**Meeting Minutes**

15 March 2009

Location: Buena Vista Palace Hotel

Orlando, Florida

Committee Chairman: Patricia (Trish) Gallagher

Outgoing Chairman: Vern Schaefer

Recorded by: Antonio (Tony) Marinucci, committee secretary

This meeting was called to order by P. Gallagher, committee chairman, at 8.00pm EST

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Meeting was started with a self introduction of meeting attendees.
2. SHRP2 Focus on Renewal – Jerry DiMaggio, SHRP2 coordinator
   * J. DiMaggio gave a short presentation of the SHRP2 Project. SHRP2 has been authorized under the SAFETEA act. J. DiMaggio stated that there was in excess of $170 million available for research (Phase I). Phase II of this Project focuses on implementing the work from Phase I, and there will be another $400 million made available for Phase II. Details and information are available on the SHRP2 website, and J. DiMaggio will forward information and presentation to P. Gallagher for distribution to committee members.
3. Debriefing on U.S.-China Workshop on Ground Improvement Technologies – Jie Han
   * J. Han gave a short synopsis about the Workshop and presentations. J. Han stated that there were 60 attendees: approximately half from U.S. and half from China. There were 24 general presentations and 2 keynote presentations. The proceedings are available from the ASCE bookstore.
   * J. Han said another workshop may be developed and organized in conjunction with GeoShanghai in June 2010 and lead by the Chinese organizers, but there has been no definitive commitment yet. J. Han stated that the Chinese visitors enjoyed the workshop. Also, there was to be a US-China collaborative agreement signing (between the Geo-Institute and the Chinese Geotechnical Society) at 3.30p on Monday, 16 March 2009.
4. Upcoming Conferences
   * GeoFlorida: The conference will be held in West Palm Beach in February 2010. Session proposals due 17 April 2009.
     1. K. Rollins submitted a proposal for a session: Soil Improvement for Foundation Performance. The session proposal was accepted. K. Rollins to forward the accepted proposal to P. Gallagher.
     2. P. Gallagher to forward the proposal to the members of the committee along with a solicitation for additional session proposals and/or for paper submissions.
   * Other Conferences:
     1. 2010 Earth Retaining Structures, Phoenix – a specialty conference
     2. 2010 Scour and Erosion, San Francisco – a specialty conference
     3. 2011 Geosynthetics, Southern U.S. – G-I annual conference
     4. 2011 GeoRisk, Atlanta – a specialty conference
     5. 2012 Grouting and Ground Treatment (with DFI), New Orleans – a specialty conference
5. Webinars
   * To help defray costs of putting together a webinar, the presenter can request assistance from the Soil Improvement Committee. P. Gallagher stated that there is money available for committee use from the Technical Coordination Committee (TCC). To date, money has not been requested often. Any proposed ideas for funding should be sent to P. Gallagher via email prior to soliciting the TCC.
   * P. Gallagher solicited committee members in attendance for proposals for new webinars. The material to be presented in the webinars must be peer reviewed prior to the presentation of the webinar.
   * The webinar will be a live delivery. After the initial delivery, this same webinar will be made available for purchase on dvd. The webinar will be approximately 60 to 90 minutes in length, with a question and answer period at the end of the presentation. The webinar fee is approximately $250/site. Professional development hours (pdhs) are available and can be obtained by submitting the proper paperwork.
   * G. Filz requested additional information and details regarding webinars. P. Gallagher will obtain and disseminate pertinent information and details.
6. Sustainability
   * There was discussion on how exactly to define sustainability as it pertains to the Soil Improvement Committee. Also, there was a question about what affect does the Geo-Institute have on sustainability. After some discussion, no consensus was reached about how to define sustainability…more information from the Geo-Institute was requested to help frame future discussions.
   * V. Schaefer and T. Blackburn agreed to draft a proposal for a session on sustainability for the GeoFlorida 2010 conference.
7. 15-year Update
   * The 15-year update initially was set as 10-year updates
   * The initial report was published by J. Mitchell in 1978, with updates in 1988 and 1997 by other authors.
   * The latest update was supposed to be completed in 2008, but did not materialize for undisclosed reasons. As such, SHRP2 is supposed to end in 2011, and FHWA released a ground improvement manual in 2006.
   * SHRP2 covers 47 ground improvement technologies (a good and varied representation, but not all inclusive) used in conjunction with transportation infrastructure. Design guidelines, specifications, and QA/QC will be available online in an interactive format on the SHRP2 website.
   * At this point, the 15-year update appears to be redundant, and will not be pursued further right now. Later work on an update will be revisited in a few years after the SHRP2 work and results are available…the update will revisit topics not incorporated in the SHRP2 work.
8. Awards Subcommittee
   * K. Wissman agreed to be the new chairman of the awards subcommittee
   * P. Gallagher stated that she will send out requests for award nominations at the appropriate time.
9. Increasing diversity on G-I committees
   * The committee continues to seek diversity to the committee, and hopes to attract new members to help in this effort.
10. Other new business or topics to discuss?
    * No other new business was brought up.

Meeting was adjourned at 10pm EST.

Meeting Attendees

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| Name | Affiliation | Email |
| Trish Gallagher | Drexel Univ. | pmg@drexel.edu |
| Vern Schaefer | Iowa State | vern@iastate.edu |
| Kyle Rollins | Brigham Young Univ. | rollins@byu.edu |
| Kord Wissman | Geopier Foundation Co. | kwissman@geopier.com |
| Russell Green | Virginia Tech | rugreen@vt.edu |
| Tanner Blackburn | Hayward Baker | jtblackburn@haywardbaker.com |
| Dimitrios Zekkos | Univ. of Michigan | zekkos@geoengineer.org |
| Jerry DiMaggio | National Academies of Science | jdimaggio@nas.edu |
| Gyaneswar Polcharal | Mountain State Univ. | gyan@geomech.com |
| Jie Han | Univ. of Kansas | jiehan@ku.edu |
| Antonio Marinucci | Univ. of Texas at Austin | antmarinucci@gmail.com |
| Marty Taube | DGI-Menard | mtaube@dgi-menard.com |
| M. James Warren | Nilex Construction Co. | jwarren@nilex.com |
| George Filz | Virginia Tech | filz@vt.edu |
| Roberto Lopez | Malcolm Drilling Co. | rlopez@malcolmdrilling.com |
| Lyle Simontan | Subsurface Constructors | lsimontan@subsurfaceconstructors.com |
| Anand Puppala | Univ. of Texas at Arlington | anand@uta.edu |
| Guojun Cai | Southeast Univ. | focuscai@163.com |