



MEETING MINUTES – FALL 2015 CONFERENCE CALL

Unsaturated Soils Committee

Thursday, October 8th, 2015

11:00 am – 12:30 pm (Central Time)

Meeting attendees (9): Laureano Hoyos (chair), John McCartney (vice chair), Bill Likos (secretary), Gerald Miller, Majid Ghayoomi, Xiong Zhang, Leo Riveira, Greg Siemens, Geoff Chao

1. Introductions (Hoyos)
 - Laureano H. called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM EST.
2. Review of Minutes: 2015 Spring Meeting, San Antonio, TX (McCartney)
 - John M. moved to accept, seconded by Greg S.; minutes approved.
3. Updates on Recent/Upcoming Conference Sessions/Activities
 - IFCEE 2015, San Antonio, TX, March 18-21, 2015, San Antonio, Texas:
 - “Unsaturated Soil Mechanics in Geotechnical Design” (Vanapalli/Hoyos) – podium session (5 papers), poster session (5 papers)
 - “Thermally-Active Foundation Systems” (McCartney/Suleiman/Olgun) – podium session (10 papers), poster session (4 papers)
 - Symposium on Energy Geotechnics, Barcelona, Spain, June 2-4, 2015
 - About 100 attendees, keynote lectures, 3 days of technical presentations.
 - XVI European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Edinburgh, Scotland, September 13-17, 2015
 - No update
 - 2nd International Workshop on Geomechanics and Energy, Celle, Germany, October 13-15, 2015
 - No update
 - 6th Asia-Pacific Conference on Unsaturated Soils, Guilin, China, Oct 23-26, 2015
 - Jerry and Xiong will attend the conference and TC106 meeting
 - 15th Pan-American Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 15-18, 2015
 - “Unsaturated Soils” (Marinho/Hoyos) – podium/poster sessions (40+)
 - “Transportation Geotechnics” (Zapata) – podium/poster sessions (30+)
 - “Geo-Engineering for Energy and Sustainability” (Sanchez) – podium/poster sessions (40+)
 - Laureano has been invited to be a panelist, along with representatives from Brazil and Canada
 - 1st International Conference on Geo-Energy and Geo-Environment, Hong-Kong, December 4-5, 2015
 - No update
 - 2016 Geotechnical & Structural Engineering Congress (GeoStructures 2016), First Joint GI/SEI Annual Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, February 14-17, 2016 (Session proposals due April 7, 2015)
 - “Soil-structure Interaction in Unsaturated Soils” (Ghayoomi/Ravichandran) – podium/poster sessions (TBA)

- “Performance of Foundations on Expansive Clays” (Houston/Chao/Zapata) – podium/poster sessions (TBA)
- “Impact of Desiccation Cracking on Geo-Structures” (Sanchez/Miller) – podium/poster sessions (TBA)
- “Energy Geo-Structures” (Abdelaziz/Sanchez/Olgun) – podium/poster sessions (TBA)
- Proposal to be submitted to TCC for GSP, due Nov. 2015 – Roman made suggestions on how to organize the GSP; our committee is apparently the only one pursuing a GPS. The review process will be conducted outside the MIRA system. Other papers that were not part of the conference can be invited
- GeoAmericas 2016, Miami, Florida, April 10-13, 2016
 - Papers are currently in review
- 2016 Geoenvironment & Sustainability Specialty Conference (GeoChicago 2016): Chicago, Illinois, August 14-18, 2016
 - Papers are currently in review
- 1st International Conference on Energy Geotechnics, Kiel, Germany, August 29-31, 2016
 - Abstract deadline is October 31, 2015
- 3rd European Conference on Unsaturated Soils (E-UNSAT 2016), Paris, France, 2016
 - Abstracts are currently under review
- Geotechnical Frontiers 2017, Joint GI-IFAI Conference, Orlando, FL, March 12-15, 2017
 - Call for session proposals is open (send a copy to Bill, John or Laureano)
- UNSAT 2018, August 2018, Hong Kong
 - Del Fredlund will present the Second Blight lecture
- 4. Planning discussion for PanAm-UNSAT 2017: Second Pan-American Conference on Unsaturated Soils, Dallas, TX, TBD, 2017 (hotel bids received)
 - Kick-off teleconference has been held for the organizing committee
 - 5 or 6 hotel bids have been submitted, and are currently under review
 - The dates are still being defined
 - A flyer has been developed for posting at conferences
 - Funds were requested from GI for supporting an organizational meeting in Phoenix
- 5. Reports from Liaison Organization Contacts
 - GI Geoenvironmental (Bate/McCartney)
 - GI Shallow Foundations (Zhang)
 - GI Soil Properties and Modeling (Muraleetharan)
 - GI Geology and Site Characterization (Hoyos)
 - GI Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics (Ghayoomi)
 - ISSMGE Technical Committee on Unsaturated Soils (TC 106) (Miller)
 - TRB AFP60 Engineering Behavior of Unsaturated Soils (Zapata)
 - ASTM D18.04 Hydrologic Properties and Hydraulic Barriers (McCartney)
 - IBC Code Review (Arellano/Chao/Houston)
- 6. Awards (McCartney)
 - No nominations received by the committee in 2015 (our committee had successful nominations in the previous two years)

- The committee has been asked to write a letter of support for a nomination of a paper by Iraj Noorany on lateral expansion of compacted canyon fills, which is being nominated by CalGeo for the Middlebrooks award.
 - Discussion of new nominations
 - Thomas A. Middlebrooks Award (due on November 1st): <http://www.asce.org/Content.aspx?id=12884905634>
 - Norman Medal/J. James R. Croes Medal (due on October 1st): <http://www.asce.org/Content.aspx?id=12884905656>
 - ASCE State-of-the-Art of Civil Engineering Award (due on October 1st): <http://www.asce.org/Content.aspx?id=12884905850>
 - Arthur M. Wellington Prize (due on October 1st): <http://www.asce.org/Content.aspx?id=12884905875>
7. Progress on Webinar Series (Hoyos)
- Xiong has agreed to lead the webinar subcommittee in the future, and is taking over from the efforts from Sandy Houston over the past 8 years.
 - Previous webinars (11)
 - i. Introduction to Unsaturated Soils (Fredlund) – Jan. 2010
 - ii. Laboratory Testing (Likos/Padilla) – Apr. 2010
 - iii. Collapsible Soils (Houston/Miller) – Dec. 2010
 - iv. Foundations on Expansive Soils (Briaud/King) – Apr. 2011
 - v. Constitutive behavior of unsaturated soils (Hoyos/Zhang) – September 2011
 - vi. Estimating Unsaturated Soil Properties for Shear Strength and Volume Change (Vanapalli/Houston, W.) – January 31, 2012.
 - vii. Design and analysis of water balance covers (Benson) – April 13, 2012.
 - viii. Measurement of Soil Suction in the Field for Geotechnical Engineering Applications (Puppala/Fredlund) – March 21, 2013
 - ix. Unsaturated Soil Mechanics in Slope Stability (Lu/Godt) – April 8, 2013.
 - x. Slope Stability - Numerical Modeling and Impacts of Surface Flux Conditions (Rahadjo/Fredlund, M.) – October 2013.
 - xi. Thermal Behavior of Unsaturated Soils (McCartney) – March 10, 2015.
 - Future webinars (3)
 - Climate-Suction Flux Boundary Conditions (D. Fredlund/Wilson)
 - Slope Stability: Impacts of Surface Flux Conditions (Rahardjo/M. Fredlund)
 - Foundations on Expansive Soils (Chao)
 - Other proposed webinar topics
 - Geosynthetics as Capillary Barriers
 - From Lab to Analysis
 - Foundations for Dynamic Loading of Unsaturated Soils
 - Forensic Evaluations for Foundations on Unsaturated Soils
 - Design of Foundations for Unsaturated Stiff Cemented Soils
 - Site Characterization and Foundation Design for Intermediate Soils
 - Unsaturated Soils Aspects of Landfill Design
8. Progress on Special Issues in Journals
- Special issue of Geotechnical and Geological Engineering (Elsevier) on "Thermo-hydro-mechanical Behavior of Soils, Rocks, and Energy Geostructures," Guest Editors: McCartney and Olgun- 15 papers published (March 2015, vol. 33, iss. 2)
 - Special issue of International Journal of Geomechanics (ASCE) on "Experimental and Computational Geomechanics for Unsaturated Soils," Guest Editors: Muraleetharan, Hoyos & Ge – 27 papers submitted, 22 have been accepted or in revision, and 5 have been declined

- Special issue of Indian Geotechnical Journal (Springer) on "Application of Mechanics of Unsaturated Soils in Conventional Geotechnical Practice," Guest Editors: Vanapalli & Hoyos - 13 papers are in review
 - Special issue of Journal of Performance of Constructed Facilities (ASCE) on "Unsaturated Soil Related Geo-Hazards," Guest Editors: Zhang & Bate - call still open
 - Special issue of Journal of Engineering Mechanics (ASCE) on "Mechanics of Unsaturated Porous Media," Guest Editors: Lu & Buscarnera - call still open
9. Other Special Projects in 2015 (Hoyos)
- Reaching out to local ASCE and/or GI chapters through 1-day traveling short courses (support requested in our 2015-16 budget request to the TCC)
 - Special Issue of GEO-STRATA on "Energy Geotechnics" (to be considered by the GEO-STRATA's editorial board at their meeting in Phoenix next year)
10. Website Update (McCartney)
- Committee website housed on new GI website
 - <http://committees.geoinstitute.org/people/unsaturated-soils/>
 - <http://unsaturatedsoils.geoinstitute.org/>
11. Other Business (Hoyos)
- Laureano was invited to attend the annual GI Board of Governors meeting in Phoenix (10/5/2015), where the GI's annual operating plan (AOP) was discussed. He offered the BOG a brief overview of the PanAm-UNSAT 2017 conference.
12. Adjourn
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm Central time.