edu
Anna Shidlovskaya | University of Mines (StP, Russia) | shidanna@bk.ru
Scott Anderson | FHWA | scott.anderson@dot.gov
Anand Puppala | The University of Texas at Arlington | anand@uta.edu
Roman Hryciw | University of Michigan | romanh@umich.edu
Nick Hudyma | University North Florida | nhudyma@unf.edu
Paul Mayne | Georgia Institute of Technology | paul.mayne@ce.gatech.edu
Amy Cerato | The University of Oklahoma | acerato@ou.edu
Quan Gao | Case Western Reserve University | qxg29@case.edu
Chanjuan Han | Case Western Reserve University | cxh432@case.edu
Yuan Guo | Case Western Reserve University | yxg223@case.edu
Richard Coffman | University of Arkansas | rick@uark.edu
Thomas Gebrenegus | Engineering Systems Consultants, Inc. | t.gebrenegus.care@dot.gov
Jeramy Ashlock | Iowa State University | jashlock@iastate.edu
Zhen Liu | Michigan Technological University | zhenl@mtu.edu
Yan Liu | University of Mount Union | liuyan@mountunion.edu
1. Welcome and Introductions
Meeting started at 8:07PM. Bill greeted the attendees. Attendees made self-introductions.

2. Review and approval of minutes from 2014 conference call meeting
Anand Puppala moved to approve the minutes from 2014 conference call meeting. Richard Coffman seconded. Motion was passed without dissent.

3. Update from Technical Liaison (Anand Puppala) and TCC workshop (Roman Hryciw, Bill Yu)

Anand provided update from Technical Committee Chair Meeting on the following items:
A. Next year the Geocongress will be in Phoenix jointly with the structures institute.
B. Next year the conference will not have a GSP. However, the committees can take leadership to publish a GSP.
C. The special project funding request submitted by the committee is in the final stages of approval.
D. In terms of committee activities, EG&SC should focus on doing some webinars. FHWA currently does webinar on CPT every 2 months and this can be a good format to follow.
E. The funding for the committees from next fiscal year won’t be a fixed amount ($3000) like the previous years. The funding will be based on the committee’s annual report and the budget request submitted with it.

Roman provided update from Technical Committee Chair Meeting on the following items:
A. The policies and procedures for committees are going to be revised and a rigid succession plan for chairs should be in place. The vice chair will be the candidate for the chair and before approval, the TCC will review the vice chair’s credential and CV.
B. From next fiscal year, the funding of committees will be merit based on the annual report submitted by October 1st. Project funding will get priority over travel funds.
C. Next Geocongress will be jointly with the structural institute and it will only have abstracts following the structural institute model. This model is more acceptable to practitioners. Since it only has abstracts, TCC rejected to accept it as a GSP. Nevertheless, selected abstracts could submit a paper that will be included as a non-peer reviewed paper. Committees can decide whether or not to publish a GSP. The proposal for committees to publish a GSP should be submitted before July 30th. If the committees decide to do the GSP they must request the authors for paper and coordinate the review process.
D. At least 8-10 papers are needed to have a critical mass for a GSP. At this point it is not clear whether the GSP would be in print or CD. It will certainly be available as ebook.
E. If the committee wants to conduct a specialty conference, the earliest availability would be 2019 or 2020. Chicago conference had done the pre-proposal in 2009. Specialty conference requires early planning.

Bill provided update from TCC Workshop on the following items:

A. If the committees decide to publish a GSP associated with GeoStructure Conference, there should be no duplication of paper between GSP and conference proceedings.

B. In this year conference, the workshop instructors were not paid. However, this will be rectified next year. Half a day workshop will be $1000 and a full day event will be $1500

C. Presented the list of specialty conferences that have been planned
   c. GeoRisk 2017 Mid June 2017
   d. Geotechnical Earthquake Conference 2018, late May or early June, Austin, TX
   e. 2017 Unsaturated Soil Committee Specialty Conference
   f. 2017 Grouting Committee Specialty Conference

D. The Committee proposal for specialty project has been approved by TCC and is under review by BOG. Paul and Nick Sitar are co-chair of the special project. Total request is $10k.

E. Bill also updated on the best practices followed by other committees that EG&SC could emulate. Unsaturated Soil committee is organizing several webinars, Earthquake and Geotechnical Committee developed a policy document for outreach, and Risk Assessment and Management Committee has coordinated with several other organizations to jointly organize conferences.

F. Geoinstitute wants to transfer all committee websites to a common domain. Joseph Coe has already transferred EG&SC website from John McCarthy. This would be a good opportunity to make that transition to Geoinstitute portal.

4. Committee Guest
   B. Donna Dickert updated on ASCE publications. Donna clarified on the GSP publication policies for the next geocongress. She also updated that the ASCE library is expanding with videos and supplemental material. ASCE is interested in doing more manuals and standards and would particularly like to improve on getting info to practitioners. Manuals once submitted will get reviewed by a panel before publication. The Geoinstitute publications are included in the Elsevier database. It is important to maintain the quality. Geoinstitute doesn’t have much to worry. But it is important to keep standards. ASCE publication is looking for new ideas. Paul Mayne suggested including videos as figures in the GSP.

5. Committee Liaison Report
   A. ISSMGE- Paul Mayne
      a. Paul provided a report on the list of conferences planned by ISSMGE
         i. 16 African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Tunisia, 27-30 April, 2015
ii. The 3rd International Conference on the Flat Dilatometer, Rome, 14-16 June 2015

iii. XVI European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Edinburgh, 13-17 September, 2015

iv. 5th International conference on site characterization (ISC-5) in Brisbane, Australia in September 2016

v. 19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Seoul, Korea, 17-22 September, 2017

B. Federation of International Geo-engineering Societies - Jean Louis Briaud
   a. The federation met last year in Italy and will meet this year in China
   b. This has opened up considerable interaction between the presidents of various international geo-engineering societies.
   c. Currently, the federation has 3 joint technical committees: Natural Slopes and Landslides, Representation of Geo-Engineering Data, and Education and Training

C. Joint CCI, EWRI, and G-I Task Force on Elk River Chemical Spill – Nick Sitar
   a. Nick was not available to provide the update.

D. ASTM D18.26 – Richard E. Gray
   a. Dick was not available to provide the update.

E. IBC Code Task Force – Hong Yang
   a. Hong was not available to provide the update.

F. AEG, IAEG, EEGS - Jeff Keaton
   a. Jeff was not available to provide the update.

G. American GeoScience Institute - Roman Hryciw
   a. Roman was unable to attend the last AGI meeting and didn’t have much to report.

H. DIGGS - Roman Hryciw, Murad Farsakh
   a. Roman was not involved
   b. Scott Anderson mentioned that it was turned over to Geo-Institute committee for DIGGS. http://diggsml.org/

I. TC Sustainable Geotechnics – Ian Jefferson
   a. Ian was not available to provide the update.

6. Submitted Reports - Bill Yu
   A. Annual Report: Bill told that the Annual report was submitted in time (by October 15th 2014 specified by TCC).

7. Committee Presentation/update
   A. Dr. Anna Shidlovskaya: Engineering Geology in Russia
      Anna presented on the Engineering Geology program in Russia, the major schools that offer Engineering Geology in Russia, and their key research focuses.
B. Dr. Nick Huydma: Educational Resources on Engineering Geology
Nick updated that he is working with a group to develop a set of slides that could be used as an educational resource. He already has a large set of slides collected. He is hoping to work on this during summer 2015.
Jean Louis suggested that this could be a GI project and some funding ($2500) could be requested.

8. Committee members in the news
Bill reported on the committee members in the news:
i. Ken Stokoe: 2014 Cross Country Lecturer (finalist, initialized by Mike Lewis)
ii. Peter Robertson: 2015 H. Bolton Seed Medal (finalist, initialized by Paul Mayne)
iii. Prof. C. Hsein Juang: 2015 Ralph B. Peck Award (not selected, initialized by Risk Assessment and Management Committee)
iv. Xiong (Bill) Yu: 2015 Huber Research Prize (pending, initialized by Vince Drnevich)
vi. Carlos Santamarina: 2016 Cross Country Lecturer (pending, initialized by Dante Fratta)

Mike Lewis proposed a candidate for the 2015 Seed Medal. Bill indicated the Committee will be happy to endorse the nomination.
Bill encouraged everyone to think about names that deserves recognitions and propose candidates for awards.
Jean Louis commented on the contribution of Nick (Awards nomination committee chair) in nominating several of the committee members for award and encouraged the committee to continue to do this.

9. Committee Discussion Items:
a. Bill reminded the committee to attract more international and female members to the committee. Currently EG&SC has 57 members.

10. Committee future plans:
A. Geo-structure 2016 Session proposals and abstracts are due by April 7th. Two short course proposals have already been submitted.
B. 2018 IAEG: Jean Louis suggested that the committee should contact Scott Burns

11. Meeting adjourned:
Bill proposed motion to adjourn the meeting. Aaron seconded it.