



ASCE SEATTLE SECTION GEOTECHNICAL GROUP PLANNING AND VISION MEETING MINUTES

Prepared by: Michel Bouchédid/Ghada Ellithy
Date: July 21st, 2011
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Best Western Executive Inn, Seattle
Minutes by: Mike Lach

Meeting Attendees:

ASCE 2011-2012 SSGG Officers:

- Michel Bouchédid, Immediate Past President - Present
- Ghada Ellithy, President - Present
- John Bickford, President-Elect - Present
- Farid Sariosseiri, Treasurer - Present
- Tyler Stephens, Public Relations Chair - Present
- Mike Lach, Secretary - Present
- Bob Metcalfe, Membership Chair - Absent
- Lynn Salvati, Education Chair - Present
- Minjae Park, Webmaster - Absent

ASCE SSGG Members in Attendance:

- Dila Saidin, Lachel & Associates
- Bo McFadden, GeoEngineers
- Lorne Arnold, UW GIGSS
- Bryce ?, Hart Crowser

Meeting Agenda:

- 1- Previous Year's Summary
- 2- Vision for Next Year
- 3- Open Discussion

ASCE Seattle Section Geotechnical Group – 2011-2012 Officers

www.seattlegeotech.org

Ghada Ellithy, PhD, PE <i>President</i>	John Bickford, PE <i>President-Elect</i>	Mike Lach, PE <i>Secretary</i>	Farid Sariosseiri, PhD <i>Treasurer</i>	Lynn Salvati <i>Education Chair</i>	Tyler Stephens, PE <i>Public Relations Chair</i>	Bob Metcalfe, PE, LEG <i>Membership Chair</i>
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1- Previous Year's Summary

- Michel presented a summary of the group's achievements and highlights for the 2010 – 2011 season.
- Michel also presented some ideas to consider for next year's officer group:
 - Consider adding a list of donations we have given to the group website
 - Consider making the November short course a more technical subject, but make the Spring Seminar a broader topic to encourage attendance by contractors, as well

2- Vision for Next Year

- Ghada presented a summary of next year's planned activities and goals.

3- Open Discussion

- There was a discussion regarding the Webmaster's role within the officer group. It has not been clear whether the Webmaster was considered an officer, or if that position should fall under one of the other officers. In the past, the Webmaster has worked under the Secretary. The discussion was tabled until the first planning meeting in September.
- There was a lengthy discussion regarding the group's financial status. It was generally agreed that the group has enough money (approximately \$85k) that we should be considering making more donations. Some suggestions were made, which were discussed and will be considered by the group officers:
 - Bob Holtz Endowment. Dr. Holtz has related to several officers that the endowment needs additional funds to remain viable due to increased tuition costs and the need to re-invest capital in the fund. Additional discussions included:
 - Several members expressed an interest in knowing how much money was really needed to make a difference.
 - Michel suggested making smaller donations over a multiple-year period.
 - Lorne mentioned that the graduate program in CE may become privatized over the next few years, which could increase tuition costs further.
 - It was also suggested that the group could solicit member firms for additional donations, similar to how the original endowment was set up.
 - Tyler indicated that Pedro Arduino (UW) informed him that the reason that UW has not cashed our \$2,000 donation check provided after last year's short course is that the Geotech department is in debt to the CE department, and if they cash the check the money would immediately be taken by the CE department. He has suggested that the group take back their cash donation and instead provide an equal donation in equipment.
 - **Action Item: Tyler to research local organizations or engineering events that could benefit from donations from our group.**
- Lorne suggested that the student volunteers at the short courses and Spring Seminar be allowed to attend for free. Last year, all students paid a discounted rate whether they volunteered or just attended. Michel explained that this decision was made due to losses at the previous year's Spring Seminar, and indicated that this issue would likely be revisited when this year's planning begins in the Fall.
- Lorne also suggested that having someone within our group that served as a liaison to the GIGSS would help improve relationships. Ghada explained that the group president generally served that role.
 - Ghada suggested that due to the high turnover of presidents (one-semester term) of the GIGSS, they may consider establishing a generic e-mail address such as president@uw-gigss.com to facilitate communications.
 - It was asked if there was a faculty advisor to the GIGSS who could help facilitate communications between the two groups. Lorne explained that Dr. Kramer was the faculty advisor; however, Dr. Kramer is currently on sabbatical, and it is not known who will serve as advisor next year.

- Tyler suggested integrating the GIGSS website into the group's website.
- **Action Item: Lorne to develop a list of specific ways the group can assist the GIGSS.**
- Michel asked if the group was going to change its name to the Seattle G-I Chapter, and drop the ASCE Seattle Section Geotechnical Group designation from the name. Bo stated that we were under no obligation to do so based on our agreement with G-I. It was decided that no change would be made at this time.
- Michel asked if a plan was in place for the Education Committee events for next year (dinner meetings, short courses, etc.). Lynn stated that a tentative schedule for the dinner meetings was in place, but that a November short course may not be feasible due to time constraints.
 - Tyler suggested looking into using an ASCE canned short course for November. He thinks that it would be much more expensive than if we put it on ourselves, but could save time.
 - It was suggested that the Bray and Seed liquefaction short course might be appropriate. However, the general feeling is that controversy surrounding the new liquefaction guidance will probably not be resolved for 2 or 3 years, and holding this short course would be premature.
 - Lynn stated that she would like to have volunteers to help with the Education Committee. Dila has already volunteered to help with Education Committee activities. Lynn would like to find some additional volunteers and will attempt to recruit them, but asked for help from the group in finding volunteers.
 - Tyler suggested letting the other groups do more of the leg work on joint dinner meetings.
 - John suggested combining a short course with a dinner meeting this year.
 - It was agreed that all of the above suggestions would be considered during the planning for next year's Education Committee activities.
 - A tentative dinner meeting schedule was presented as follows:
 - September 15, 2011 – Joint meeting with AEG (Location TBD)
 - October 27, 2011 – Bellevue (Red Lion)
 - November 17, 2011 – Seattle (Best Western)
 - December 15, 2011 – Bellevue (Red Lion)
 - January 26, 2012 – Seattle (Best Western)
 - February 23, 2012 – Bellevue (Red Lion)
 - March 22, 2012 – Seattle (Best Western)
 - In addition, April 28, 2012 is tentatively set for the Spring Seminar at Kane Hall on the UW campus.
 - **Action Item: Ghada and Lynn to work together to finalize schedule of dinner meetings within the next few weeks.**

4- First Planning Meeting:

- **Date/Time: September 15, 2011 at 5:00 pm**
- **Location: Best Western, Seattle, WA**