

COSMOS
Meeting of the Board of Directors

7 June 2012
10:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Richmond Field Station
Richmond, California

Members of the Board

Present:

W.D. Iwan
W.U. Savage
D. Wells
J. Steidl (attended by phone)
R. Nigbor
A. Yong

Absent:

C.B. Crouse
Dan Levis
D. Yule
D. Dreger

Director of Engineering Applications:

R. Bachman

Office Manager:

Claire Johnson

Miscellaneous Discussion Items Prior to the Delayed Start of the Board Meeting

C. Johnson raised the question of recording the Technical Sessions for subsequent distribution. It is not clear how valuable the recording would be. There is higher value to the discussion than the presentation itself. It would be possible to record the discussions and then transcribe them.

Regarding COSMOS membership, “Shadow membership” is valuable to us and we don’t want to reduce this type of involvement. There are increasing problems with corporate memberships—it is easier to pay for some memberships by employees than to have a corporate membership. We could consider student memberships involving mentorship relationships and poster sessions (these are not popular without faculty attending). We could include students on panels. We could offer discount prices to students for DVDs.

J. Parrish raised the issue of Pakistan and India being interested in getting the recognition of being involved with SMIP. We could consider seeking USAID funding for certifying or validating other countries to be installing strong-motion instruments, or for attending COSMOS Technical Sessions. The COSMOS Standards Committee could be responsible for certification of other countries' programs. Issues of concern: improper installation, instruments having been hit by falling objects, memories are too short and can be overwritten, etc.

Regarding new opportunities, we could ask the International Committee to look at possible projects that COSMOS could carry out for World Bank at others. This could be raised at the Strong-Motion Forum (to be a special session, 4-7 PM) at 15WCEE in Lisbon.

Call to Order and Roll Call

At 11:25 AM, W. Savage called the meeting to order prior to the late arrival of W. Iwan and R. Bachman due to a flight delay. Roll call: Present were Wells, Savage, Yong, Nigbor, and Parrish; a quorum was not present

Review and Approval of 11/03/11 Minutes

R. Nigbor moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved. J. Parrish seconded the motion and there was unanimous approval.

1. President's Report

The text was available in the meeting binder; the Board was invited to read the report in the absence of its author. D. Levis has resigned because he did not get approval from BOR's Ethics Office. In his report, W. Iwan understands that D. Levis will be approved as the BOR representative and that they will pay their back dues to some extent. W. Iwan noted that COSMOS is a member of the Natural Hazards Caucus; information about the Caucus may be viewed on the USGS web site.

2. Direction of Engineering Applications' Report

The last Technical Session went very well, and was well attended by more of a geotechnical and ground-motion audience than engineers. He noted that we need to improve the projection situation. The date for the next Technical Session is November 16 at Hilton Garden Inn, set well in advance so people can plan their calendars. N. Abrahamson wants updating of the selection of near-field ground motions as the focus of the program. Some speakers could be invited to talk about the Christchurch earthquakes with respect to code requirements and other issues such as the potential for extreme events. N. Abrahamson has a new assistant, which should improve his accessibility.

PEER is planning an NGA West workshop on the U.C. the same week as the COSMOS Technical Session. Transportation from campus to the Hilton Garden Inn will be explored.

CUREe will share a booth with COSMOS at the 15WCEE.

The NGA East contract management is expected to start in October 2012. We need to prepare for adding staff time to the COSMOS budget to enable the admin work to be done. R. Nigbor suggested we may need to hire an administrative project manager and other support staff. R. Bachman (as lead) and R. Nigbor with input from Y. Bozorgnia will develop a draft plan.

3. Treasurer's Report

There is an overview under the tab in the binder. A loss of \$10-15K due to dues not paid by BOR; there were problems with procurement as overseen by D. Levish. Funds are available for special projects. Parrish noted the need to get started on the next CGS contract

The annual Technical Session is self-supporting.

The 2011 budget is closed.

In the 2012 Budget, we need to make adjustments to accommodate the BOR non-payment.

11:50 Bob Bachman and Bill Iwan arrived. A quorum is present.

4. BOD Nominees for 2012 Elections

W. Iwan and R. Nigbor have agreed to be considered for another term as Directors. R. Bachman, W. Savage, and J. Parrish will be the nominating committee. The slate shall be developed by the end of July.

5. Bolt Medal Report

N. Abrahamson was selected as the candidate for the 2012 Bruce Bolt Medal, and was approved by COSMOS, EERI, and SSA Board. He will receive the medal at the COSMOS meeting this fall.

6. COSMOS Web Site Upgrade

C. Johnson purchased an updated computer (from a 32-bit desktop to a 64-bit laptop) and is managing updates of the COSMOS Web Site.

7. 15WCEE Update

COSMOS is cooperating with CUREe on an exhibit booth. The Board discussed support for travel by H. Haddadi and C. Stephens to the 15th WCEE. C. Stephens would represent the USGS side of CESMD as a complement to H. Haddadi's involvement on the part of CGS. As part of their participation at the 15WCEE, both would be asked to spend time at the COSMOS booth to address data questions, use of the COSMOS standard format, build contacts with European data providers, prepare a brief report on their activities, and provide names and contact information of interested individuals. The report would include how they promoted COSMOS. They would prepare posters to be displayed at

the booth to explain CESMD and VDC operations; handouts. Small versions of posters will be investigated, and who they spoke with would be documented with names and contact info. J. Steidl would provide further input on what should be available at the booth. Links could be put on the COSMOS web site. A smartphone could be used to take a picture of badges, email addresses requested or obtained from the registration list. R. Nigbor moved that COSMOS would provide funding of up to \$4K each for Haddadi and Stephens. Wells seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

How will the special session (Strong-Motion Forum) be organized? C. Johnson noted that like in Beijing, COSMOS would be responsible for the Agenda of the special session. J. Steidl has specific topics and individuals in mind that he would like to participate. CUREe and COSMOS will split the booth space equally. J. Steidl will coordinate activities with C. Stephens and H. Haddadi.

The booth could include a poster stand for COSMOS as well as a banner at the back. Emails should be sent to all European contacts inviting them to the Strong Motion Forum session, and encouraging them to meet with H. Haddadi and C. Stephens. J. Steidl said that T. Brocher of the USGS said that USGS would cover "ground costs" (registration, hotel, and meals), if COSMOS could cover airfare.

J. Parrish suggested having electronic business cards; C. Johnson has explored thumb drives (\$4.95 in bulk) or post-it pads with COSMOS info. The vendor could preload the thumb drives. Jamie suggested only giving drives to people we talk with. Wells suggested having a scannable symbol for retrieving the COSMOS web site contact and the VDC contact.

J. Parrish moved and A. Yong seconded that we purchase a recognition banner not to exceed \$500 to promote COSMOS at the 15WCEE. The motion passed unanimously.

8. CESMD Update

J. Parrish reported on the status of COSMOS VDC conversion. The VDC is now operating at the CESMD; the Santa Barbara site can be used to redirect users. Data are now automatically loaded on the VDC. Some data sources need VDC converters; COSMOS is considering funding ISTI to develop these converters. Jamie pointed out that there are lots of formats used for data that change often; he suggested USGS hire an IT person to support this activity. A new script is being written to speed up loading data into the VDC. The 2007 backlog is about half caught up.

9. VDC Report on Tool Committee

C.B. Crouse provided a written report. Additional engineers from the NGA West 2 could be added to the committee; other candidates could be identified from the past list of Technical Session presenters and attendees. R. Bachman will talk with C.B. Crouse about this possibility.

10. New COSMOS Initiatives

Nigbor led the discussion. There is a need to restart external funding; an example is developing contacts at NSF. See attached. Workshops that lead to guidance for strong-motion monitoring or data use seem to be the low-hanging fruit for COSMOS, e.g., Shakemap applications or earthquake early warning. COSMOS does well with ideas that have a focus on workshops. Some possibilities include:

1. Update of global strong motion monitoring needs (Iwan's original document in 1972, other decade+-old efforts). This could be a broad international workshop or a more focused national event.
2. Collaborate with IRIS on Portable Strong-Motion Monitoring, possibly assist with upcoming workshops to add the strong-motion aspect
3. International Workshop on some aspect of strong-motion data
4. Look for opportunities to help system owners make operational decisions. Consider situations where owners are required to take action; need policy guidance. Some owners want the situation where everyone is required to follow the same rules.
5. Opportunity in the induced seismicity arena related to fluid injection and withdrawal?

COSMOS needs to have something in hand to discuss.

11. International Committee

This was addressed in the discussion of participating in the 15WCEE.

12. Instructional DVD Committee

D. Dreger provided an email (see attached).

13. Standards Committee

No report.

14. Strong-Motion Recording Processing Committee

No report.

15. Changes to the Bylaws Regarding Proxy Voting

The discussion identified that the selection of a proxy-holder needs to be sufficiently in advance of the meeting, and who decides who is qualified needs to be specified. It was moved and seconded that proxy voting could be accepted if:

1. The decision is made at least 24 hours in advance of the Board meeting, and
2. The President has approved the proposed proxy-holder.

The motion was approved.

16. Adoption of the 2012 Budget

The income decreases \$5,000 (due to the loss of the BOR contribution), and the expense increased by \$5,000 for expenses anticipated for the 15WCEE. The overall delta for the previous budget of \$8,400 (income) is \$10,000, which equals a loss of \$1,600. There may be additional income from the NRC, but there may be additional losses from unrecoverable BOR past dues.

D. Wells moved to adopt the revised budget for 2012 and J. Parrish seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be on November 15, 2012. The meeting was adjourned at 3: 45 PM