

WSDOT/ACEC Structures/Geotechnical Team

MEETING NOTES

November 8, 2024 -- 9:00 AM – 10:45 AM

MS Teams Meeting

	Name	Organization	Present	Year Started
WSDOT	Evan Grimm, PE/SE	WSDOT – Bridge Design (co-chair)	x	2023
	Katie Olleman, PE	WSDOT - Bridge Design	x	2021
	Doug Olson, PE	WSDOT – Bridge Design	x	2022
	Richard Brice, PE	WSDOT – Bridge Design	x	2022
	Jeri Bernstein, PE/SE	Washington State Ferries	x	2009
	Julie Heilman, PE	WSDOT – Hydraulic Office	-	2022
	Andrew Fiske, PE	WSDOT – Geotechnical Office	x	2018
ACEC	Joan Zhong-Brisbois, PE/SE	Jacobs (co-chair)	x	2017
	Lee Andrews, PE/SE	HDR	x	2018
	Matt Barber, PE	WSP	x	2019
	Matt Baughman, PE/SE	COWI	x	2020
	Stan Boyle, PE	Shannon & Wilson	x	2018
	Brice Exley, PE	Haley & Aldrich	-	2019
	Greg Hess, PE/SE (new member)	KPFF	x	2024
	Yang Jiang, PE/SE	HNTB	x	2022
	Scott Phelan, PE/SE	Systra-IBT	x	2022
	Reza Sehhati, PE	TY Lin	-	2022

1. Review meeting agenda (5 minutes) – All
Due to change of presenters' availability, agenda item #4 Project Highlight has been postponed to a future meeting.
2. Review minutes from September 13 meeting (5 minutes) – All
Meeting minutes are approved.
3. ACEC membership change (10 minutes) – Joan and Stan

Welcome New Member: Greg Hess, KPFF

Greg is looking forward to working with the team on advancing ACEC-WSDOT collaboration.

Survey on willingness to transition off starting September 2025

Many of the ACEC members have served on this subcommittee for longer tenure than what the subcommittee Charter indicates. To prepare for the upcoming membership transition, ACEC members are asked to indicate

their willingness to continue/transition off. It is also welcome to suggest candidates for consideration as new ACEC members.

ACTION: ACEC members please complete the attached survey form and return to Joan/Stan by December 31, 2024.

General Criteria for New Membership

Significant experience in DBB, DB and PDB project delivery especially on WSDOT projects.

Balanced coverage of firms of various sizes, specialty, and their history of serving in this team.

Timeline for general membership transition

A progressive transition is being planned for up to two to three years.

Evan suggested visit subcommittee Charter in the future meetings for a potential revision on tenure of service.

4. Project Highlight: WSDOT HQ Hydraulic presentation on virtual site visits; (45 minutes) – Julie Heilman, Ryan Barkie, Erin Pletcher
Postponed to a future date (TBD)

Break (10 minutes)

No break due to a shorter meeting

Standing Items

A discussion-leader to present for 5 minutes followed by 10 minute discussion.

5. Standing Item: WSDOT Design/Construction Policy (15 minutes) – Stan Boyle

Stan and team members discussed what would be appropriate degree of engagement of design engineers during construction for DBB and DB delivery, and the unique challenges encountered in different delivery methods (DBB vs DB). The main considerations discussed include quality, budgetary constraints, insurance/liability and effective communication between owner and parties involved during design and construction. Evan considered it important to openly discuss the challenges to identify better practice for the future.

ACTION: Evan to bring this feedback to WSDOT Design/Construction quarterly meetings and propose an agenda item.

6. Standing Item: Technology topic TBD (15 minutes) – Andrew Fiske

Andrew first performed a quick survey on how many team members involved in adopting a LLM/AI tool. He then discussed how his team paired the newly graduated junior staff with experienced senior staff to complement each other and enhance learning. To demonstrate how GAI has started penetrating AE industry, Andrew shared a live illustration of using GoogleNotebookLM to quickly conduct design-related inquiries based on the Design Manuals. It worked reasonably well by providing quick output and references. Scott raised question on how to maintain privacy in using LLM tools.

7. Standing Item: Staff Development topic TBD (15 minutes) – Katie Olleman

Katie shared a real-life example on how she embraced BlueBeam as an effective tool for design and review, how she built up herself, coworkers, and the team through adopting a new tool, innovating as needed by seeking and providing help to upskill people as an individual and as a team. Katie also shared reflections on how to lay a foundation to move through the exposure-initial investment loop; how to pass on/transfer information to team members, and how to support/encourage a growth mindset.

8. Alternative Delivery Discussion – Prep for Jan/Mar Meetings (5 minutes) – Evan and the team went over the Activity List for 2024-2025 and revised to reflect the change.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Future meeting dates:

January 17, 2025

March 14, 2025

May 16, 2025