

Meeting Minutes
ASCE Soil Improvement Committee
2019 GeoCongress, Philadelphia, PA
26 March 2019, 1:30 to 3:30pm
Room Washington A, Loews Philadelphia Hotel

I. Opening

Committee Chair Prof. Jie Han opens meeting with introductions.

II. Award News:

Prof. Jie Han notes win of Wallace Hayward Baker Award by Dr. Kord Wissman and Martin S. Kapp Foundation Engineering Award by Dr. David Yang.

III. Update from the G-I Board:

Dr. Jim Collin: G-I website, Prof. Armin Stuedlein needs to look into it. GeoTech Tools will be taken over by the Geo-Institute, placed within the GI website. The board wishes to encourage additions to GeoTech Tools, providing funding for the effort. The G-I is looking to raise funds and is providing a staff person to help run the effort. Vern will remain the key principal in charge of GeoTech Tools.

Task Group on risk design (JL Briaud and Bob Gilbert), they have prepared a white paper that will be available soon.

Reviewers to the ASCE Journals will receive PDHs for the effort, encourage more professional participation in the Journals.

IV. FHWA Update:

Silas Nichols confirms transfer of GeoTech Tools, wrapping up the contract with Iowa State University. FHWA will be putting a marketing group on to develop a pathway to the GeoTech Tools website. Designed to capture project managers and non-geotechs and help them navigate to the right portion of the GeoTech Tools website.

Everyday Counts: changed to “A Game” – advance geotechnical characterization. Seeks to address gaps in site characterization, consider spatial variability through geostatistics.

NCHRP Geotechnical Asset Management, building protocols for different asset classes. Relevance for committee – how would ground improvements be inventoried and its serviceability over the service life be treated.

V. Geotech Tools:

Prof. Vern Schaefer discusses new feature is multi-platform presentation (PCs, Laptops, tablets, phones, etc.). With transition to GI, looking to expand the website via the G-I committees to develop contents. Ads are to be considered as a source for revenue. Business plan to consider various ideas.

VI. ISSMGE TC211 Committee:

Prof. Vern Schaefer is the Technical Liaison to TC211 – ISSMGE: two workshops coming up: one in Iceland in September (XVII ECSMGE) and one at the XVI PanAmerican Conference.

VII. ASCE Publications Update

Donna Dickert not present due to other committee meeting conflicts; skipped for the time being.

VIII. GeoCongress 2019 Update

To be delivered by Vice Chair Dr. Jose Clemente; skipped for time being due to coincident duties chairing SI session during conference.

Post meeting addition: Eight sessions were convened on the topic of soil improvement: two on case histories, two on biopolymers, two on microbially-induced calcite precipitation, and two on fiber reinforcement and soil stabilization.

IX. Past Project Update:

Dr. Lisheng Shao presents the results of the scan tour, conducted 5/23 to 5/27/2018, led by Prof. Jie Han and Dr. Jose Clemente. Goal was to identify and document new and implementable soil improvement technologies used in China with the goal of implementing in the USA. Six jobsites were visited. Report was reviewed by Prof. Vern Schaefer, Dr. Kord Wissman, and Jim Hussin, revisions underway, and will be posted to website for free download. The report should be available in June or July.

X. Ongoing Project Update:

Educational module on ground improvement, “Ground Improvement 101”, objective to provide a 45 to 60 minute powerpoint for undergraduate students and to be delivered by professors. Prof. Vern Schaefer, Prof. Muhannad Suleiman, and Prof. Jie Han contributed slides and content, it just needs to be unified. Dr. Jie Han provided the outline of the presentation and select slides. Call for slides and reviewers, as well as short videos that can be embedded into the powerpoint.

State of the practice for rigid inclusions, update from Dr. Antonio Marinucci: An overview of the report outline provided. Report is restricted to unreinforced cementitious columns installed using displacement tooling. Call for reviewers. Tim Siegel volunteers to be a reviewer.

XI. GI Speaker program:

Local ASCE meetings can leverage this program to have a speaker give a talk from the selection, or even a half-day short course with a series of speakers. Webconference given last year, one on ground improvements and one in collaboration with shallow foundations. 50 to 60 attendees. ASCE noted that August was a relatively poor time of year, October/November

considered in the future. GeoStrata's 20th year next year, GI is seeking content for anniversary editions.

XII. Award nominations:

Prof. Jie Han notes that very few committees are successful in obtaining awards. Seeks to add award scope, consider Peck Award in the future.

XIII. New Projects 2019-2020:

Prof. Armin Stuedlein suggests that the natural follow-on to the rigid inclusions study is to port it into the Geotech Tools. Jim Collin sees the design module porting in as an acceptable follow on study, and also increase scope to select several technologies that can be updated. A Task Force constituted by Dr. Tony Marinucci, Prof. Aaron Gallant, Dr. Fathi Al-Saadi, Prof. Jie Han to review technologies.

Suggestion by Dr. Lisheng Shao to provide a Ground Improvement 101 for structural engineers, to educate them on relevant aspects.

XIV: Upcoming G-I Events:

GeoCongress 2020 - put in a proposal for "Geo-Debate" on rigid inclusions. Now changed to Panel.

XV: Upcoming International Events

4th Int. Conf on Ground Improvement in Egypt in December 2019.

VI. Other or New Business:

Jie Han provides overview of membership management.