**WSDOT/ACEC Structures/Geotechnical Team**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**September 17, 2021 -- 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**MS Teams Meeting**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WSDOT | Mark Gaines, PE | WSDOT – Bridge Design (co-chair) | X |
| Tony Allen, PE | WSDOT – Geotechnical Office | X |
| Jeri Bernstein, PE/SE | Washington State Ferries | X |
| Craig Boone, PE/SE | WSDOT – Bridge Design | X |
| Andrew Fiske, PE | WSDOT – Geotechnical Office | X |
| Bijan Khaleghi, PE/SE | WSDOT - Bridge Design |  |
| Katie Olleman, PE | WSDOT - Bridge Design | X |
| Nick Rodda, PE/SE | WSDOT - Bridge Design |  |
| Scott Sargent, PE | WSDOT - HQ Construction Office |  |
| ACEC | Joan Zhong-Brisbois, PE/SE | CDM Smith | X |
| Lee Andrews, PE/SE | HDR |  |
| Matt Barber, PE | WSP | X |
| Matt Baughman, PE, SE | COWI | X |
| Stan Boyle, PE | Shannon & Wilson | X |
| Brice Exley, PE | Hart Crowser | X |
| Eric Herzstein, PE/SE | Parsons | X |
| Matthew Lengyel, PE/SE | FIGG Bridge Engineers (co-chair) | X |
| Reza Sehhati, PE | Stantec | X |

1. **Review meeting agenda –** All

There were no proposed changes to the agenda.

1. **Membership changes**

Since the last meeting in May, there have been several membership changes. Matt shared with the group that he will be stepping down as co-chair and will be rotating off the committee. He shared how much he had enjoyed participating on this team, but he has been serving on the sub-committee for a long time. He felt like now was the right time for him to hand over the reins to someone else. He then announced that Joan would be taking over as co-chair of this sub-committee.

Several members of the team thanked Matt for his many years of service and leadership on this team.

With Matt’s departure, it provides an opportunity to bring another ACEC member on board. Matt has had interest from a couple of people, and he offered to provide this information to Joan. Joan will start the process of selecting a new member for the team. This will tentatively be discussed at the November meeting.

Mark then announced a couple of changes to WSDOT membership. Chris Feely is rotating off this team and is being replaced by Katie Olleman. While Chris wasn’t on the team for very long, he recently took a new role at the Bridge Office construction support group. In this new capacity, it makes more sense for him to join the AGC/WSDOT Bridge and Structures group. Rotating off this team will free him up to join the AGC/WSDOT team. Another change is that Michael Rosa will be rotating off the team and will be replaced by Craig Boone. This is a great fit for Craig as he already works closely with ACEC members as the consultant liaison.

1. **Review and populate the 2021-2022 work plan** **(20 minutes)** -- All

The team developed a nice list of topics to work on in 21-22. Mark will work on laying these topics out over the next four meetings.

1. **WSDOT COVID-19 Update (20 minutes) –** Mark/all
   1. Shared WSDOT Situation Report #69

Mark went over the highlights from the latest report.

* 1. Governor’s vaccination mandate and impacts on WSDOT and our consultants/contractors

Mark shared that WSDOT is likely to lose somewhere around 5% of its workforce as a result of the vaccine mandate. While both religious and medical exemptions are being granted, very few staff are able to get reasonable accommodations. Mark will provide another update at the November meeting.

* 1. Return to the office

At this time, return to the office is on hold. The speculation is that we won’t start returning until sometime around the first of the year.

* 1. Travel/conferences

WSDOT does have approval to start returning to travel and conferences on a limited basis. In general, if a conference or meeting is being provided virtually, we are expected to attend virtually. However, conference without virtual options may be attended in person.

**Break (10 minutes)**

1. **Western Bridge Engineers’ Seminar (10 minutes)** – All

Mark is on the steering committee for WBES and he asked the team for feedback on their experience. He will share this information with the rest of the steering committee.

* Matt Baughman attended a good chunk, presented on Wednesday. Lack of meeting other people makes it hard. Really weird as a presenter.
* Reza liked the wide variety of topics. Each presentation was about 30 minutes, which seems a little short. Difficult to get in the weeds. Difficult for audience to jump from one session to the next. Extend the days or hours. Attending one session from 10:00 to 10:30 and it goes long, difficult to catch up with the next session.
* Jeri – Seemed like a lot of the sessions started at weird times like 10:15 or 10:30. Didn’t jive with non-WBES meetings. Would be nice to have sessions later in the day when work meetings are over. List of topics was good.
* Lee – Felt like people were distracted. Great presentations, but no back-and-forth at the end of the presentations. Felt unnatural. People probably mulit-tasking.

1. **Update on buried structure standard plan effort (5 minutes)** – Mark

Mark gave an update on the buried structure standard plan effort. Several excellent proposals were submitted to WSDOT. We ultimately ended up selecting WSP to perform this work. They are just getting started on the project.

1. **Introduce the Tsunami Design Memo (10 minutes)** – Mark/All

Mark provided the team with a copy of the tsunami design memo and asked for everyone’s feedback. The intent is that we will consider tsunami load cases for all new structures that are being designed in the tsunami inundation zone. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can provide the inundation zones in coastal areas. It was mentioned that there is variability in inundation depths and flow rates depending on how the analysis is done. It was mentioned that the consultant doing this analysis for Washington State Ferries is coming up with somewhat different results then what DNR provides.

1. **Planning for Bridge Office staff augmentation (10 minutes)** –Mark/All

Mark still has this on his to-do list but hasn’t made much progress yet.

1. **3D design models as contract authority - How would that impact the workflow of bridge projects (15 minutes) –** Joan/All

Because we are short on time, this item will be deferred to a future meeting.

1. **Discuss future meetings (in-person/hybrid/virtual)**

Because we are short on time, this item will be deferred to a future meeting.

1. **Adjourn**

**Future meeting dates:**

**Friday, November 19, 2021**

**Friday, January 21, 2022**

**Friday, March 18, 2022**

**Friday, May 20, 2022**