

# COSMOS

## Consortium of Organizations for Strong-Motion Observation Systems

### Meeting of the Board of Directors

14 November 2002

3:15 PM-4:50 PM

Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center  
Richmond, California

Summary prepared by W. U. Savage

#### Participants

N. Abrahamson	John Anderson	Bruce Bolt	James Davis	W. D. Iwan
F. Naiem	Claire Johnson	Maury Power	W. U. Savage	Anthony Shakal
Carl Stepp	Jerry Wright	Don Yule		

President Bruce Bolt called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. The meeting agenda is attached. Vice President James Davis, Secretary William Savage, Treasurer Maury Power, and Directors Norman Abrahamson, John Anderson, Wilfred Iwan, Farzad Naiem, Jerry Wright, and Don Yule were present. Executive Director Carl Stepp, Programs Board Chairman Tony Shakal, and Office Administrator Claire Johnson were present.

**Minutes from Last Meeting:** The minutes of the previous Board Meeting on February 7, 2002, were reviewed. Director Iwan moved that the minutes be approved, and Director Naiem seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Election of Officers:** The two-year term for the Chairman of the Strong-Motion Programs Board was filled at the last Board meeting by Tony Shakal agreeing to serve another term. As the position usually rotates to another Core Member representative, Programs Board Chairman Shakal expressed his willingness to step aside to allow the rotation. John Ake was the single candidate proposed as the new Chairman, but he has not yet been approached. If he is willing to be a candidate, an election can be conducted by E-mail.

President Bolt noted that he has enjoyed being president and seeing the organization grow and become successful. The Nominating Committee consisted of Directors Wright and Yule, Vice President Davis, and John Filson of the USGS. Executive Director Stepp served as the secretary of the Nominating Committee. He reported that Vice President Davis was recommended for president by the Committee. Director Iwan nominated Davis, and the motion was seconded by Director Naiem. The Board unanimously elected Jim Davis as the incoming President. Secretary Savage was recommended as the Nominating Committee's candidate for Vice President. He was nominated by President Bolt, seconded by Vice President Davis, and was elected unanimously. Director Anderson was recommended as the Nominating Committee's candidate for Secretary. He

was nominated by Vice President Davis, seconded by Director Naiem, and was elected unanimously. President Davis assumed control of the meeting.

**Remarks by the Officers:** There were no additional remarks.

**Action Plan for 2002-2003:** Strong-Motion Programs Board Chairman Shakal was invited to identify any matters that needed to be brought to the attention of the Board. Chairman Shakal noted the difficulty in getting the members of the Programs Board together. He asked if COSMOS could cover travel expenses for Program Board members. Office Administrator Johnson noted that the past practice has been to pay travel costs for the members of the Programs Board and for the Senior Advisory Council, if requested.

Director Bolt raised the question of payment of travel expenses for the members of the COSMOS VDC Advisory Committee. This Committee is established by the NSF project that was recently awarded to UC Santa Barbara (co-PIs Ralph Archuleta and Jamie Steidl) and COSMOS (co-PI Executive Director Stepp). Executive Director Stepp will coordinate COSMOS participation in the project. The planned Advisory Committee consists of Chairman C. B. Crouse and members David Boore, Dan O'Connell, Apostopolos Papageorgiou, Vladimir Graizer, and Farzad Naeim. The members have not yet been formally invited. The NSF grant stipulates that COSMOS would support the Advisory Committee. The charge to the Advisory Committee, as stated in the proposal, is to provide user oversight to the project and to work with Ralph Archuleta and Melinda Squibb. Executive Director Stepp noted that the Advisory Committee would meet twice per year. Director Bolt moved that the travel expenses for the Advisory Committee members be paid by COSMOS. Director Naeim seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Director Bolt pointed out that the NSF grant also stipulates that COSMOS would provide \$30,000 per year for three years, starting August 1, 2002. This funding was key in winning the project. Treasurer Power expressed confidence that there is sufficient funding in the current and projected budget (discussed at the General Membership Meeting held earlier in the day) to cover this project on a sustainable basis. Director Bolt noted that his judgment was that the VDC project was very important to the future of COSMOS. Secretary Savage noted that an agreement between COSMOS and UCSB is needed to define the cooperative relationship between the two organizations with respect to development and operation of the COSMOS VDC. Executive Director Stepp explained that such an agreement is necessary to define the participation of COSMOS, both financially and operationally. The hope was expressed that the funding can be provided to UCSB under a memorandum of agreement without requiring the payment of high overhead to UCSB (the expected overhead is only 5%). Director Iwan noted that it might take some work to get the overhead down so low. The overhead is the responsibility of PI Archuleta, nevertheless. Director Bolt moved that, given an appropriate Memorandum of Agreement between UC Santa Barbara and COSMOS, the Board authorizes the transfer of \$30,000 per year in cash and in-kind services, as identified in the NSF proposal. Director Wright seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Shakal brought forward another proposal from the Programs Board, to hold a workshop to provide a basis for moving toward processing standards for strong-motion records. Some funding is needed to support participation in the workshop. For example, several international participants could contribute: in Japan, the Port and Harbor Research Institute processes a lot of records and are very knowledgeable, and there is a similar effort in Italy. US participants would include those from

the East Coast, who would need travel support. Executive Director Stepp noted additional costs for an organizing committee, holding the workshop (12 to 15 participants at \$1,000 per person for travel), and publishing the results in the format of previous COSMOS reports. The total cost to COSMOS might be \$30,000. Director Naeim wondered if the meeting could be open to others, who would pay their own way, and thus have fewer paid-travel participants. Director Abrahamson observed that the goal is to get some well-focused work done, so the right people need to be involved. Possible funding could come from the PEER Lifelines project, CISN, ANSS, and NSF. The initial concept was for a one-day workshop, but several Directors felt that more time would be needed. Some pre-work before the workshop could make the workshop time more efficient. Director Abrahamson discussed the Next Generation Attenuation (NGA) project that the PEER Lifelines program has just started, and pointed out that NGA project needs standards input early in 2003. Director Bolt moved to authorize the Executive Director to proceed with arrangements for a workshop on standards for strong-motion processing, and to seek co-funding for the workshop. Director Naeim seconded the motion.

The motion received extensive discussion. A detailed scope of work for the workshop needs to be developed, using input from a steering group. Executive Director Stepp observed the sense of the discussion that some time needs to be taken to develop the workshop plan, and that time is very short at best to organize and hold a productive workshop. Director Abrahamson observed that the scope of the PEER Lifelines need is narrower than what COSMOS is interested in. It might work out to conduct the COSMOS workshop in two phases, with PEER being involved in the first phase. Vice President Savage noted that the processing issues might be divided into two types, analog film and digital records, with greatest processing concern directed to those records of the two types that involve the few special cases of long-period effects of directivity and tectonic displacement. Director Bolt expressed reservations about having COSMOS focus too narrowly on the special cases that are of strong interest to PEER Lifelines, rather than considering the entire range of processing issues. Chairman Shakal pointed out that procedures for processing have varied with time, as illustrated by the filtering of Imperial Valley records based on a seismological corner frequency model. Director Bolt asked Director Abrahamson to participate in the workshop planning as his time permits, and Director Abrahamson agreed. Brian Chiou would be a good liaison between the PEER Lifelines project and the COSMOS workshop. The question was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be at the EERI Meeting in February, 2003. A Senior Advisory Council meeting will be held then as well. Office Administrator Johnson observed that having a display table at the meeting is not very useful, unless a paper is presented at the meeting. Director Stepp will explore the possibility of COSMOS having a formal role at the meeting.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 5:00 PM.