

ASCE TCCP
DATABASE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, July 15, 1997, 12:00 EDT
Teleconference

ATTENDEES: (4)

Francois Grobler (FG), USA CERL, f-grobler@cecer.army.mil (Chair)
Thomas Froese (TF), University of British Columbia, tfroese@civil.ubc.ca (Secretary)
Annette Stumpf (AS), USA CERL, a-stumpf@cecer.army.mil
Guru Rao, guru@art.aon.com

1. INTRODUCTION

FG commented that this is a watershed time for information management in civil engineering and on the importance of the committee.

FG reported on the ASCE restructuring. An emphasis will be placed on activities that are directly or indirectly "revenue producing."

2. PLANNING FOR 1998 COMPUTING CONFERENCE

The role of tutorials was discussed. They can be good for attracting industry participation in conferences and for attracting people to ASCE-related efforts. FG will check with the Expert Systems and AI committee on the degree of success for recent tutorials. ACTION: FG

Sessions proposals include the following from the e-mail call for proposals:

Simoff - Data mining in AEC information systems; Effective retrieval of relevant AEC information; Tutorial on knowledge discovery in multimedia design case bases; Tutorial on content-sensitive retrieval in design information systems.

Fischer - 4D models for project planning.

Fischer and Froese - Modeling of Construction Methods.

Zhao - Temporal GIS Data Modeling and Applications.

The following sessions were proposed at the committee meeting in Philadelphia:

Won - Distributed databases

Menzel - Fuzzy systems

Terk - Workshop on legal issues relating to IT; AS suggested that we invite the Chief Architect of the California State University to speak at the workshop.

Panel on future directions in IT and information management.

A more detailed list of proposed sessions along with suggested contact people will be circulated.
ACTION TF

Members are requested to review the proposed sessions and offer support to session proposers (e.g., suggest people to contact for submitting papers). Additional session proposals or ideas for activities at the 5th Congress are also encouraged. ACTION ALL.

The committee will consider distributing a Call for Papers, possibly including the text of the general conference call for papers, to various e-mail lists. ACTION FG

AS encouraged: (1) at least one industry person in each session, (2) to limit the number of papers/presentations by a single author, and (3) that each session proposal include a sentence or two describing the practical benefits of the session to the industry. GR emphasized that industry participants can be invited to submit short extended abstracts, with the main emphasis on the presentation.

3. ACTIVITIES FOR NEAR TERM

This topic was discussed briefly. TF discussed the idea of develop a directory of research topics, along the lines of less-detailed PMI's PMBoK (see e-mail message of July 14). FG discussed finding out what the industry considers important.

A full discussion of this topic was tabled for lack of time. It will be revisited at a later meeting

4. LONG TERM PLANS FOR THE COMMITTEE

A preliminary discussion was held on the long term plans for the committee. The discussion considered both where the industry will be in 5 or 10 years, and what the committee can and should do in relation to that. The idea was raised of the committee acting as a communication channel for industry and researchers in the areas of information technologies: helping to articulate industry needs, identifying researchers in various areas, coordinating related research efforts and matching researchers and industry users. This discussion will continue in subsequent meetings and by e-mail.

AS will distribute a document outlining a 5-year plan from the Corps or Engineers, as well as some information from a CERF report on research directions. ACTION AS

5. FUTURE MEETINGS

Follow-up activities will be carried out through the e-mail list. Another teleconference meeting is planned for September, and a committee meeting is planned for the annual ASCE conference in Minneapolis in October 5-8.

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:00 EDT

MINUTES SUBMITTED: TF (secretary), July 15, 1997

