

MINUTES

GEOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2003, 9:30 – 11:30 PM

MIT BUILDING 1 (PIERCE LABORATORY), RM 246

1. The meeting was called to order by Beth Gross (Chair). In attendance were: Akram Alshawabkeh (Northeastern University), Susan Burns (University of Virginia), Jeff Evans (Bucknell University), Richard Fragaszy (NSF), Beth Gross (GeoSyntec Consultants), Chris Ryan (Geo-Solutions), Charles (Chuck) Shackelford (Colorado State University), Radhey Sharma (Iowa State University), and Jorge Zornberg (University of Colorado at Boulder). The primary purpose of the meeting was to plan future activities: conventions, conferences, short courses, and other events.
2. The workshop for the technical committee chairs (TCCs) was held on 22 June 2003. Gross discussed the outcome of the workshop. Workshop summary:
 - a. Starting in 2005 with Geo-Frontiers, a geo-congress will be held the first quarter of every year in a major city (with significant exhibitor space). There may also be specialty conferences each year.
 - b. The GI needs to provide more value to employers through:
 - i. Increased opportunity for practitioner participation (papers, etc.)
 - ii. Workshops/short courses at section and branch level; ASCE members that were surveyed expressed interest in workshops/courses on seepage and drainage, groundwater and dewatering, slope stability, and management; 40% of revenues to instructors for travel and time.
 - iii. Web-based seminars
 - iv. Speakers bureau (<http://www.geoinstitute.org/speaker/index.cfm>)
 - v. More emphasis on practice-oriented papers and sessions at conferences
 - c. Some discretionary funds available. Past funding examples: \$200-\$5,000 for compendium of case histories, database, glossary of grouting terms, travel to non-ASCE meeting when working on a special project, Soil Magic.
 - d. Committees should seek opportunities for external funding – grants, cooperative agreements administered by ASCE with ASCE members as subcontractors
 - e. Sunset provisions for committees, each committee will get a grade, the committee that does the most in a year will get extra funding
 - f. Focus on emerging technologies: identify new and emerging technologies and develop mechanisms for technology transfer (white paper, GSP, conference session, workshop, etc.)
3. *Soil and Rock 2003: 12th Panamerican Conference / 39th US Rock Mechanics Symposium (SARA '2003) (Boston, June 22-26, 2003)*. Chuck Shackelford is Session Co-Chair for Contaminant Transport and Multiphase Flows.
4. *Ninth Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst (Huntsville, Sept 6-11, 2003)*. Beth Gross is Conference Organizing Committee Member and Session Moderator. GEC has reviewed 12 papers for publication in GSP.
5. *Civil Engineering Conference and Exposition 2003 (Nashville 12-15, 2003)* Beth Gross is Conference Organizing Committee Member, Technical Program Issue Co-Champion. Eight sessions organized (5 GI, 2 EWRI, 1 Education). GEC Session Chairs are Nazli Yesiller and Krishna Reddy. Need Session Chair for Web-Based Technical Information (Friday, November 14, 4:00-5:30 pm)
6. Nothing planned for two upcoming conferences with foundations focus and next national conference:

- a. *Geo-Support 2004: International Drilled Foundation Support Conference and Equipment Exposition (Orlando, February 4-7, 2004)*
 - b. *Geo-Trans 2004 (Orlando, July 27-31, 2004)*
 - c. *Civil Engineering Conference and Exposition 2004 (Baltimore, October 20-23, 2004)*
7. *First International Conference on Environmental Technology (London, Ontario, ~~August 15-19, 2004~~)*. Susan Burns, Jeff Evans, and Chuck Shackelford are Conference Organizing Committee Members. Conference has been postponed until further notice by Conference Chair (Ernest Yanful, University of Western Ontario)
 8. *Geo-Frontiers (Austin, Jan 24-26, 2005)* Contacts: Beth Gross, Jorge Zornberg. Status: Need proposals for 90-minute sessions, due October 1, 2003. GEC will submit proposals for: Vertical Barriers (Evans and Ryan), Evapotranspirative Covers (Shackelford, Benson, and Zornberg), Alternative Covers (Shackelford and Benson), GCL (Shackelford and Zornberg), Nondestructive Evaluation of Environmental Engineering Systems (Willson), and Bioreactor Landfills (Reddy and Gross).
 9. *4th International Conference on Unsaturated Soils (Phoenix, April 2006)* Contacts: Molly Gribb, Beth Gross, Jorge Zornberg. Status: GEC will propose multiple sessions.
 10. Other conferences in the pre-planning stage: Soil Characterization (Atlanta, GA Tech, 2006), FMGM Instrumentation (2007, Alan Marr is organizing), Tropical Soils (2007, Hawaii, Peter Nicholson is organizing), and Earthquakes and Soil Dynamics (2008). The GEC should consider proposing to organize a Geocongress (GeoCharleston/San Antonio/Savannah, 2008).
 11. *GSPs: Selected Geoenvironmental Engineering Papers, Volume 1: Waste Containment, Volume 2: Remediation* Contact: Nazli Yesiller, Craig Benson, Chuck Shackelford (Co-Editors). Status: GSP proposal is complete and needs to be submitted to TCC, and publication list is in development; scheduled to be ready for publication by end of year; at Chairs Meeting, TCC indicated that GSPs are not big moneymakers and that large GSPs that are expensive are hard to sell (e.g., Alan Marr's 2-volume GSP costs \$341)
 12. *Waste Containment and the Environment* Booklet, American Geological Institute, Environmental Geoscience Advisory Committee. Contact: Beth Gross. Status: Have identified four co-authors. Publication is on hold until fall.
 13. We need to consider the new ASCE initiatives in our activities:
 - a. Workshops/Short Courses (for Branches and Chapters)
 - b. Web-Based Seminars
 - c. GI Speakers Bureau (being developed to provide members of the GI, including local Sections and Branches, with a database of GI members who are willing to make presentations on specific geotechnical topics). Please register -- there are currently only eight speakers in the database.
 14. We need a volunteer to manage our paper award nominations. Akram Alshawabkeh will not be able to do it this summer.
 15. Susan Burns has set up a GEC group email address: geoenveng@virginia.edu
 16. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held at the Civil Engineering Conference and Exposition 2003 (Nashville 12-15, 2003).

Submitted by Beth A. Gross, Chair of GEC
5 November 2003.