



MEETING MINUTES
Unsaturated Soils Committee
Wednesday, October 13th, 2021
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)
Room: Virtual Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (McCartney)
 - The meeting started at 1:02 PM ET.
 - Attendees: Majid Ghayoomi, John McCartney, Rifat Bulut, Ning Lu, Farshid Vahedifard, Gerald Miller, George Skladal, Mohammad Sadik, Aritra Banerjee, Asli Acikel, Idil Akin, Raul Velasquez, Beshoy Riad, Jobair Bin Alam, John Siekmeier, Oliver Taylor, Soonkie Nam, Tugce Basar, Ujwalkumar Patil, Bill Likos, Yida Zhang, Jongwan Eun, Homer Parker, George Skladal, Gerald Miller, Asif Ahmad, Anand Puppala, Xiaoyu Song.
2. Review of Minutes from 2021 Spring virtual meeting
 - Bill Likos moved; Oliver Taylor seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Updates on Recent Conferences
 - IFCEE 2021, Dallas, Texas, May 10-14, 2021.
 - i. Hybrid format.
 - ii. No unsaturated soil session due to low submissions.
 - 3rd Pan-American Conference on Unsaturated Soils, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 25-28, 2021. (Online)
 - i. John McCartney, Sandy Houston, Claudia Zapata, Laureano Hoyos, and Gerald Miller delivered state of the art/keynote lectures.
 - ii. Approximately 80 to 100 people were present in each lecture.
4. Updates on Upcoming Conferences
 - Geo-Extreme 2021 Specialty Conference
 - i. Savannah, Georgia, November, 7-10, 2021.
 - ii. Committee member Farshid Vahedifard is the conference co-chair.
 - iii. Still it is planned for in person. Registration is open. 8-10 keynote speakers from different agencies. 6-7 panel sessions on research areas led by funding organizations' program managers like NSF.
 - iv. There are papers on unsaturated soils; no specific session though.
 - Geo-Congress 2022
 - i. Charlotte, NC; March 20-23, 2022
 - ii. Final papers are submitted.
 - iii. Unsaturated soils session is chaired by Asif Ahmed and Alexandra Wayllace.
 - iv. 26 abstracts were submitted and 14-15 full papers were submitted.
 - 2nd International Conf. on Energy Geotechnics, La Jolla, CA (Chaired by John McCartney and Ingrid Tomac)
 - i. Postponed until April 10-13, 2022 due to the pandemic, registration is now open.

- ii. Proceedings is published in Fall 2020 open access through ISSMGE:
<https://www.e3s-conferences.org/articles/e3sconf/abs/2020/65/contents/contents.html>
 - iii. Extended abstracts are being requested for the conference, please submit directly to John McCartney. More info and a template on the website:
 - iv. <https://icegt-2020.eng.ucsd.edu/>
 - ICSMGE 2022, Sydney, Australia, May 1-6, 2022.
 - i. Hybrid format
 - ii. Final papers were submitted.
 - Geo-Congress 2023
 - i. Los Angeles, CA; March 26-29, 2023
 - ii. Abstracts due February 22, but abstract submission is open now:
https://catalyst.omnipress.com/#event-home/asce_geo-congress2023
 - iii. It is encouraged to submit abstracts early so we get a session.
 - iv. Laureano Hoyos is interested to have a session based on current ASTM GTJ special issue mixed with other new submissions.
 - UNSAT 2022 Conference, Milos Island Greece, 2022.
 - i. Rescheduled for 3-5 May 2023.
 - ii. No online details available yet.
 - 8th Asia-Pacific UNSAT 2023
 - i. Will be hosted by RMIT in Melbourne, Australia.
 - ii. Proposed for November-December 2023.
 - 5th European Conference on Unsaturated Soils
 - i. Scheduled for 2024, call for proposals is being sought.
 - 4th Pan-American Conference on Unsaturated Soils
 - i. Scheduled for 2025, call for proposals is being sought.
5. Reports from Liaison Organization Contacts
- TCC updates (McCartney)
 - i. Discussions on special projects.
 - G-I Geoenvironmental (McCartney)
 - i. Manual of practice is finished and going through a blue panel review.
 - G-I Geology and Site Characterization (Puppala)
 - i. N/A
 - G-I Shallow Foundations (Zhang)
 - i. A session in geo-congress 2022.
 - ii. Shallow foundation on expansive soil document.
 - G-I Soil Dynamics Committee (Ghayoomi)
 - i. No update.
 - G-I Soil Properties and Modeling (Muraleetharan/Hoyos)
 - i. N/A
 - G-I Embankments, Dams and Slopes (Vahedifard)
 - i. New liaison
 - ii. An outstanding young member award was developed.

- ISSMGE TC 106 Unsaturated Soils (Zhang/Hoyos)
 - i. David Toll's term is ending. Sandy is being nominated for the chair position by Fernando Marinho, and Laureano and Xiong are supportive.
 - ii. The committee is working to develop new awards.
 - iii. No news on Muralee's nomination.
 - iv. Still searching for the next Blight lecture.
 - ISSMGE TC 308 Energy Geotechnics (Sanchez)
 - i. A symposium on Energy Geotechnics for which the committee is looking for a host.
 - TRB AKG40 Mechanics and Drainage of Saturated and Unsaturated Geomaterials (Siekmeier)
 - i. TRB will be all in person this year.
 - ii. A couple of sessions in the annual meeting for this committee.
 - iii. If anyone wants to do a technical presentation, please email John Siekmeier.
 - iv. NCHRP synthesis proposals on moisture measurement are under review.
 - ASTM D18.04 Hydrologic Properties and Hydraulic Barriers (Ghasemi-Fare)
 - i. A recent update on SWRC standard was made.
6. Awards (McCartney)
- Award nomination procedures review (Peric)
 - "Variation of Resilient Modulus of Subgrade Soils over a Wide Range of Suction States" by Banerjee was nominated for Norman/Croes.
 - TC106 Nominations/Deadlines
 - Please provide a justification to help the awards committee.
 - For non-paper awards please contact John McCartney directly.
7. Progress on Webinar Series (Zhang)
- Recent webinars (2019 – 2020) – need updates from committee
 - Future webinars – need updates from committee members on whether these are still on the schedule.
 - i. Innovative Foundation Design Methods for Structures on Expansive Soils (Chao). 2021 TBD.
 - ii. Proposal submitted to ASCE (pending): Multiphysics in Unsaturated Soils: Computer Simulation Beyond Stress and Strain Analysis (Zhen Liu).
 - iii. Proposal submitted to ASCE (accepted): Strain Localization in Unsaturated Soils Triggered by Multi-physical Processes: Modeling & Practical Implications (Xiaoyu Song).
 - iv. Proposal suggested: Slope Stability and Impacts of Climate Change (Murray Fredlund).
 - v. Other proposals welcome. (ASCE grants a \$500 honorarium per webinar.)
8. Virtual Speaker Series
- No series in 2020-2021
 - No update on GI whether this would be allowed in 2021-2022.

9. Web conference

- Mohammad Sadik Khan will lead a web conference for unsaturated soils committee.
- Expect a call for abstracts in the coming months

10. Progress on Special Journal Issues

- None in progress.
- If interested, please reach out to the editors of a journal with a proposal for a theme related to unsaturated soil mechanics.

11. Update on Special Projects (McCartney)

- No special project in 2020-2021.
- Discussion on ideas for proposals:
 - i. One idea from our last meeting was to create a YouTube channel with short videos on different unsaturated soils topics
 - ii. Embankments, Dams, and Slopes Committee: Student research presentations given during a webinar event.

12. Website Update (McCartney - Leo)

- Looking for a volunteer to lead the website; email John.

13. Other Business

- None.

14. Adjourn 1:50 PM ET.