



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

Meeting Date: Monday March 25, 9:00-10:30 PM (EST)

Meeting Access:

<https://cwru.zoom.us/j/2330690885>

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International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/azCamzwFm>

Meeting Minutes

Members and Friends in Attendance

1	Thomas Oommen	Michigan Technological University
2	Nick Huydema	University of North Florida
3	Donna Dickert	ASCE Publications
4	Aaron Budge	Minnesota State University
5	Xiong (Bill) Yu	Case Western Reserve University
6	Anand J Puppala	University of Texas Arlington
7	Joseph Coe	Temple University
8	Mike Lewis	Bechtel
9	Rick Coffman	University of Arkansas
10	Surya C.S. Congress	University of Texas Arlington
11	Paolo Bandini	New Mexico State University
12	Devon von Lichtenstein	Arizona State University
13	Jason DeJong	UC Davis
14	Chao Zhang	Colorado School of Mines
15	Morris (Moe) Dirnberger	TSi Geotechnical, Inc
16	Boo Hyun Nam	University of Central Florida
17	Alejandro Martinez	University of California Davis
18	Roman Hryciw	University of Michigan
19	Jean-Louis Briaud	University of Texas A&M
20	Julian Tao	Arizona State University
21	Yao Zhang	Terracon
22	Shawna Erter	SCI Engineering Inc.
23	Yan Liu	University of Mount Union
24	Alejandro Martinez	UC Davis
25	Leon van Paassen	Arizona State University
26	Xudong Fan	Case Western Reserve University
27	Xijin Zhang	Case Western Reserve University
28	Chaoyang Dung	Case Western Reserve University
29	Morris (Moe) Disnberger	TSI Geotechnical Inc.

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome to Attendees

Bill welcomed the attendees and all attendees made introduction. This was followed by a short introduction of the four new members of the committee:

- *Chao ZHANG, Colorado School of Mines*
- *Morris (Moe) Dirnberger, TSI Geotechnical, Inc.*
- *Alejandro Martinez, University of California Davis*
- *Boo Hyun Nam, University of Central Florida*

2. Review and approval of minutes from Committee meeting during 2018 conference call

Aaron moved to approve the minutes and Nick seconded it. The minutes was approved without any dissident.

3. Update from TCC Technical Liaison (Anand Puppala and Nick Hudyma)

- *Nick provided an update the Geotechtools are going to be handled by GI in the future. The part of the effort is to provide committees an opportunity to contribute or enhance the existing tools. TCC will be allocating special funds for committees to prepare projects that enhance Geotechtools. Aaron and Bill reaffirmed the comments from Nick. Bill indicated that the EGSC committee should look at proposing some projects that could contribute to geotechtools. Currently, the geotechtools are free, But GI is going to develop a business model such that it would be a resource available to GI members. A new digital kiosk is coming for GI. This would enable GI to host the committee websites. The general idea is to make it easy for committees to convey news and other items. Special projects will be continuing. Speaker series is a very nice outreach (special project). GI would like to have a better system for tracking how much funds from the special projects have been used. The hope is that the new website will provide these capabilities.*
- *The geostrata is going to have a special issue in April on what happened in the last 20 years in the geotechnical field. Paola checked whether this is going to be one article for each committee? Aaron indicated that it might be a paragraph from each committee to a big article. We didn't have clear directions on this yet.*
- *Bill updated that for the 2020 conference they have received over 800 abstracts and have accepted over 700 abstracts. Bill indicated that the EGSC committee is actively involved in this conference and are contributing to the organization and to the technical sessions.*
- *Bill mentioned that the special project requests are due by September 1st. Bill encouraged committee to think about ideas. The total funding from TCC is about 70k. If the proposed project is of \$20-30k it would need special permission from board of governors. Nick added that such large budget projects will have extra scrutiny.*
- *Bill mentioned about the Webinar program organized by GI. Last year we had submitted a proposal but never got a response. We decided to resubmit that proposal this year. Anand thanked Bill for his contribution as the chair of EGSC and welcomed Aaron as the next chair of the committee.*

4. Committee Liaison Report

- a. ISSMGE – Paul Mayne, Jean-Louis
Briaud indicated that he doesn't have much update on the ISSMGE. Paul emailed updates to Bill and was circulated at the committee meeting.
- b. Federation of International Geo-engineering Societies - Jean Louis Briaud
No updates
- c. ASCE and G-I Task Force on Risk Based Design Guide – Jean Louis:
This document is under editorial review and should be soon finalized as a GSP.
- d. ISSMGE TC308 – Marcelo Sanchez:
Marcelo has sent Bill some updates that will be forwarded by email.
- e. ISSMGE TC102 – Jason DeJong:
Jason indicated that the updates are the same as what Paul has emailed. 6th International Conference on Geotechnical and Geophysical Site Characterization, 07 Sept -11 Sept 2020. Budapest, Hungary. 9th Mitchell Lecture for the conference has been selected and will be announced soon. There is going to be CPT 2022 in Italy.
- f. ISSMGE TC Sustainable Geotechnics – Ian Jefferson:
Will be emailing an update.
- g. Geo-Institute - Diane Swecker:
Diane left G-I. There is transition of staff. Brad was invited but was not available due to other activities.
- h. ASCE Publication - Donna Dickert:
Donna encouraged the committee to develop geotechnical Special Publication (GSP) that is not just from conferences but from other avenues also. The ASCE library online is well established with 19 million views, and the ASCE publication is well respected. The shallow foundation has developed a revised copy of the yellow book. The yellow book is an outreach program that explains concepts in simple terms with cartoons and text. ASCE plans to market it widely for outreach. Donna encouraged the committee to look at these opportunities for publications. Roman updated the committee on the history of GSP and Geotechnical Practice Publications (GPP). The TCC discussed whether the original intent of GSP being more rigorously peer-reviewed is still valid or not. The geoinstitute wants to look at that, and it could potentially lead to some changes in the coming years on GSP. Donna mentioned that the ASCE Rocky Mountain section have maintained to publish GPP every two years at their annual conference. Roman indicated that at TCC there was no consensus on whether the conference publication should be GPP or GSP. Jean-Louis indicated that the Geoinstitute publications have been of the highest quality compared to other ASCE institutes.
- i. Russian Geotechnical Society - Anna Shidlovskaya

Jean-Louis mentioned that a joint workshop was held in Russia. A publication from the workshop will be published shortly. The topic was on the improvement of current design codes.

- j. ASTM – Richard E. Gray
Dick emailed updates to Bill and was circulated at the committee meeting.
- k. AEG, IAEG, EEGS - Jeff Keaton: *No updates*
- l. American GeoScience Institute - Roman Hryciw
AGI is an umbrella organization of several institutes. The GI is a member of the AGI. AGI is a well-funded organization but is having some serious financial problems in recent times.
- m. TRB – Scott Anderson
Anand updated that the TRB will celebrate the centennial next year. The next year will be a publication focused on what was done in the last 100 years. In 2021, the publication will be focused on the future or the next 100 years. Anand encouraged the members to be active in TRB.
- n. FHWA – Frank Jalinoos
No updates
- o. Subcommittees-
 - i. Website Committee - Joe Coe: *Joe indicated that he will work on transferring the committee webpage to the new system He also encouraged members to provide updates and news to post on the website.*
 - ii. Membership Committee - Dante Fratta : *No updates*
 - iii. Awards Committee - Nick Hudyma: *Nick mentioned that it has been a busy year with nomination and encouraged members to make more nominations in the future. Bill mentioned that Paul Mayne has been busy with his distinguished lecture series.*
- p. Other G-I Committees
 - i. Unsaturated soils: *No updates*
 - ii. Geotechnics of soil erosion: *Junliang Tao updated that the committee is planning for an international conference in 2020 at Arlington, Virginia.*
 - iii. Geophysics engineering: *No updates*
 - iv. Sustainability: *Anand indicated that the sustainability committee is doing a special project that might be of interest to EGSC.*
 - v. Slopes and Dams: *The committee will host specialty conference in 2021 in South Carolina. The topic will be of great interest for the EGSC committee.*
 - vi. Student participation committee- *No updates*

5. Committee Members/Friends in the News

Bill mentioned that our committee has been very active nominating many members and Nick is our nomination committee chair. All the nominations are listed below:

Prior to 2017

- a. Jean Louis Briaud: 2015-2016 Cross Country Lecturer
- b. Paola Bandini: ERC
- c. Anand Puppala: University-Industry cooperative research center.
- d. Amy Cerato: Prakash Prize
- e. Scott Anderson: 2017 AEG and GSA Jahns lecturer
- f. Bill Yu: Fellow ASCE, NSF CRISP grant
- g. Jie Han: 2017 ASCE Martin S. Kapp Foundation Engineering Award (awarded)
- h. Ning Lu: 2017 Peck Award (joint with Soil Properties and Modeling and Unsaturated Soils)
- i. Jean-Louis Briaud. Seed Medal (joint nomination with Geotechnics of Soil Erosion, Shallow Foundation Committee.)

Nominations in 2017-2018

- j. Kyle Rollins: Wallace Hayward Baker Award (joint with shallow foundation, finalist)
- k. Amy Cerato: Huber Research Prize
- l. Nick Sitar: Thomas A Middlebrooks Award
- m. Ning Lu: Norman Medal (selected)
- n. Paul Mayne: Cross Country Lecturer (selected)

Nominations in 2018-2019

- o. Jean Louis Briaud: Seed Medal (joint nomination with Geotechnics of Soil Erosion, Shallow Foundation Committee, etc. TBD)
- p. Junliang Tao: Casagrande Professional Development Award (TBD)

- q. Other more news missed?

6. Committee Involvements in Conferences:

- a. 2019 GeoCongress: *No updates*
- b. 2nd USUCGER Workshop for Junior Geotechnical Faculty (Bill): *Bill provided an update on this event. This event supported 40 junior faculty (\$800/person for travel).*
- c. Geocongress 2020: *Nick and Roman are co-chairs for it- Roman mentioned that Aaron is the editor of the proceedings and Roman and Nick are co-chairs. The conference has strong participation from the EGSC committee.*

7. Special projects (on-going & planning)

Bill provided an update of the special projects of the committee. Several projects have been successfully completed or are in progress.

Previous

- a. Educational videos – Paul and Nick
- b. Update ASCE Red Book (#56)– Mike Lewis (closure)

- c. Engineering geology instructional materials – Thomas Oommen, Sajin Kumar Kochappi Sathyan, Nick Hudyma, Roch Player, Mala Ciancia, and Anna Shidlovskaya
- d. G-I local chapter speaker fund program – Bill Yu
- e. Developing online interactive games for teaching site investigation and engineering geology - Leon van Paassen: Leon indicated that the project had been slightly delayed but it is progressing well and will be an excel based interactive program. It is been currently tested with students and will be released after that.

On-going

- f. Video demo of advanced laboratory testing methods for soils: *Bill updated that Prof. Tony from Case Western is contributing to this project.*
- g. Speaker fund: *Bill encouraged committee members to participate in this effort.*

Planned

- h. *Survey of the variability of typical geotechnical soil parameters: The proposal was submitted by Bill with input from Jean Luis. TCC indicated that since the committee has two active projects we should wait to complete those projects before new funding.*
- i. Other ideas to pursue in the future
 - i. Video documentary of pioneers in Geotechnical Engineering – Jiliang Li
 - ii. Biological method for soil treatment - Anna Shidlovskaya
 - iii. Webconference-Tom

8. Committee specialty conference

- a. Computational Geotechnics (2019)
- b. Earthquake Engineering (2018)
- c. Grouting (2017)
- d. Risk Assessment & Management (2017)
- e. Soil Properties and Modeling (2019)
- f. Unsaturated Soils (2017)
- g. Engineering Geology and Site Characterization (target to TBD) –Bill, indicated that potentially we could host hit together with the Great Lakes Geotech and Geoenvironmental Conference.

9. Other Business

Committee succession plan: Bill acknowledged the support of all the committee members, and he enjoyed chairing the committee last six years. He noted the active participation of Aaron, Tom, Anand, Nick, & Joe. Committee thanked Bill for his service. According to the succession plan, Aaron will be the Chair and Tom will be the Vice Chair. Anand nominated Paula for the secretary position. The committee unanimously approved the nomination. A group photo of the committee was taken.

10. Meeting Adjourn

Rick proposed to adjourn the meeting and Nick seconded it.