

ASCE TCCP
DATABASE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 17, 1997, 6:00 PM EDT
Holiday Inn Select, Philadelphia

ATTENDEES: (9)

Francois Grobler (FG), USA CERL, f-grobler@cecer.army.mil (Chair)
Thomas Froese (TF), University of British Columbia, tfroese@civil.ubc.ca (Secretary)
Iris Tommelein (IT), UC Berkeley, tommelein@ce.berkeley.edu (EXCOM Contact)
Douglas Peters (DP), NC State University, djpeters@eos.ncsu.edu
Karsten Menzel (KM), Braunschweig Univ. of Tech., Germany, menzel@bihp3.bi.bau.tu-bs.de
Michael Terk (MT), Rice Univ., terk@rice.edu
Dan Won (DW), Sargent & Lundy, danny.j.won@slchicago.infonet.com
Fang Zhao (FZ), Florida Int'l Univ., fang@eng.fiu.edu
Simeon Simoff (SS), Key Center, Univ. of Sydney, simeon@arch.usyd.edu.au

1. INTRODUCTIONS

FG was introduced as acting chair.

2. UPDATE ON ASCE RESTRUCTURING

IT reported on the restructuring activities taking place within ASCE. Several groups within ASCE will be set up as autonomous institutes under an ASCE umbrella. Geotech and structures have formed Institutes; construction, transportation, hydrotechnical, and environmental are considering the move. TCCP held a workshop last year to review its position and is preparing a strategic plan. The general view within TCCP is that it probably should NOT form an institute since there is probably not enough activity and it is very cross-disciplinary in nature. Thus, TCCP would remain a technical advisory committee under ASCE and would receive money according to its activities. This represents a move towards performance-based budgeting, where criteria for revenue-generating performance would be set out (activities include monographs, sessions, papers, etc.). TCCP is also refocussing on its subcommittees. There is significant overlap of participants and activities, and there is a possibility of getting rid of the standing subcommittees and pooling everyone interested in participating, with activities carried out mainly through time-limited task committees.

In committee discussions following IT's update, the committee expressed some support for the restructuring directions, but also expressed some concerns with the proposed task-oriented structure. Specifically, there seems to be some requirement to represent certain topic areas, and to maintain some continuity of activity in an area, both of which may be more difficult to do through time-limited task committees.

3. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE STATUS

TF reviewed the status of the committee. Although it has previously been very active, the committee held only a small meeting at the 1996 Computer Congress in Anaheim and has had no activity since then. It did not organize any sessions for the 1997 conference.

FG commented on the importance of the committee in light of the very important and active topic area of information technologies in civil engineering.

Craig Howard has resigned as chair of the committee. The committee expresses its appreciation for the efforts that Craig has put into the committee over many years. FG (previously vice-chair) was elected as new chair (unanimous vote of committee members present: TF, IT, DW). TF remains committee secretary.

4. CONFERENCE SESSIONS FOR 1998 COMPUTING CONFERENCE

Beginning in 1998, the annual conference (Congress on Computing in Civil Engineering) will no longer be held in conjunction with AEC Systems, and will instead be in conjunction with the Annual General ASCE Conference. This will be held in Boston, October 18-21, 1998. The proceedings will be fully refereed.

The following sessions were proposed for the 1998 Conference.

SS: Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery

SS: Multimedia DB's and Content Sensitive Retrieval

FZ: Temporal Databases and Temporal GIS

MT: Future of Information Management in Civil Engineering

MT: Legal Aspects of IT (Tutorial)

TF: 4D models of Construction and Integrated Project Systems (with Fischer)

DW: Distributed Databases

The preparation of session proposals will be followed up by e-mail. ACTION FG

5. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Discussions of committee activities will continue via e-mail and a committee meeting will be held by teleconference in about a month (approx. July 17). A committee meeting will tentatively be held at the annual ASCE conference in Minneapolis in October.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:00 PM

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