

## Seattle Section Geotechnical Group Officers Meeting Minutes

Date: August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Time: 6pm

Location: Tap House Grill  
Bellevue, WA

Attendees:

Jeff Fowler, PE  
President  
Eric Heller, PE, LG  
President-Elect  
Dominic Parmantier, PE  
Secretary  
Jon Brown, EIT  
Treasurer  
Alan Macnab, PEng  
Membership Chair  
Sean Caraway, PE  
Education Chair  
Sarah West, EIT  
Public Relations Chair

### President (Jeff)

Following introductions, Jeff opened meeting by thanking all the officers for the commitment of their time.

### *Schedule*

Working schedule is attached to these minutes. Jeff indicated that he was scheduling the monthly officers' meeting for the Tuesday prior to the dinner meeting to provide an additional day to react to any items brought up at the officers' meeting. Nov and Dec dinner meeting being combined into one dinner in early Dec to avoid conflict with holidays. No dinner meeting in March due to Spring Seminar. The schedule includes some rough dates for the Groundhog and Fieldtrips.

Eric confirmed that Spring Seminar is set for April 5, 2008.

Sarah confirmed that Landslide Seminar dates are also set as shown in schedule.

Jeff indicated that he would update the schedule monthly for each officers' meeting.

### *Volunteers*

Jeff then asked the various officers if they had a need for volunteers.

Treasure, secretary, and membership chair are flying solo with the exception that Alan will utilize the same awards group volunteers this year.

Sean is getting help from Gahda Ellithy and Ben Haines from Shannon & Wilson. Sarah will need help for specific events and will make request as those events scheduled. Eric is in need of volunteers to help with planning and steering for the Spring Seminar.

#### *Update on Dr. Holtz Fellowship*

Jeff then asked Mike for an update on the fund raising for the Holtz Fellowship in the absence of Mark Rorbach. Mike agreed that \$ has been collected from member firms and members. Alan Macnab, Stan Bolye, and 6 or 7 past officers have been soliciting donations via the phone, and it appears that the unofficial pledge total may be closer to \$25k. Alan cautioned that the phone solicitations had resulted in pledges, but that the actual checks had not been received.

Mike clarified the following goals and deadlines for the Fellowship Donations:

- If \$100k is raised for the fellowship by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Oct. 2007, the state will add an additional \$25k.
- If \$100k total for fellowship is not submitted to UW by May, 2009, the money will revert from a dedicated fellowship to university general funds.
- The goal has been for Geotech Section to contribute \$50k and to solicit \$50k from members and member firms.

Alan asked whether the Geotech Section had money to increase it is pledge to meet the \$100k goal next month if outside pledges fall short of \$50k. Jon indicated we had the money in the bank, but it was pointed out that we would need to look at budget and cash flow to make the decision on an additional amount for the fellowship.

**Jon will put together a cash flow snap shot for 2006-2007 to determine the section's annual low point in terms of cash so that it can be determined whether the section can increase its pledge to the fellowship.**

#### *City of Seattle DPD Report Guidelines*

Jeff indicated that DPD wants to update its '93 guidelines for geotechnical reports in response to the quality of some reports which it receives. Bo McFadden had requested the council give it an up or down vote. Mike indicated that the first two drafts had been sent to Geotech Group membership. Alan had comments on the current draft so it was decided to table it until next meeting; in the meantime **Alan to contact Bo with his comments**. It was clarified that the extent of the guidelines is Seattle only although it may eventually have a broader scope than just Seattle. Jeff noted that the Geotech Group appreciated the request for input from DPD.

#### President-Elect (Eric)

#### *Spring Seminar Topic*

Eric indicated that slope stability is the general topic for the Spring Seminar and that he would work with the seminar steering committee to hammer out an exact scope. Current committee includes Jon Koloski and Bill Laprade; no front runners for key note speaker. Mike suggested that the scope was very broad, and the steering committee should focus

on a specific area within slope stability. Discussion followed about increasing the size of the steering committee. Eric plans to flesh out seminar plan and scope in September and then start mobilizing volunteers.

Jeff suggested the possibility of having a short course on the Thur-Fri or Fri preceding the Spring Seminar to spread the cost of the key note speaker. The council liked the concept of this idea.

#### *ASCE Section Planning/Vision Meeting*

Eric attended the ASCE Section Planning Meeting earlier this month and provided an outline of their goals for the year. The president of the section for '07-'08 is Jack Bjork, PE with RW Beck outlined five goals for the section this year.

- 1) Be a public voice for civil engineering and infrastructure
- 2) Increase membership involvement in ASCE activity with a goal of having 10% to 15% of members on roster being involved with activities.
- 3) Raise the bar for the profession. Promoted idea of continuing education credits and continued involvement in legislative issues similar to the definition of soil scientist that came up last year in the state legislature
- 4) Improve communication within the section and sub groups. ASCE section would like Geotech Group to provide input for ASCE calendar. Council agreed; **Sarah to forward Geotech group to section.**
- 5) Recruiting new members. After much discussion, it was decided that Geotech Group should focus on recruiting college civil engineers into geotechnical engineering. Members who want to recruit high school students into engineering would be best served to work thru existing ASCE Section groups like YMF and Zoom into engineering. In terms of recruiting geotech engineers, it was ultimately decided that some type of presentation with pizza prior to the Geotech Group fieldtrip or a tailgate event prior to a football game would be beneficial. Alan and Mike both stressed the need to have a connection with the ASCE Student Groups or Professors to improve attendance.

Eric also indicated that the Ports/Harbors Group of the Seattle Section was ramping up with solo meetings for the past year. They indicated an interest in a joint meeting with the Geotech Group.

#### Secretary (Dominic)

Monthly agendas. Draft will be emailed week prior to the Officers' Meeting.

Monthly meeting minutes. Draft emailed following meeting. Final meeting minutes will go to Grace to be published on the website.

Groundhog 2008 – Mike indicated that Engineers w/o Borders was going to provide an article for the Groundhog as well as a speaker for one of the dinner meetings. There was some discussion about publishing Geotech Group financial information, but it was decided that it would only lead to more requests for funds from other groups which is not really the intended purpose.

Treasurer (Jon)

Current checking and savings balances reported by Jon.

After further discussion on establishing a budget and cash flow in anticipation of the need to make a decision in September on increasing Geotech Group donation to the Holtz Fellowship, **Jon to develop 2006-2007 cash flow from last year's bank records.**

*Check Book Signers*

Currently Jeff, Mike, and Jon are authorized signers of the Geotech Group checks. It was discussed that this should be changed so that Eric and Jeff are the authorized signers. Treasurer should not be authorized to sign checks and all income to the group should go to either Eric or Jeff. This protocol is solely to provide some basic accounting standards.

Membership Chair (Alan)

**Alan to investigate alternate to PayPal for online payments for short courses and the Spring Seminar.** Sean noted that Ghada was also investigating options for the short courses.

Alan indicated that the awards committee was looking for candidates for the service award. Eric noted that the Section was actively pushing for the nomination of locals for national level engineering awards.

Education Chair (Sean)

Sub-Committee

Carlo Evangelisti (AMEC)

Michel Bouchédid (CH2MHill)

---

---

### *Dinner Meeting Ideas*

September 20<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting at Bellevue Hilton with Dr. Bray Sean – No firm commitments for speakers beyond the Sept dinner.

October 25<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting at McCormick & Schmicks

Possible meeting with Craig Benson, new UW Chair of engineering who is working towards a new UW engineering facility. It was suggested that this maybe a joint meeting with the Seattle Section.

Other dinner meeting ideas which were discussed included:

I-90 relocation. **Alan to provide contact information to Sean.**

Scott Ashford from UCLA and soil dynamics.

Sam Picowski on LRFD. Alan cautioned that there were two separate camps on this topic. John Turner/Dan Brown are rewriting the FHWA manual on LRFD.

### *Short Courses (Two)*

Deep Foundations

Shoring: Piles Tiebacks, etc.

Jeff was in favor of some in some more general project management short course topics.

Sean indicated that some ideas included legal issues, ethics, and continuing education.

### *Field Trips (Two)*

Mike reported that the Statnamic was a good event with a technical briefing by Wash DOT and the researchers prior to the actual test.

Current schedule includes one field trip to Brightwater.

### Public Relations Chair (Sarah)

No Tacoma section booth at the Puyallup Fair

PR Training – National ASCE is advertising PR training. **Mike to forward information to Sarah.**

### *Field Trip for students.*

Eric indicated that field trip with Seattle U engineering class this spring was a success. Current schedule includes Univ of Wash field trip this fall with Holtz class. It was agreed that an annual fieldtrip for each of the three local engineering universities, UW, Seattle Univ, and St. Martins would be ideal. Alan suggested that finding sites to visit would not be a problem with local shoring contractors.

Jeff suggested a new list of members to hand local professors for undergraduates who are interested in Geotechnical Engineering. Alan and Mike agreed with concept but prior attempts at this had yielded very little interest from the undergraduates.

*Fall Landslide Workshops*

November 3<sup>rd</sup>: NSCC Cafeteria

December 1<sup>st</sup>: SSCC Jerry Hockney Center

Sarah needs 2 volunteers for each weekend. Eric has the signs and Bill Laprade has the placards which are loaned to the Geotech Group each year.

*Engineers without Borders national conference in March 2008 at UW*

Eric indicated that the current president of Engineers w/o Borders is David Cooke who is also a geotechnical engineer. Alan indicated that the donation to Engr w/o Borders had a big impact and should be an annual budget item. Jeff agreed that the Geotech Group had received a lot of positive feedback from this donation.

Web Designer (Grace)

Jeff to send President's Message to Grace

Everyone send a bio to Grace for the website. Mike indicated that Grace was more interested in personal hobbies than your resume.

Meeting minutes sent to grace each month in .pdf (Dominic) Add under email achieves.

Keep Grace up to date about Group events (Sean)

Keep Grace up to date about other group's events (Sarah)

Update officer's page

**Next Meeting scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Golders office in Redmond at 12 noon.**

## 2007-2008 ASCE Seattle Section Geotechnical Group Schedule as of August 2007

### August 2007

- 28<sup>th</sup>: Officer's inaugural meeting at Tap House Grill
- 31<sup>st</sup>: Send email to members introducing the new officers  
Forming of Steering Committee for Spring Seminar

### September 2007

- 7<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for pledges for Dr. Holtz Fellowship
- 14<sup>th</sup>: Agenda for Officers Meeting sent to officers for review (Dominic)
- 19<sup>th</sup>: Officers September Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Joint Dinner Meeting with AEG featuring Dr. Bray at Bellevue Hilton  
Forming of Planning Committee for Spring Seminar  
Meet 2 to 3 times with steering committee

### October 2007

- Possible Field Trip
- 19<sup>th</sup>: Agenda for Officers Meeting sent to officers for review (Dominic)
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: Officers Monthly Meeting
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Dinner Meeting at McCormick & Schmicks  
Start sending emails for Groundhog  
Start meetings for Seminar Planning Meeting

### November 2007

- Possible short course
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Landslide Meeting  
Follow up email for Groundhog submissions

### December 2007

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Landslide Meeting
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Agenda for Officers Meeting sent to officers for review (Dominic)
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Officers Monthly Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup>: Dinner Meeting on Eastside  
Begin editing Groundhog

### January 2008

- 18<sup>th</sup>: Agenda for Officers Meeting sent to officers for review (Dominic)
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Officers Monthly Meeting
- 24<sup>th</sup>: Dinner Meeting  
Send Groundhog for review to officers in mid January

### February 2008

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Publish 2008 Groundhog
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Agenda for Officers Meeting sent to officers for review (Dominic)
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Officers Monthly Meeting
- 28<sup>th</sup>: Dinner Meeting

March 2008

Possible Field Trip

April 2008

Possible Field Trip

4<sup>th</sup>: Possible short course that coincides with Seminar

5<sup>th</sup>: Spring Seminar

18<sup>th</sup>: Agenda for Officers Meeting sent to officers for review (Dominic)

22<sup>nd</sup>: Officers Monthly Meeting

24<sup>th</sup>: Dinner Meeting

May 2008

23<sup>rd</sup>: Agenda for Officers Meeting sent to officers for review (Dominic)

27<sup>th</sup>: Officers Monthly Meeting

29<sup>th</sup>: Dinner Meeting