

Minutes
G-I Committee Meeting
Geosynthetics
Geo-Denver – February 19, 2007
7:30-11:30 pm
Location: Plaza Court 6
Chair, M. A. Gabr

Present: Alzamora, Boutwell, Bouzza, Collin, Elton, Gabr, Han, D. Y. Kim, K. J. Kim, Paulson, Reid, Sandri, Suits, Vulova, Warren, Zornberg

- i. Chair welcomed members and guest. Attendees introduced themselves.
- ii. Chair indicated committee members were involved in different capacities in several sessions during GeoDenver 2007 conference and thanked the members for their effort. The committee co-sponsored one GSPs (No. 165: Geosynthetics in Hydraulic and Reinforcement Applications.)
- iii. The Chair discussed the transition of committee leadership plan. The Vice Chair (Dr. Jim Collin) is nominated for the chair position and the Secretary (Dr. Jorge Zornberg) is nominated as Vice Chair pending confirmation from the TCC. The transition should take place this summer. The upcoming chair will then appoint a secretary for the committee by soliciting nominations from the committee members. The new secretary will need to be from industry to conform to the committee's leadership structure as previously developed and approved by the members.
- iv. The chair shared the results of the Triennial Evaluation. The committee was rated "Good." Suggested improvements include offering short courses and webinars. The chair indicated that the committee responded by sponsoring a short course during the conference by Holtz and Fannin on "Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil." More ideas are in the planning stage.
- v. Geo-Denver Track Sessions: three sessions were organized by committee members. These were:
 - a. Geosynthetics in Reinforcement and Hydraulic Applications
 - b. Deficiencies of Current Design Methods and Construction Guidelines for Geosynthetic-Reinforced Soil (GRS) Systems-I
 - c. Deficiencies of Current Design Methods and Construction Guidelines for Geosynthetic-Reinforced Soil (GRS) Systems-II.These sessions were very successful and the rooms in which they were hold were not large enough as several people were unfortunately standing. A brief discussion on how to address this situation in the future ensued. In addition to the sessions, the committee sponsored a short course on "Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil". The short course was well attended with about 20 participants.
- vi. The chair inquired about the status of the MSE Task Force formed two years ago with a member from the Embankment committee being the lead person. The objective was to provide design guidance to the geotechnical community regarding available MSE

wall systems.” None of the members present at the meeting indicated that they knew of ongoing activities by the Task force.

- vii. A discussion took place regarding upcoming conferences where the committee discussed potential activities. These include GeoAmericas 2008: First Pan American Conference on Geosynthetic, Cancun, and G-I Annual Meeting “Geoengineering and the Challenge of Sustainability,” New Orleans, 2008. Committee members commented on the unfortunate situation where two major conferences are within two weeks of each other and noted that this seems to be a trend. In addition to Dr. Zornberg being chair of GeoAmerica 2008, our committee is the organizer of several technical activities. These activities include:
 - a. Technical session on Geosynthetics in Cyclic, Seismic, and Dynamic Applications,
 - b. The Bob Holtz symposium,
 - c. a training lecture on Geosynthetic Reinforced Column Supported Embankments: US Practice, and
 - d. a Technical Session on milestone papers published in the ASCE JGGE related to Geosynthetics.
- viii. Mike Pyle, Chair of the **11th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and Karst**, Tallahassee, September 2008, presented the conference theme and asked for sessions by the committee. Dan Alzamora will work with Gabr to solicit papers for a session on “Geosynthetics in Karst Geology.” If you like to participate, please submit an Abstract to Gabr@eos.ncsu.edu by the end of March.
- ix. Dr. Boutwell indicated that the TCC like for the Geosynthetics Committee to take the lead in organizing G-I annual meeting in 2011. The proposed location is Anchorage, Alaska. The G-I annual meeting needs to be held during the first quarter of the year. It is also proposed to be a joint meeting with NAGS. There was an extensive discussion about the viability of having a meeting in Anchorage during winter months and several members expressed concern about the likely lack of attendance. The members of the committee were rather unanimous in their concern. After the meeting, the Chair talked with Carol Bowers who said she would poll the vendors and revisit the “Anchorage 2011” decision later.
- x. Dr. Boutwell also indicated that the committee can have a mid year meeting through conference call. G-I can arrange for a “1-800” call-in number once a date and a time are established. The members thought it is a good idea and the Chair will arrange for one in June 2007.
- xi. A discussion regarding offering short courses took place. It was decided that the topic related to Homeland Security needs to be revisited. Dr. Rich Reid will further explore the status with Dr. George Koerner and reports back to the committee.