

ASCE/Geo-Institute
Geoenvironmental Engineering Committee
Conference Call
19 April 2006

Members Present: Ahmet Aydilek, Susan Burns, Patricia Culligan, Anirban De, Dimitris Dermatas, Jeffrey Dunn, Tuncer Edil, Jeffrey Evans, Mohammad Farid, Patrick Fox, Molly Gribb, Dennis Grubb, Beth Gross, Enamul Hoque, Milind Khire, Krishna Reddy, Christopher Ryan, Nazli Yesiller, Dimitris Zekkos

1. Introductions

Welcome new members: Dimitris Dermatas, Mohammad Farid, Dennis Grubb, and Dimitris Zekkos

2. Past conferences/committee contributions

Beth Gross and Susan Burns gave a summary of contributions of committee member contributions to completed conferences:

GeoCongress 2006

If committee members organized sessions here – please let me know (For example: geoenvironmental sensors?)

Fourth International Conference on Unsaturated Soils

2 sessions on evapotranspiration (ET) covers

3. Geo-Denver 2007:

Two mini-symposia proposed by the Geoenvironmental Engineering Committee:

Biogeochemical Fate, Transport, and Mechanics in Natural and Engineered Geoenvironments

Session Leaders: Pat Fox, Krishna Reddy, Nazli Yesiller, Trish Culligan

Advances in Vertical Barrier Design, Construction and Performance Monitoring

Session Leaders: Jeffrey Evans, Richard Davidson and Edward Kavasanjian

Burns will follow up with Chuck Shackelford on the status of the proposals.

4. Geoenvironment 20xx: Gross and Reddy (Chicago March/April 2008)

Beth Gross and Krishna Reddy have presented a preproposal for the specialty conference in 2008. There is a request to move from Chicago to: New Orleans (Geoenvironment 2000 was in New Orleans in 1995) or Miami. Committee suggestions included Phoenix, Tampa, and Charleston.

The conference needs a Technical Chair(s): committee volunteers included: Milind Khire, Jeff Dunn, Anirban De, and Mohammad Farid. Beth and Krishna will follow up with additional conference organization needs from the committee.

5. International Congress on Environmental Geotechnics (ICEG)

Dennis Grubb suggested the Geoenvironmental Engineering Committee work to secure a date to host ICEG, in 2010, or 2014 if 2010 is scheduled. Philadelphia was proposed as a tentative location. **Dennis will follow up with the International Society.**

6. GSP: Classic Papers in Geoenvironmental Engineering

Nazli Yesiller, Chuck Shackelford, and Craig Benson are assembling a GSP on classic papers in Geoenvironmental Engineering. The proposal has not gone forward, with following questions pending: 1 volume (versus 2) and cd/hardcopy?

Nazli will follow up with ASCE.

7. New Initiatives

- a) The Geo-Institute would like to see committee members participate in two primary initiatives:

i) The Speaker's Bureau - The purpose of this site is to provide members of the Geo-Institute, including local Sections and Branches, with a database of G-I members who are willing to make presentations on specific geotechnical topics.

<http://www.geoinstitute.org/speaker/>

Please take a couple of minutes and register with the site – they need basic contact information and a short description of your talk.

ii) Short Courses/Webinars – Committee members have historically participated in short courses, and the G-I would like to pursue converting those courses to a web-based format.

Please let Susan know if you are interested in pursuing a short course and/or webinar.

iii) Awards/Paper Nominations - Historically, the Geoenvironmental Engineering committee was quite proactive with nominating papers/members for awards, but we have not had an award champion in the recent past. Award nominations are important in the recognition of our contributions to the Geo-Community as a whole, so it would be ideal if we have a volunteer to actively coordinate submissions.

Please let Susan know if you are interested in coordinating award nominations this year. The task is not too time-consuming, and is greatly beneficial.

- b) Follow up Workshop to 2003 NSF/UIC Geoenvironmental Workshop
Krishna would like to see the Committee involved in a workshop to follow up on the 2003 Geoenvironmental meeting held at University of Illinois in Chicago. This initiative may take the form of proposed funding through NSF.
Could easily be combined with other suggestions to develop research needs statements that expand into areas including geoenvironmental impact in Homeland Security.

Krishna and Susan will follow up.

- c) Committee cooperation with Geosynthetics activities.

If interested in following up with chair of the Geosynthetics committee, please let Susan know.

- d) The committee discussed the possibility of developing design guidelines for use in practice in order to formalize analysis methods, and reduce disparity in the state-of-the-practice. While it is agreed that this is an excellent idea, there was discussion of whether the scope of the task was manageable.

Two immediate suggestions were made:

- i) Compile an expertise database for committee members, and make it available on the web.

Dennis will you coordinate?

- ii) Compile a bibliography of seminal papers in a variety of geoenvironmental focus areas.

Dimitris Zekkos and Nazli – will you coordinate?

- e) A suggestion was made to develop a geoenvironmental engineering challenge for the student competition at the annual GI conference. This could be suggested for Geo-Denver 2007, or for Geoenvironment 20xx.

Jeff Evans – will you lead the effort here? Volunteers?

8. Proposed Committee Meeting

There is not an ASCE conference before the end of the committee fiscal year (September 30, 2006) that a large number of committee members will attend. Consequently, our next in-person meeting will be at Geo-Denver 2007. Another conference call will be scheduled in mid-to-late summer.

As a consequence of not meeting at a conference, the committee has a \$1500 budget at its disposal. Please let Susan know if you have proposals for the use of those funds.