

COSMOS

Meeting of Board of Directors

29 April 2010

PEER Conference Room, Richmond Field Station

Members of the Board

Present:

W. Iwan

J. Parrish

M. Power

W. Savage

J. Steidl (by phone)

Absent:

N. Abrahamson

D. Dreger

R. Nigbor

D. Yule

Director of Engineering Applications

R. Bachman

Office Manager

C. Johnson

Guests

C. B. Crouse

A. Shakal

D. Wells

1. Adoption of Agenda—W. Iwan

The meeting was called to order at 10:50 AM by Iwan.

Bachman suggested moving Agenda Item 6 forward to follow his report (Agenda Item 4), and the change was accepted.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 5 November 2009 Meeting—W. Iwan

Several corrections were provided by Bachman.

- The first sentence in the “Discussion” of Item 3 was not clear, and was deleted. The second sentence was amended to read: “...in January, as a treasurer candidate.”
- The third sentence in Agenda Item 5 was amended to read: “These changes ~~are~~, while controversial, will occur.”
- The next-to-last sentence in Agenda Item 6 was amended to read: “Meeting ~~broke~~ ended at 5:20 p.m.”

Parrish moved to approve the minutes from the 5 November 2009 meeting as amended. Power seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. President’s Report—W. Iwan

No written report was prepared. Iwan recounted that Jim Davis had been active in the “Hazards Coalition,” and Iwan followed up by opening contact with the Hazards Coalition. He also contacted the NEHRP Coalition for possible future interaction.

The recent Chilean earthquake should provide valuable strong-motion data. Iwan contacted people in Santiago, but no data have been forthcoming. Shakal reported that some written reports are posted at the CESMD web site, and that although he has received a digital record, the instrument is suspect, in that it may not have been firmly attached. There are some records obtained by University personnel, but the records are not yet available. Some installed instruments were reported to have not worked. Crouse heard that there are records that would be forthcoming eventually.

Iwan has also contacted U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) regarding a replacement for J. Wright. The USBR has not paid dues for this year.

ACTION ITEM: Iwan will contact USBR again and also ask about 2010 dues.

4. Report of the Director of Engineering Applications—R. Bachman

A written report was provided.

- Bachman reported on the 2009 Technical Session, which was well-attended, had good presentations and discussions, and occurred in a quite satisfactory venue. He suggested raising the registration fees to cover expenses, and to be more consistent with EERI charges for similar events.
- Bachman submitted a proposal to the 2012 IBC. The proposal was modified, but Jim Bella wanted additional modifications. Bachman will follow up in future hearings for the 2012 IBC.
- Bachman reported that future GVDC activities under the current contract have transitioned from Carl Step to Cliff Roblee. Bachman is the COSMOS contact for this work.

6. 2010 BOD Meeting and Technical Session—R. Bachman

The planned schedule is for the Board Meeting on November 18 and the Technical Session on November 19. The Clarion Hotel venue is reserved, but no contract is signed. Bachman suggested adding \$40 to the registration fee for members, along with other consistent fee changes. Parrish noted that the Technical Session may be down in attendance this year. To boost attendance, he suggested changing the Technical Session to adjoin the SMIP 2010 meeting, and holding it in Sacramento along with other meetings associated with the 150th anniversary of CGS. Typical attendance for the SMIP meetings is 60-100. There could be a single registration for the two meetings. There would be an added cost for a hotel room for people who choose to attend both. There could be a loss of student attendees at the Technical Session if it takes place outside of the Bay Area. The objective of considering such a move would be to attract a larger audience and reduce the number of meetings people try to attend.

Bachman wanted to get a sense from the Board on this concept, and further discussion ensued. The Technical Session could be in Sacramento and Los Angeles in alternate years. COSMOS might lose the participation of Berkeley/Stanford students and faculty, however moving the venue to Los Angeles could encourage more participation from the U.C.L.A., U.C. San Diego, and U.C. Santa Barbara faculty and students.

It was agreed by the BOD to keep this meeting at the Clairon Hotel but to see if she could reserve for both November 18 and 19, with the SMIP meeting being held on November 18 and the Technical Session on November 19th.

A possible topic for the Technical Session could be the Chilean and Baja earthquakes and implications of the data. Individuals from Chile and Mexico could be invited to discuss the data collected by the in-country researchers. This would align with the international emphasis in COSMOS. Some excellent data have been obtained. The Technical Session Committee should check with EERI to avoid conflicts.

ACTION ITEM: Claire Johnson to contact the Clarion Hotel and tentatively reserve the meeting room for both November 18th and 19th.

ACTION ITEM: The idea of a joint meeting will be explored by the Technical Session Committee (Abrahamson and Bachman, with the addition of Shakal for the SMIP meeting perspective) in the third week in May.

5. Treasurer's Report—M. Power

Power reviewed the contents of the report, which was provided to the Board. Attachment 3 includes all end-of-year reviews by COSMOS' accounting firm, WMSH&B. 2009 membership income exceeded budget by approximately \$3,000 due to a larger-than-budgeted contribution from CGS. Net income from PEER project 2L03 for the GVDC was approximately \$1,000 less than budget (approximately \$5,000 actual vs. \$6000 budgeted). 2009 expenses were significantly below budget overall. The reduction in expenses included approximately \$5,500 to be expended in 2010 rather than 2009, reflecting delays in

completing the web site upgrade and in publishing the Proceedings of the Record Processing Workshop. Financial performance during 2009 was reviewed with WMSH&B principal accountant David Bott during the Finance Committee meeting on February 8, 2010. (Attachment 3). The Finance Committee met on February 8 to discuss the results of the review of the financial statement. Membership numbers remain stable.

Power reviewed the preliminary budget for 2010, which has been significantly revised from the November 5, 2009, Board Meeting. The differences included dropping participation in the EERI meeting but adding the SSA meeting and the joint U.S. National/Canadian Earthquake engineering Conference. The net loss projected for 2009 is now ~\$9,000, versus the previous slight positive balance. Committee budgets have not been refined. There is uncertainty in membership income, including the CGS and DWR income because of the California State financial situation. There is also a potential for new members such as NRC, Caltrans, LADWP, SCE, and strong-motion programs in other states. With respect to the California fiscal situation, Parrish summarized his earlier report at the Finance Committee meeting that CGS-SMIP funds from permits are expected to drop by about 50% for several years, and as a result the SMIP reserve is being rapidly consumed. Also constraints may be placed on the external contracting ability of state agencies. Power noted that this situation could have a significant financial impact on COSMOS. Bachman noted that this unusual situation could be alleviated by prudently using some of COSMOS's reserves in the bank (more than \$200,000). Power's recommendation was to adopt the budget with a deficit for 2010.

Power summarized the report of the Finance Committee meeting in February 2010, which Donald Wells attended as a prospective candidate for the office of Treasurer. Among items discussed at the meeting, suggestions were made to encourage organizational membership, and to establish reduced rates at Technical Sessions for employees of organizational members.

Power moved to adopt the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Savage and passed unanimously.

Power acknowledge the continued role of Office Manager Claire Johnson in maintaining COSMOS' financial records and participation in preparing the Treasurer's report.

ACTION ITEM: The COSMOS overhead rate for the future will be reviewed with the assistance of David Bott and a report prepared. The purpose of the preview is to evaluate whether COSMOS should consider modifying the overhead rate proposed for future contracts with government agencies.

ACTION ITEM: Steidl asked for clarification of the membership category of Digitexx.

7. BOD Nominations and Schedule for Elections—B. Bachman

Bachman noted that Power's term ends at the fall Board meeting. Donald Wells was contacted and accepted the invitation to stand for the Board election. He was also willing to serve as Treasurer if elected to the Board succeeding Maury Power. He is local and has familiarity with key aspects of strong-motion

data. Doug Dreger is also a potential candidate for another term on the Board. Bachman moved and Parrish seconded the nominations of Wells and Dreger. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Bolt Medal Report—W. Savage

Savage reported that David Boore was selected as the Bolt Medal recipient for 2010, and he received the medal at the SSA Annual Meeting in Portland earlier in April.

Savage explained that SSA has requested that the process of selecting candidates for nomination be completed earlier in the year to September 1 to fit in better with the SSA Board's ability to handle decision-making outside of their normal schedule. The motion to change the date for receiving Bolt Medal nomination packages to September 1 was moved by Parrish, seconded by Power, and passed unanimously.

9. Status and Operational Considerations for CESMD—J. Parrish

The Center for Engineering Strong-Motion Data is operating well; records from recent international earthquakes have been posted. The cooperative effort between USGS and CGS has resulted in timely posting of data.

Iwan asked that the status of the Tools Committee/CEMSD Working Group chaired by C. B. Crouse and the CESMD Advisory Panel be updated. Parrish indicated that this is under way in terms of identifying individuals to be involved with the Tools Committee/ CEMSD Working Group and in terms of the completion of the integration of the VDC functionality. Shakal and Parrish will respond to the suggested list of names provided by Crouse. The Tools Committee/ CEMSD Working Group will become involved in the CESMD advisory process in the near future.

There remains an unsolved problem of establishing the metadata characteristics that address the quality and accuracy of the international data. The links to international virtual data need to be updated and expanded. The name/password requirements of some data centers still have to be addressed to download data. Steidl noted that many data users are asking how to obtain the recently recorded international data. USGS will take responsibility for acquiring the international data and the verification and validation of the data and its metadata.

Iwan asked Parrish how COSMOS can help. Parrish noted that there is an urgent need for establishing international data standards. This can be addressed at the Toronto meeting and would be a desirable aspect of having a Strong-Motion Forum at the Toronto meeting. Steidl pointed out the importance of having information about the data that will allow them to be used wisely.

ACTION ITEM: Bachman to arrange for a COSMOS Strong-Motion Forum meeting room at the Toronto Conference.

10. Committee Reports—W. Iwan

International Committee: Steidl reported on the 10-12 November 2009, Ankara, Turkey, meeting and provided a written report in the meeting binder. There is good awareness of the need for proper processing and full metadata. The time is ripe for exchanging metadata protocols. Many Europeans want to work with COSMOS to host or provide access to European data. Steidl would like to add Europeans to the committee, along with COSMOS members, and others. The committee could meet by conference call. Bachman mentioned the August meeting in Macedonia; this may be too early for COSMOS participation.

VDC Tools Committee: See the notes in Agenda Item 9 about the status of CESMD incorporation of the VDC.

Products Committee: Dreger did not provide a written report.

Standards Committee: Shakal reported that there has not been enough progress on improved metadata for CISN stations (a photograph is essential). Improved metadata needs to be included in the culture of networks. CISN is the U.S. model for network operations, and the station metadata is a part of this model. An XML format is being accepted to compile metadata; a minimum data set is being established. Chilean data for the recent earthquake has shown that some instruments missed the start of the earthquake. The default instrument parameters need to be set by the manufacturers so that an inexperienced installer at least starts with an adequately configured instrument. Shakal noted that setting metadata standards is harder to do than establishing processing standards. There is a wide difference between recommended metadata and what are actually provided.

11. Discussion of COSMOS Website/PayPal Options—C. Johnson

Johnson would like to consider partitioning the COSMOS website from the VDC (the server is located at UCSB) so that the COSMOS organizational information can be maintained. She contacted Webdogs.biz to find out information about the cost of hosting (\$10/month), updates (\$80/hour), and PayPal (easy for users to set up; don't have to be a PayPal member, but COSMOS does need to be registered at PayPal; PayPal charges 3%). Various options were discussed, including having Darryl Wong of CUREE do the updates.

12. Discussion of response to significant earthquakes—W. Iwan

Is there some response that COSMOS should take to large worldwide earthquakes? An example is Brian Tucker's media presence following the Haiti event. It is necessary to establish press contacts for media access. Steidl noted that it is important to get the COSMOS name out there, such as notifying interested parties that data are available through CESMD. Crouse noted that we need international participants in COSMOS to have something to say about international earthquakes. We need to be focusing on the international engineering community. Parrish suggested that we start with an information bulletin on data being available. This can acknowledge the international data providers. The bulletin can be sent to VDC

users and other interested parties. But we need people we can contact internationally—we need to update the contact list. Consider putting names/agencies on the COSMOS web site (use the name “iCOSMOS”?).

13. Planning for a Workshop on Standards

See the discussion in Agenda Item 10, “Standards Committee.”

14. Possible Forum at EERI in Toronto

See the notes in Agenda Item 9.

15. Discussion of membership issues—W. Iwan

There was additional discussion of membership issues and possibilities.

- Consider how to involve states that are part of ANSS (no separate SM programs)
- CICESE
- Caltrans and other State DOTs
- Send a brochure, invite to join as member.
- Use personal contacts.
- NIST (Jack Hayes) has a support contract with CUREE. NIST as a member could operate like FEMA does. Jack has several engineers working for him.
- Start outreach to international organizations once they have joined the international committee should be considered.

ACTION ITEM: Savage offered to head up a membership committee, and the offer was accepted.

16. Outreach to the Seismological Community—C. Johnson

While at the COSMOS booth at the SSA meeting, Johnson found that the seismological community knows little about COSMOS. She thought that there should be a COSMOS person giving a talk or otherwise representing the technical face of COSMOS at such a meeting. We could consider preparing for an expanded presence at the Memphis SSA Annual Meeting in 2011. We could promote the GVDC and the international role of COSMOS. We could even have a COSMOS session at SSA. The US-Canadian conference would also be a good venue to show COSMOS.

17. Adjourn

Final Comments: Whence the GVDC?—R Bachman

Bachman wondered what should happen next with the GVDC. He discussed Chapter 5 of the 2L03 report, which provides recommendations Large public agencies are being courted to input and retrieve geotechnical data. What is the incentive to private organizations to post data and use the GVDC? What

is the market? Carl Stepp asked COSMOS to consider what role COSMOS could take. There may be another year or two of development, funded by CalTrans and carried out by PEER.

ACTION ITEM: Bachman asked the assembled group to review the report and provide comments on how COSMOS could be involved. Bachman will form a committee to report back to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.