

Minutes of the AFS30 Committee Meeting
Foundations of Bridges and Other Structures

Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Time: 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: Marriott Hotel

Chairman Mark Morvant

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 with meeting attendees (members and guests) introducing themselves. The agenda, roster, and minutes were distributed. The minutes of the 2007 meeting were approved on a motion from Bob Burnett, seconded by Tom Cooling.

General Items

TRB announcements: Deborah Goodings (AFS00 Section Chair.)

Attendance at the 2007 Annual Meeting exceeded 10,400 participants. Projections at the time of the meeting indicated 2008 would surpass that attendance.

More than 2800 papers were submitted for consideration for the Annual Meeting presentation and/or Transportation Research Record publication. Approximately 62 percent of these papers were selected for presentation in lectern and “Meet the Author” poster sessions. The actual breakdown of presentations for the 2008 meeting is: 453 Lectern Sessions, 114 Poster Sessions, and 86 Workshops. Roughly 25 percent of submitted papers will be accepted for publication in the Transportation Research Record (TRR) series.

TRB changed the process for converting papers to pdf format from online to offline and introduced dual submission dates depending on the paper being already converted to pdf by the author after obtaining additional server capacity. More than 90 percent of papers submitted were already converted by the author to pdf format and no paper submission processing delay occurred at the August 1 deadline as in the previous few years.

In September 2007 TRB launched its webinar series with an inaugural webinar “Cable Barrier Systems: State of the Practice” based on an NCHRP report. Three webinars have been presented

as of December. Each webinar is approximately 90 minutes in length and are free for TRB sponsoring organizations. The webinars have a limit of 175 people per webinar. Future topics are being selected and scheduled.

Committee's research needs statements are going online and have to be entered into the TRB Research Needs Statements online database. The database includes 700 statements in 31 subject areas as of December 2007. The committee needs to have its Number One Research Need in the database by March 1. This database has had over 17,000 hits in 3 months.

Committee memberships is limited to 25 individuals with 5 additional slots for international members plus 2 additional slots for young members which is now defined as those 35 in age or younger. Friends of the committee are unlimited.

2008 was the first time for Exhibit Fees for commercial companies as well as sponsorship for the overall meeting and social events. This concept has received enthusiastic support with more than 140 organizations participating in these arrangements. To help manage the impact of having exhibits, TRB also used a central housing bureau this year.

The 2009 TRB meeting will be held January 11-15 with the Spotlight Theme "Energy and Climate Change."

Review of Scope and Goals

A handout with the committee scope and future goals taken from the last TSP report was distributed and reviewed.

Technology Transfer

2008 Paper Reviews and Recommendations

A summary of the papers presented in AFS30 Sponsored Sessions for 2008 is:

- 10 papers were reviewed
- 4 papers were presented in poster session
- 2 papers were presented in presentation session
- 3 papers were recommended for publication

The Chairman showed a graphic indicating that this showing is the lowest total of papers reviewed in several years. He indicated that the committee should put an emphasis on receiving more papers as the committee publications directly relates to the number of papers reviewed. Planned sessions for the next meeting should include a "Call for Papers" to help increase the number of papers received.

2008 Annual Meeting AFS30 Committee Sponsored Sessions

Workshop:

Session 148 – Implementation Status of Geotechnical Load and Resistance Factor Design in State Departments of Transportation held on Sunday consisting of a presentation by 5 states and an AASHTO T-15 representative. Bob Kimmerling moderated the session and stated 60+ people attended the presentation.

Presentation Sessions:

Session 262 – Implementation of Load and Resistance Factor Design Method for Bridge Substructures where the paper which won the Section award was among those presented. Jerry DiMaggio moderated and reported that approximately 90 people attended this session.

Session 398 sponsored by Subcommittee AFF50 (co-sponsored by AFS30) – Seismic Site Response at Bridges Not on National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. No report was made on this session.

Poster Session:

Session 444 – Evaluation and Analysis of Bridge Foundation Elements and Approaches). Bob Burnett indicated approximately 200 people viewed these presentations. He also indicate that there was one “no-show” author.

LRFD Education Opportunities

Webinars Announcement:

Jerry DiMaggio indicated FHWA did have resources available to help states implement LRFD including an NHI course, 2 webinars, and a one day seminar. These can be requested through the FHWA Division (state) Office and anybody can participate in these presentations.

TRB E-Circulars:

It was decided a circular to capture the concepts presented in the 2008 Workshop would be developed by the committee. Bob Kimmerling would lead the effort with assistance from Bob Burnett, and Naser Abu-Hejleh as needed.

A proposal, submitted by Tony Allen & Jan Six, to develop a circular on how to properly incorporate load test and PDA data to establish production pile driving criteria was discussed. Ideally this circular would assist in easing the LRFD procedure into practice. It was decided that Tony would be contacted to get more information before this circular was pursued by the Committee.

The idea of performing some type of education for the Universities who will be asked to assist State DOT's in calibrating their procedures was advanced but decided not to develop this concept since it is considered premature at this time.

Presentations

There were five presentations to the committee during the meeting. The chair indicated that all presentations including the workshop presentations will be posted on the AFS30 website. The presentations were:

- LRFD Design of Driven Piles in Nebraska by Andy Nowak
- Practical Suggestions for Implementation of LRFD Specifications for Geotechnical Features by Naresh Samtani
- Consideration of QA/QC Results in LRFD for Deep Foundations of Transportation Bridges by Frank Rausche
- Design Guidelines for Increasing the Lateral Resistance of Highway Bridge Pile Foundations by Improving Weak Soils which was a study from NCHRP (NCHRP 24-30) was presented by Kyle Rollings.
- Drilled Shafts in Marl and Chalk Formations presented Dan Brown.

2009 Annual Meeting

Session(s) dealing with foundation issues on design build projects was discussed. The chair indicated that the committee was requested to develop a session with panel discussion on this topic as a section sponsored event. Liz Smith from the Project Delivery Method Committee was interested in joint sponsorship of this session. This would be discussed further at the AFS00 Section meeting. Dan Brown indicated that a session on design build for accelerated construction would be of great interest. He thought the Minnesota bridge collapse and the Katrina recovery efforts would serve as prime examples. Another member suggested that innovative contracting should also be included in the title. It was agreed that a paper session would be developed on design build for accelerated construction and a panel discussion session would be developed for foundation issues of design build with sponsorship dependent on the outcome of the Section meeting. Tom Cooling agreed to organize these session(s) with Dan Brown assisting.

Another session was proposed for the "Mitigation of Construction Defects in Drilled Shafts" with Brian Liebech serving as the lead organizer with Jamal Nusairat providing assistance.

A final session was proposed for "Testing of High-Capacity Piling" with Jamal Nusairat as the lead and assisted by Brian Liebech in organizing the session.

A Workshop was proposed by K. J. Kim showing practical examples of LRFD Foundation Design. It was decided to further discuss this with T-15 and FHWA.

Research Needs Statements

2007 RNS Status

The chair indicated that two of the three committee needs statements were submitted to NCHRP for funding.

- Setup and Relaxation Effects on Load Carrying Capacity of Driven Piles submitted by Louisiana (Mark Morvant).
- Performance of Laterally Loaded Drilled Shafts in Rock submitted by Oregon (Jan Six).

The outcome of the NCHRP ballot will not be known until May. The third statement developed by the committee unfortunately did not make the ballot.

- Performance-Based Design of Foundation Elements and Earth Structures for Extreme Event Loading.

2008 RNS Development & Priority

The chair indicated that several ideas were submitted for consideration by the committee as a result of an email survey prior to the meeting. The chair indicated that it was his intention to work more closely with T-15 to address their needs and solicit their support for research. It was decided to pursue development of topics and descriptions of research needs statements by email. TRB is requesting that all new RNS be posted on the TRB website by March 1st. However, the submittal deadline to NCHRP is not until September 15th. The chair will be sending a request for topics and summary descriptions by email in the upcoming months.

Synthesis Topics

The current synthesis project titled “Cone Penetration Test: State of Practice” by Paul Mayne has been published. The deadline for new synthesis topics from the committee for submittal was February 8. No new synthesis topics were presented at the meeting.

Other Committee Business

Membership Rotation

The committee as of the 2008 meeting had 27 members. Nine members were due to rotate off and some will not be re-appointed. Tom Cooling and Jan Six will not be eligible to be reappointed since Tom has served on the committee for 12 years and Jan has served for 9 years.

The committee thanked them for their efforts and hard work during their tenures. Those people wishing to be appointed to the committee need to e-mail the Chairman of their desires at MarkMorvant@dotd.la.gov.

Seismic Subcommittee Update

The Siesmic subcommittee's term is coming to an end and approval is needed from TRB to continue. Ed Kavazanjian presented the proposed future goals and activities for the Siesmic Subcommittee. AFS30 voted to continue sponsorship of AFF50. Tom Cooling serves as the liaison from AFS30 to the subcommittee. Since Tom is rotating off the committee, it was recommended to appoint Ed Kavazanjian as future liaison to AFS30 pending membership approval.

Announcements

Jim Withiam has completed the calibration for metallic reinforcement MSE walls for the Coherent Gravity Method. This calibration can be accessed at www.amsewalls.org.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.