

**Soil Properties and Modeling (SP&M) Committee  
Geo-Institute, American Society of Civil Engineers  
Memorandum**

**To:** Soil Properties and Modeling (SP&M) Committee Members

**From:** Giuseppe Buscarnera, Vice Chair, and Michelle Barry, Chair

**Date:** Thursday, January 19, 2023

**Re:** Committee Meeting Minutes from Thursday, January 19, 2023 1:00 – 2:00 PM (CT), Winter Teleconference

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order, 1:04 PM CT (Barry)

1. Welcome and Introductions (Barry)

***Members attending:***

*Michelle Barry, Giuseppe Buscarnera, Khalid Alshibli, Landon Barlow, Michael Coryell, Sheng Dai, Don DeGroot, Mike Gomez, Pao-Tsung Huang, Rich Lamb, Melissa Landon, Nicolas Meloy, Alejandro Martinez, Diane Moug, Kanthasamy Muraleetharan, Chukwuebuka Nweke, Nadarajah (Ravi) Ravichandran, Richard Regueiro, Cassandra Rutherford, Marika Santagata,*

***Guests and other GI-staff/liasons attending: Paola Bandini, Krystina Scott***

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 2022 meeting at Geo-Congress
  - 2.1 Minutes approved (Rutherford Motion to Approve, Barlow Second, Approved 1:12 pm)
3. Update from TCC (Bandini)
  - 3.1 TCC Organization
    - The changes in membership were discussed. A rotation mechanism for the chair was established and the current chair is Matt Evans. Brina Montoya, Jared Green and Nasli Jessler were elected as new members.
  - 3.2 New proposal for Energy Geotechnics TC
    - A proposal for a new technical committee in Energy Geotechnics was received last year. The proposal was reviewed by the G-I board of governors, which suggested to engage the committees and members about the possibility to establish this new committee.
  - 3.3 Special projects proposals for 2023
    - Proposals for special projects were reviewed by the TCC (16 projects were received, for a total request \$170k). A number of projects were funded for a total of \$70k. The next call for proposal will be during the Summer. All members of the SP&M committee are encouraged to participate. A best practice guideline is available to guide future proposal submissions and special project implementation.
  - 3.4 Geo-Congress 2024
    - Plans for Geo-congress 2024 (Vancouver) were also discussed, including a reminder that abstract submission is set for this February 3rd, 2023.
    - Cassie Rutherford encouraged discussion about possible strategies to clarify the strategy that will be used in the future to organize a session and coordinate the review process. It was agreed that improvements in this

direction may increase the level of engagement of the committee and session chairs and increase the success of the sessions.

- More info to be gathered on the process for session proposal submission and distributed to the committee.

#### 4. Update from G-I/ASCE (Scott)

##### 4.1 GeoStrata content

- Always looking for content for upcoming publications, please send Krystina any news or content

##### 4.2 Student research series

- Committee members are interested to learn more about this and have students participate.

##### 4.3 Workshops and webinars

- Plans for the next G-I web conference were also discussed. This year an earlier start of the conference planning, i.e., no later than this Summer, will take place. This will be done to facilitate the overall organization and increase participation.
- Paola Bandini shared about a recent event organized which was very successful.

#### 5. G-I and ASCE Awards

##### 5.1 Awards Subcommittee

- Subcommittee consists of Mike Coryell (chair), Mustafa Al Saleh and Alejandro Martinez
- Continue current subcommittee? Volunteers to serve on the subcommittee?
- Please consider submitting nominations for papers. Subcommittee will begin reviewing papers and soliciting input from committee for paper awards in July; see committee guidelines on our committee website

<https://www.geoinstitute.org/committees/technical-committees/soil-properties-and-modeling/subcommittees-and-initiatives>

#### 6. Individual Awards

- The committee led the nomination, in conjunction with the EMI Granular Materials Technical Committee, of Giuseppe Buscarnera for the Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize for his outstanding contributions in research in Civil Engineering. Currently awaiting announcement of recipient.
- The committee has also co-nominated Marcelo Sanchez for the Cross-USA Lecturer for this next cycle. We will keep our fingers crossed!
- Members from the committee successfully nominated Michelle Barry for the 2022 USUCGER Early Career Researcher Award. Thank you!
- A nomination has been brought forth for Mike Gomez for an Arthur Casagrande Professional Development Award for his outstanding contributions in the field of geotechnical engineering.
- Please consider nominating a deserving colleague for ASCE Awards: <https://www.geoinstitute.org/about-us/awards>. Please email nominations directly to me. Following the committee guidelines (link below). Nominations are due around the July-August timeframe.

<https://www.geoinstitute.org/committees/technical-committees/soil-properties-and-modeling/subcommittees-and-initiatives>

## 7. Update from Special Projects Subcommittee (Lin and van Paassen)

7.1 The first year of the special project “Solidifying Bio-mediated Soil Improvement Methods in GeoTechTools” is underway.

- The committee discussed the project objectives, plan, and the current status as well as plans to submit a proposal for the next round of funding.
- A committee can submit more than one proposal, so please let Michelle know if you have ideas for the upcoming year and would like to volunteer to lead or participate in the effort. Proposals are due around the end of August.

### 7.1..1 Ideas for special projects

- DIGGS, GeoTechTools, or Committee-led initiatives are options for funding
- The committee discussed the possibility of combining the efforts in Geotech-Tools with other educational activities, as well as collaborations with DFI or other groups, diversity and inclusion
- The committee revisited some ideas from the previous meeting: virtual field trips, frozen soils, energy geotechnics, and offshore geotechnics

## 8. Cross-committee collaboration and engagement

- Current activities and opportunities for cross-committee collaboration were discussed. The suggestion of New possible liaisons within and outside G-I and/or ISSMGE were encouraged.

## 9. Committee Website (Lin & Barry)

9.1 Please take a look at the website and consider submitting News and Events to help populate the page.

<https://www.geoinstitute.org/committees/technical-committees/soil-properties-and-modeling>

- Please contact Hai Lin (hailin1@lsu.edu) to add news and events to the website

## 10. Paper opportunities

10.1 Special issue on Bio-inspired Geotechnics" in the Acta Geotechnica journal (Martinez)

- The progress on the preparation of a special issue for Acta Geotechnical on Bio-Geotechnics was discussed (initiative co-led by Alejandro Martinez). The deadline for submission was Jan 1st. Currently 14 papers have been submitted. However, the organizers are willing to consider on a case-by-case more flexible deadlines for submissions, which may lead the total number of contributions up to 20.

## 11. Upcoming and/or Recent Committee Activity

11.1 International Symposium of Frontiers in Offshore Geotechnics (ISFOG 2020)

11.2 EMI?

11.3 Geo-Congress 2023 sessions, presentations, papers?

11.4 Others?

- 13) With reference to the finalization of the committee report, all members were encouraged to submit any relevant activity in which they were involved, spanning from conference session organization, webinar presentation, and paper publication, including conferences organized by other ASCE institutes or professional societies related with the field of geotechnical engineering, such as EMI, TRB, ARMA and similar events in related areas.

## 12. Updates from Other Committees

## 13. Adjourn

---

---