

COSMOS

Consortium of Organizations for Strong-Motion Observation Systems

BOARD MEETING

6 February 2003
5:00 PM – 6:30PM

Marriott Downtown Hotel
Portland, Oregon

Minutes

Present:

James F. Davis (Chair)
John G. Anderson (Secretary)
Maury Power (Treasurer)
J. Carl Stepp (Executive Director)
Bruce A. Bolt (Chair of GM) (arrived 5:25 PM)
J. Ake (Chair, SMPB)
M. Celebi (representing John Filson)
Claire Johnson
W. D. Iwan (arrived 6:06 PM)
A. F. Shakal
Melinda Squibb
D. Yule

President Jim Davis called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

1. Minutes from the 14 November 2002 meeting were prepared by W. U. Savage. Motion to approve (Ake), second (Yule), Approved unanimously.

2. President's Report (James F. Davis)

President Davis reminded the Board of the COSMOS mission statement: "*To expand and modernize significantly the acquisition and application of strong motion data in order to increase public safety from earthquakes.*" He also reminded the Board of the objectives of COSMOS:

The objectives of COSMOS are as follows:

- a. Develop national policies and foster innovative ideas for the urgent improvement of strong-motion earthquake measurements and their applications;
- b. Promote the advancement of strong-motion measurement on the ground and in structures and lifelines in densely urbanized areas and other locations of special significance to society likely to be struck by future earthquakes;

- c. Encourage and assist the rapid, convenient, and responsive distribution of strong ground-motion data according to standards of the Consortium;
- d. Serve as a consortium through which programs, institutions, and engineers can work to solve mutual problems with recording instruments of all appropriate types, data formatting and dissemination, and data utilization; and
- e. Improve user influence on data acquisition and multipurpose data dissemination processes.

To achieve our mission, President Davis stated that membership development is the key issue. COSMOS is not experiencing enough growth to fulfill mission and objectives. He expressed his hope that this evening's meeting would address that issue seriously.

3. Treasurer's Report (Maury S. Power)

The Treasurer's Report is included in the information packet for the Board of Directors. General Membership Chairman, Bolt, recognized Pacific Gas and Electric and the Puerto Rico Seismic Network as new Strong-Motion Programs Members. Bolt recommended that members of the Board who will attend the SSA meeting in Puerto Rico should visit that network on behalf of COSMOS.

Net assets are \$83,241. Chairman Bolt noted that the intended contribution to U.C. Santa Barbara for the VDC, as the COSMOS match to the NSF grant that started 1 October 2002, is not reflected in the balance sheet. The memorandum of understanding is not in place yet. Stepp is working on it. COSMOS intends to match 30k per year to the VDC development for the 3-year project. Chairman Bolt requests this should show up, as a footnote if no place else, in the budget. This action was approved in the meeting of 14 November 2002. Executive Director Stepp stated that the MOU will probably be in the form of a grant, with the deliverable to be a report to COSMOS twice per year.

Bolt moved, Yule seconded the following: The memorandum of understanding will contain the stipulation that half (about 15K) of this grant would be paid at end of June to UCSB, and the remaining funds would be paid at the end of December 2003. The total amount of the funds to be transferred to UCSB is less than 30K because COSMOS will pay directly for COSMOS VDC Work Group, which is identified in the NSF Grant Proposal, to attend semiannual meetings with the VDC Project Team. Those costs will be paid by COSMOS directly and thus, would not be transferred. The motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer Power moved, Bolt seconded: The Board of Directors expresses its appreciation for Carl Stepp for not taking salary for his services to COSMOS. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bolt advised that up to \$50,000 could be invested in certificates of deposits, with staggered terms to avoid cash flow problems.

Bolt moved, Davis seconded: To adopt the treasurer's report. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Executive Director's Report (J. Carl Stepp)

Stepp reported that the Proceedings Invited Workshop on Archiving and Web Dissemination of Geotechnical Data, COSMOS publication No CP-2001/3 has been distributed. The report cost near \$15,000 to print 250 copies, with the costs driven up by expensive paper and color figures. There was general discussion on how to reproduce and distribute publications. The California Geological Survey uses the same printer, University of California for some its publications and is looking for alternatives. Production costs are going up. Stepp and Johnson stated that computer with a CD burner could allow inexpensive distribution. The other equipment that Johnson could utilize for report preparation is a quality scanner. Color graphics are well adopted to distribution on a CD. Cost of CD production is around \$1.00 per copy. Reports are distributed free to members. Johnson also distributes them with PEER reports to PEER library patrons (about 25 copies). Bolt noted that these reports are easily lost from libraries since they are not assigned a Library of Congress number. There was a sense that distribution on CD is even more ephemeral. Celebi noted that they can be distributed on the web. The USGS is no longer distributing Open File Reports on paper – they are all on CD or the web. COSMOS reports are on the web. Davis suggested that distribution only on the web is not sufficient, as it does not ensure that the report is citable. Stepp noted that the next publication may be proceedings of a data processing workshop, conceived to be held this summer.

Bolt moved, Ake seconded: Executive director is encouraged to develop a proposal on the cost for the necessary equipment (computer with CD burner and scanner) to prepare reports for distribution on compact disks, and the executive committee is empowered to make a decision on whether we should purchase that equipment. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Stepp suggested that COSMOS needs a mechanism to charge non-members cost recovery for our publications. Stepp and Squibb have looked into a credit card system. Squibb stated that it is not hard, but there are problems with security and liability. Paypal provides this kind of service, but does not handle digital transfer of products, only physical transfers. Some general discussion followed. COSMOS is a nonprofit corporation, and thus can only recover cost. The fact that reports are free for members should motivate people to join. Iwan noted that all old Caltech reports, including the Blue Books of acceleration data, are now free on the web.

Davis requested that the ideas be developed for the future meetings of the Board. He asked the executive director to come up with ideas. The Board will take up the issue at the next meeting.

Stepp noted that in the second phase of the project for archiving and web dissemination of geotechnical data, some objectives have been changed. The Geotechnical VDC will be more like the Strong-Motion VDC, i.e., leaving data at the originating agency databases and capturing it as needed. This change led to increased budget by \$37,200, and the schedule for completion was extended to 9/15/2003. The project will hold a workshop on August 19. The project bought a server for \$2000. This will reside at UCSB but is COSMOS equipment. The August 19 workshop is invited and primarily for people in the project. Projected attendance is around 30 persons. The venue is probably in Richmond. Shakal will look into the potential to use an underutilized state facility in Oakland.

5. Membership Development

Davis initiated discussion about membership of COSMOS. This is also a subject for discussion at the SAC meeting later today. Considering the pool of users of strong-motion data, general membership might expand faster. COSMOS needs to be larger in order to become effective in meeting its objectives. Strong-motion issues need more advocacy in public policy—needs more unifying support from engineers and earth scientists. Davis asked for Board concurrence the importance of expanding COSMOS membership. There was general agreement, although the board did not consider it necessary to pass a motion.

Davis proposed that COSMOS create some committees to promote membership. One would develop information about COSMOS. Surcharges for non-members could be used as a mechanism to stimulate membership. Another committee might be charged with achieving broader distribution of information about COSMOS, possibly through an enhanced web site. An important purpose of this committee would also be to stimulate advocacy. Another committee might be formed to develop membership strategies. Davis has authority to create committees, and intends to revisit the issue at the SAC meeting. Iwan noted that COSMOS would benefit from a strategic plan and/or a business plan.

6. Recommendations from Program Board (Jon Ake)

Ake reported that the Strong Motion Program Board met on 4 November 2002. The meeting was well attended. A meeting summary is included in the information package given to the directors for the meeting. The following points were highlighted. One was a motion that “strong-motion data collected under ANSS should be linked into the COSMOS VDC by means of any existing regional or national database server.” A second was concern that the NOAA archive of strong-motion data would not be continued for long. Squibb reported that VDC has permission to include that data at the VDC server. A third was the formation of a COSMOS VDC workgroup to work with Prof. Archuleta on further developments of the VDC. The workgroup members identified at that meeting are CB Crouse, Chairman, David Boore, Vladimir Graizer, Dan O’Connell, Apostolos Papageorgiou, and Farzad Naiem. Bolt asked how we will know what the workgroup does. Stepp will make those results known in meeting summaries. The Strong-Motion Programs Board also concluded that there is a need for a data processing standards workgroup. Proposed workgroup members are Tony Shakal, Chairman, Brian Chou, David Boore, and Bill Iwan. A workshop in June, to be held at the PEER headquarters, or at the State facility in Oakland, is tentatively planned. Power reported that PEER is comparing differing processing of strong-motion records as part of its Next Generation Attenuation Relations project. The Strong Motion Programs Board also recommended development of a policy paper on the value of strong motion data for public policy.

Bolt noted a need to follow up on a recommendation that COSMOS should pursue agreement with the Japanese Port and Harbor Research Group, the Ministry of Transport, and other strong-motion observation networks in Japan to disseminate data from those organizations through the COSMOS VDC. Some present at the meeting (Ake, Celebi) will attend the next US-Japan UJNR meeting in May, which would be a good forum to bring this up.

Bolt moved, Iwan seconded: The Chair of the Strong-Motion Programs Board and other members of the Board who attend UJNR should take steps to work out arrangement with Japanese groups to

share data through the COSMOS VDC, and report back to COSMOS Board at the Fall 2003 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. ANSS Status (William U. Savage)

Celebi reported that in the President's budget released on 3 Feb 2003, the ANSS budget for FY04 is \$2,000,000. This is a decrease from the \$3,900,000 appropriated in FY02 and proposed by Department of Interior. The cut, initiated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), was justified by a rather vague statement that the "agency should strengthen the business case." There are some indications that it has something to do with security of information technology systems.

Davis expressed his sense that the ANSS is in serious jeopardy. He believes that the program will not survive with a funding of \$2,000,000/yr, or even \$3,900,000/yr. Ake stated his belief that this cut is a "trial balloon" by OMB. He suggested that if there is not a significant outcry from supporters of ANSS to see this funding restored, then next year the program will be cut completely from the budget. Davis expressed the view that this needs to be the beginning of a significant advocacy effort. The advocacy should be done in the context on reauthorization of NEHRP.

Prior to the meeting, Davis drafted letter to Interior Secretary Norton supporting ANSS. In discussion, the letter needs clarification on what we request.

Bolt moved, Iwan seconded: COSMOS should write the letter to Secretary Norton in support of ANSS, with the understanding that it would be revised for greater clarity. The motion was approved unanimously.

Iwan and Celebi raised concerns that ANSS is not putting enough emphasis on the building portion of the network. Davis noted that the initial efforts have convened regional networks into a national real time network, and that this is a significant accomplishment to achieve with the paltry amount of funding (\$3.9M/y) appropriated so far. He expressed the belief that the program lacks a critical mass and won't survive without increased funding above \$3,900,000.

8. Other Business.

There was no other business.

9. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was moved, seconded, and approved at 7:06 PM.

Summary of Action Items

Stepp will develop a memorandum of understanding with U.C. Santa Barbara as a basis for transfer of COSMOS matching funds for the COSMOS VDC.

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on compact disks, and the executive committee is empowered to make a decision on whether we should purchase that equipment. The motion was approved unanimously.

Davis requested that the ideas for cost recovery from non-members be developed for the future meetings of the board. He asked the executive director to come up with ideas. The Board will take up the issue at the next meeting.

The project for archiving and web dissemination of geotechnical data will hold a workshop on August 19. This workshop is invited and primarily for people in the project. Projected attendance is around 30 persons. The venue is probably in Richmond. Shakal will look into the potential to use an underutilized state facility in Oakland.

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The Chair of the Strong Motion Programs Board and other members of the Board who attend UJNR should take steps to work our arrangement with Japanese groups to share data through the COSMOS VDC, and report back to COSMOS Board at the Fall 2003 meeting

COSMOS should write a letter to Secretary Norton in support of ANSS, with the understanding that it would be revised for greater clarity.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Davis requested that the ideas for cost recovery from non-members be developed for the future meetings of the board. He asked the Executive Director to come up with ideas. The Board will take up the issue at the next meeting.

The Strong Motion Programs Board recommended development of a policy paper on value of strong-motion data for public policy. The Board of Directors did not take action on this recommendation at it's February meeting.