

**ASCE Soil Improvement Committee
IFCEE 2018, Orlando, FL, 7 March 2018**

7:00pm Welcome and call to order, introduction of Prof. Jie Han as the new Committee Chair

7:05pm Update from Chris Woods from DFI Ground Improvement Committee:

- DFI Ground Improvement Committee has approved Professor Stuedlein's research proposal
- GEC 13 to be rolled out/has been rolled out

7:07pm Dr. Jose Clemente reports on sessions organized by the Soil Improvement Committee for IFCEE 2018. Those held by the evening of 7 March had been well-attended.

7:10pm Professor Jie Han requests Dr. Jim Collin to present a certificate to the G-I past president Dr. Kord Wissmann for his previous service to Soil Improvement Committee, also recognizes Dr. Tony Marinucci for his previous work as Secretary

7:12pm Dr. Jim Collin gives update from the G-I Board of Governors:

- The Board wishes that committees produce efforts of value to the membership of the ASCE G-I and to spend money in the budget.
- The Soil Improvement Committee submitted a proposal to perform a scan tour in China, and this has been approved by G-I Board of Governors, but has to be approved by ASCE. Purpose is to give a sense of new technologies that may be inserted into GeoTech Tools.

7:14pm Silas Nichols (FHWA) provides updates to the Soil Improvement Committee.

- 2018 is 50th anniversary of the FHWA. Starting tomorrow, will spend the rest of the year to highlight the impact of the FHWA on the geotechnical community. Activities include access to social media channels (40,000 members), celebrate what FHWA is doing and publicize the geotechnical role in transportation.
- Silas requests materials from the committee membership for the 50th Anniversary publicity effort.
- G-I has interest in owning GeoTech Tools. Iowa State contract will end in 2019; struggling to package and market. A new roll-out of GeoTech tools will be released in July 2018, and will be more functional, will have mobile apps, will include "expandable space".

DISCUSSION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Kord Wissmann: will the G-I take ownership, notes that 2/3 of the GeoTech Tools website is devoted to ground improvement: will the SI committee take ownership of the website?

Silas Nichols: yes, G-I is considering the landing place to be GI, but also considering external sites. Other questions are more difficult: how to update, vet new information, interpret suggestions, etc. have not yet been considered.

Jim Collin: the board sees this as an opportunity, but realizes that this is a big undertaking and need to consider funding sources.

- FHWA has recently completed GEC 13. A training course has been developed and is in delivery. The course is a three and a half day course, but can be broken up into two-day courses.

7:24pm Committee Chair Professor Jie Han recognizes Kyle Rollins as the winner of the Wallace Hayward Baker Award.

7:25pm Past project updates from Professor Kyle Rollins: the slides for the presentation “Soil improvement to strengthen the lateral capacity of bridge foundations” are essentially finished. Armin, Fathey Elsaid, and “Guoming Lin” can review the slides. Kyle will send the slides to Jie in next several weeks for distribution to the review committee.

Past project updates from Dr. Al Sehn: “Soil Improvement Selection and Acceptance Criteria”. Goal was to have it ready for us to review today, but not quite ready. Will send out in few weeks to review. Chris Wood, Brian Metcalfe, Tony Marinucci, Lisheng Shao have volunteered as reviewers.

7:29pm Discussion of the Scan Tour: initiative put together by Dr. Kord Wissmann as the previous Chair. Idea is to review what China has been doing, and what new techniques have been developed. The Tour will last 7 to 10 days and is tentatively scheduled for end of May to beginning of June to coincide with GeoShanghai. Will also tie together with the second US-China Ground Improvement workshop. Tour will cover techniques for soft soil, tunneling, excavation, will conclude with workshop. The proposal been reviewed by G-I board, the TC at ICSMGE, and has been approved at the TC, but now awaits final approval by ASCE. Tour participants should include industry, academics, and consultants: probably 10 people in total. Participants must be able to fund their own flights to China, but will be funded for costs once there. The final goal / deliverable is to write a report and discuss the new technologies that can be adopted in the US.

DISCUSSION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Kord Wissmann: The G-I Board expects a substantial deliverable as a result of the investment in the scan tour. The proposed tour will represent the largest funding from the board in a long while.

Al Sehn: Has there been a literature review, or ideas of technology that might be new?

Jie Han: suggests that vacuum preloading has been gaining wider acceptance and with improved project delivery.

Unidentified participant: Why hasn't vacuum preloading been adopted in US?

Armin Stuedlein: Suggests to include X-shape piling developed by Hanlong Liu for lateral spreading and supporting piled embankments.

Fathy: What is the purpose of the scan tour, to bring Chinese contractors here or have US contractors buy the equipment?

Vern Schaefer: to raise interest and seek commercial ventures

Kord Wissmann: similar to Japanese outcome from US-Japan workshop w/r/t DSM panels

Kyle Rollins: what duration is expected?

Jie Han: 7 to 10 days, can spend more time on your own dime if you wish

7:46pm: GI Speaker program. Seeking speakers for the program. Kyle is currently speaker, Al Sehn on his project, open to others. Send Jie Han the title, abstract, bio, and see if a one-page flyer can be developed for distribution.

DISCUSSION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Jie Han: budget is approved in September, so we need to decide at that time. G-I would like to see local conferences organized by G-I chapter. Can also develop unfunded speakers for those that can cover the costs themselves. Jie Han will send out request for interest.

Lyle Simonton: the original thought was to develop a speakers list, as developed in Speakers list, but it never got off the ground. Would like to characterize by topic and region to maximize flexibility.

Jie Han: should limit to 4 or 5 names on the list for sponsored speakers.

General discussion (by Jie Han, Lyle Simonton, Tony Marinucci, and Vern Schaefer) centered around whether the content of sponsored speakers would be reviewed and vetted by the committee. All agreed that commercial content would need to be excluded. Reviewing would take time and effort, may not be warranted.

Jie Han: another item is to conduct a web conference open to all G-I members. Can put together series. Note: G-I does not provide funding for developing content, but can provide money for reviewing of materials to give committee stamp of approval. Discussion regarding the development and review of slides for web conferences ensued.

Jie Han: another item w/r/t Geo-Strata: TCC offer incentives for writing for GeoStrata articles. If committee members write an article, registration will be free for authors.

Kord Wissmann: only issue is that the article will not be technical, but this is a technical committee. Also back to the other items: let's use Kyle's and Al's efforts into the webinar items since they are already lined up.

8:05pm Award nominations: the G-I has been very successful in recommending Wallace Hayward Baker awards, but not as successful for the Thomas Middlebrooks award. Also one of the items is significant overlap with the geosynthetics committee. Also, soil

nailing, deep foundations, pavements, grouting, so it is challenging for picking awards. Two journals to be considered: JGGE and IJG. General discussion ensued as to whether the scope should be narrow or broad.

Jie Han: In conclusion, the sub-committee will consider input from all members, take papers from all possible topics.

Kord Wissmann: we don't have energy as the membership to develop a list. Rather, we should nominate a really good paper. If we tag the ones that look good, and use that to form the list to review.

Al Sehn: one of the hiccups is the effort required to write the nomination form. Instead, just take nominations throughout the year.

Armin Stuedlein: suggests that the committee send paper nominations throughout the year to Jie Huang.

Jim Hussin: Send quarterly reminders to committee "have you read a good paper lately"?

Jie Han: Kord, can the committee nominate a Peck Lecturer?

Kord Wissmann: Sure, also any award lecture except the Terzaghi award. The Peck is particularly suitable for our committee

8:17pm Ideas for New Projects in 2018-2019. See previous discussions above. But, let's think about next generation of profession, like a module on ground improvement for UG classes.

Kord Wissmann: I have a different idea. Let's focus on the scan tour. But in the future, let's focus on GeoTech Tool and try to take on the stewardship of the GeoTech Tools, because it provides a structure around what we do and what we can do, including case histories.

General discussion regarding upcoming conferences and the Committee's participation in organizing session. Sessions for the 2019 GeoCongress on ground improvement organized by others already and outside of the committee's stewardship.

8:34pm Dr. Armin Stuedlein asked for content for the website.

8:35pm Professor Jie Han: seeking new members. The membership should provide referrals of new members, particularly international members, which we are light on.

Tony Marinucci: do we reach out to ISSMGE TC 211?

Jie Han: yes, we should do that.

Tony agrees to seek liaising with TC