



ASCE Geo-Institute: Engineering Geology and Site Characterization Committee Meeting Minutes

2016 Geo-Structure Conference

Meeting Date: Tuesday February 16, 2016

Meeting Time: 8:00 – 11:59 PM

Meeting Location: Deer Valley-Sheraton Hotel

Committee Meeting Participants

Name	Institution	Email ID
Thomas Oommen	Michigan Tech	toommen@mtu.edu
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Anna Shidlovskaya	University of Mines, Russia	shidanna@bk.ru

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting started at 8:05PM. Bill greeted the attendees. Attendees made self-introductions.

2. Review and approval of minutes from 2014 conference call meeting

Aaron Budge moved to approve the minutes from 2015 conference call meeting. Paula Bandini seconded. Motion was passed without dissent.

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

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

- TCC has developed a new policy document (34 pages).
- Guidelines on committee membership in the policy document has been updated.
- To serve on a committee the person should be a member of the GeoInstitute.
- A person cannot serve as a member in no more than two committees simultaneously. They can serve on additional committees as friends.
- Each committee can appoint non-GeoInstitute members as liaison for other organization or committees.
- Members who are not able to attend conference, but actively participate in committee activities, can serve as emeritus members.
- TCC would like to see members actively participating in committee activities and if not, be released from committee membership.
- Criteria for release is 1) if the member misses 3 consecutive annual meetings of the committee, 2) failure to attend technical committee activities in a 3 year period, 3) failure to attend 2 consecutive annual meetings of the committee and failure to participate in the committee activities, or 4) behavior contrary to ASCE or GI code of ethics. However, the list is not prescriptive or exhaustive.
- This is one reason a skype session was provided this year so that if any member wants to participate virtually, it can be done.
- There is no limit on the number of members a committee can have.
- Committee leadership structure needs to be defined.
- Convention is that the vice chair would succeed the chair. For the secretary to be the vice-chair the committee needs to vote. This is a more formal process than the earlier one. The votes need to be reported to the TCC for approval. Paula checked whether a quorum is needed for the voting. There was no clarity on the quorum at this point.
- There will be no term limit for committee membership. However, TCC would like to see membership being renewed every 3 years. Many committees expressed concern on tracking these memberships.
- No academic degree requirements are there for a person to be a member of the committee.

- New G-I president discussed the strategic plan.
- The GI membership consists of 70% from industry but mostly academics attend the annual conference.
- Committees should try to host regional conferences to attract more industry members.
- GI has undergone significant change recently. GI- has new leadership and 2/3rd of the staff has been filled. The remaining staff position will be filled soon.
- TCC brainstormed ideas of increasing student participation through discounted registration or industry sponsorship.
- At IFCEE 2015 there was around 500 student attendees.
- Each committee was allotted a budget of \$3000 annually. However, several committees did not use the allotted budget. BOG have decided to change the mode of operation. Each committee has to compete for the money with a proposal. Budget cannot be used for time or support travel to annual conference. It can be used only for activities.
- The proposal by Paul Mayne and Nick Sitar has been funded (\$10k) to develop educational videos. We are waiting to hear from BOG about the budget allocation, which will allow to proceed with the plan.
- We don't have any fund approved this year.

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

- The committee membership policy is not to remove any active members. This is to ensure that if members are not active then the chairs can let them know that their term has expired, instead of saying they are no longer members of committee because of inactivity.
- Some committee lists have become very long with members who have not been active for 15 years. This will be a mechanism to ensure the members of the committee are active.
- The membership policy is not an urgent issue and TCC just want committees to start thinking about this.
- 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.
- Next Gecongress will be convened 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.

- 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.
- 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.

Anand provided update from TCC Workshop on the following items:

- EG&SC has been doing very well. The leadership has been very active. In the future, the Vice-chair should be an elected member.
- Bill is doing excellent job as chair.
- The committee has a special project. If the money is not spent within the time, the fund would be returned.
- Educational Resource on Engineering Geology: The Committee will plan to request funding support in next round of funding allocation.

4. Committee Guest

- Donna Dickert updated on ASCE publications.
 - a. The GSP formats are changing. The GSP will be broken to smaller modules due to downloading issues and for selling as ebooks. The GSP for annual conference can be divided based on track and for specialty conference divided into 2-3 issues.
 - b. Reminded the committees that GSP doesn't have to come from a conference. If there is a topic of interest to practitioners then a GSP can be done.
 - c. Manual of practice is something committees are encouraged to work on.
 - d. Synergy is possible between GSP and geostrata articles. If any particular article need to be made available as free download for couple months, that can be done.
 - e. GPP download stats have been very high. GI is interested in reviving the GPP as an opportunity to reach out to regional conferences.
 - f. Roman mentioned the review legitimacy that has been raised by Elsevier. Donna clarified that many databases are becoming more selective and the review quality and brand name is very important. GI is not concerned about GSP. But it is important to maintain the quality.
 - g. Scott asked the difference between a GSP and GPP. Roman clarified that GSP has a more rigorous review compared to GPP. However, Scott mentioned that in his experience of publishing in GSP and GPP, GPP reviews has been more meaningful and competitive. Roman mentioned that it could be that the GSP review qualities are going down and GPP qualities are improving.

- Geotechnical Frontiers 2017- Barbara Connett, Aaron Budge.
 - a. Aaron updated the committee. Aaron is part of the planning committee of the conference as student activities chair.
 - b. Please submit the abstracts by March 8th.
 - c. Organizers are planning to have professional and family oriented activities.
 - d. Bill checked if a panel session on “Communications between Geologists and Engineers with digital data technologies” can be added.
 - e. Aaron mentioned it would be worth trying. But if it doesn’t work in 2017, we can add for 2018.
 - f. Scott mentioned that this session was done in TRB and was of great interest.
 - g. Nick checked if the TRB session had produced any presentations. Scott indicated that the TRB workshops don’t have any papers or presentation as product. Anand mentioned that in the future, TRB workshop material will also be released as an e-circular. The TRB workshops are sponsored by committees and some committees do post the presentation on their website.
 - h. Anand checked how the asset management work done in TRB can be linked to ASCE GI and the site characterization committee. Scott mentioned that he would certainly be interested in bringing it to ACSE but wanted to check which would be an appropriate committee.
- GeoStrata – Beth Gross
 - a. Beth had some other commitments. Bill updated that the topics for 2016 issues have been fixed. Topics are: Military Geotechnics, Ground Improvement, Retaining Wall and Earth Retention, Earthquake Engineering, Project Delivery, & Transportation highways. Geostrata is requesting committee for topics for 2017. Geostrata is also requesting news contributions from committee.

5. Committee Liaison Report

A. ISSMGE- Paul Mayne, Jean Louis-Briaud

- Jean mentioned that as far as EG&SC is concerned there is not much to update.
 - i. 19TH International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Seoul, Korea, 17-22 September, 2017
 - ii. ISSMGE has several awards. Please take a look and nominate worthy candidates.

B. Federation of International Geo-engineering Societies - Jean Louis Briaud

- Currently, the federation has 3 joint technical committees: Natural Slopes and Landslides, Representation of Geo-Engineering Data, and Education and Training

C. ISSMGE TC308 – Marcelo Sanchez

- Committee is involved in energy geotechnics and the next conference is in Germany. Bill checked on the opportunities for EG&SC members to participate in organizing the conference.
- D. TC Sustainable Geotechnics- Ian Jefferson
- Ian was not available to provide the update.
 - Anand updated that the committee had workshop in Edinburgh. Planning for another workshop in Seoul. Had another workshop in Paris and was standing room. Anand is the vice-chair.
- E. ASTM D18.26 – Richard E. Gray
- Dick was not available to provide the update.
- F. IBC Code Task Force – Hong Yang
- Hong was not available to provide the update.
- G. AEG, IAEG, EEGS - Jeff Keaton
- Jeff was not available to provide the update.
- H. American GeoScience Institute - Roman Hryciw
- Roman didn't have any update.
- I. DIGGS - Roman Hryciw, Murad Farsakh
- Roman was not aware of any activity as part of DIGGS.
 - Scott mentioned that FHWA has been talking to Allen on how DIGGS can be taken to next level. There was a very significant section on DIGGS at TRB this year. There is some action on DIGGS and the bottom-line is that it is encouraging.
 - Roman noted to remove his name from DIGGS as he has not been involved with it recently.
 - Scott has a meeting with GI coming and DIGGS is one issue to be discussed.
 - Mike enquired why AGS is not adopted compared to DIGGS. AGS is more popular in Europe. AGS is a data format that started in UK.

6. Submitted Reports- Bill Yu

- A. Annual Report: Bill told that the Annual report was submitted in time (October 15th 2015).

7. Committee members in the news

Bill reported on the committee members in the news:

- i. Jean Louis Briaud: 2015- 2016 received the Cross Country Lecturer
- ii. Paola Bandini: ERC initiative, NSF funded (18.5 million for 5 years). It is a different type of grant. In this one the agency is involved and industry has a strong component in research and feedback. Paola mentioned that there would

be opportunities in second year for other universities to partner. The first year would be more developing international collaboration.

- iii. Anand mentioned about the NSF funded IUCRC at UTA. It has 7 industry members. Each industry contributes membership funds and gets to choose the topic of research.
- iv. Bill mentioned that if there are any papers that can be nominated for awards, bring in to the notice of Bill or Nick.

8. Committee Membership

- a. Our committee has roughly eighty members.
- b. Website Committee, Joe Coe: Updated about the committee website
- c. Membership Committee, Dante Fratta: Sent greetings from Saudi where he is on sabbatical
- d. Awards Nomination: Nick encouraged members to nominate papers for award. Also mentioned that members should inform the chair about any of the member achievements. Aaron mentioned that this should be an item for the conference call committee meeting.
- e. Education Activities: Bill mentioned that this would be a nice special project for the next budget request. Nick will contact Jean and put together an outline and send it out to others who are interested. Nick will also mention this to Rock Mechanics committee. Thomas mentioned that he will be willing to help Nick in this effort.
- f. Webinar: Bill mentioned if any committee member wants to give a webinar, ASCE will be very interested. Scott suggested that from sections the committee sponsored at conference select one or two best presentation and ask the authors to provide it as a webinar. Bill suggested Thomas to give a webinar on remote sensing. Bill will send a reminder on this to the membership.
- g. Mike mentioned updating the subsurface investigation manual. Scott mentioned that NCHRP is updating the ASHTO guideline.

9. Committee involvements in conferences:

- a. CMTC 2015 (Nick and Bill): Participated in the organizing but was not able to attend.
- b. GeoChicago 2016: Committee is organizing several sections
- c. GeoFrontier 2017: Aaron is providing leadership.
- d. 2018 IAEG: Jeff is providing leadership. Bill and Thomas are also involved in the planning. Bill requested input for identifying keynote speakers. Currently most speakers are from geology. More engineering geology speakers are needed. Nick mentioned remote sensing could be a timely topic and Thomas could do that. Bill mentioned that it could be brought up.

10. Committee specialty conference:

- A. Bill mentioned the earliest will be either 2019 or 2020. Nick mentioned that it shouldn't conflict with international site characterization conference. Thomas mentioned 2020 will be a good time - 2 yrs. after IAEG. Bill will have initial proposal with 2020 as the candidate year. Thomas mentioned that AEG conference is every year in September. Aaron checked if AEG would be interested to do a joint conference. Thomas agreed to check with AEG whether we could have a joint conference.

11. Meeting adjourned:

Bill proposed motion to adjourn the meeting. Paula seconded it.