



MEETING MINUTES

Unsaturated Soils Committee

Monday, March 27th, 2023

10:00 am – 12:00 pm (Pacific Time)

Room: Los Angeles Convention Center, Room 501C

1. Meeting started at 10:10 AM
2. Welcome/Introductions by McCartney
The following members were in attendance:
John McCartney, Austin Olaiz, Kene Laprade, Tommy Bounds, Muralee Muraleetharan, Murray Fredlund, Claudio Zapata, Lauren Johnson, Majid Ghayoomi, Omid Ghasemi-Fare, Marcelo Sanchez, Ali Khosravi, Farshid Vahedifard, Aritra Banerjee, Jobair Alam, Ujwalkumar Payil, Sera Tirkes, Alishan Ahmed, Idil Akin, Xiong Zhang, Soonkie Nam, Xinbao Yu, Ghada Ellithy, Hai Lin, Masoud Nobahar, Matt Evans, Joguan Eun, Mustafa Demir, G.L. Sivakumar Basu, Nitin Tiwan, Gizem Bozkurt, Xiaoyu Song, Sadik Khan, Avipriyo Chakraborty
3. Review of Minutes from 2022 Spring meeting in Charlotte– Appendix (McCartney)
Majid moved; Marcelo second, Passed Unanimously
4. Updates on Recent Conferences
 - 2nd International Conf. on Energy Geotechnics, La Jolla, CA (Chaired by John McCartney and Ingrid Tomac)
 - i. April 10-13, 2022.
 - 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. Hybrid format: Two in-person days and one remote day following.
 - iv. Approximately 60 in-person and 40-remote attendees.
 - ICSMGE 2022, Sydney, Australia, May 1-6, 2022.
 - i. Hybrid format
 - ii. Some committee members attended: Claudia Zapata and Marcelo Sanchez are delivering state-of-the-art presentations.
~700 present and ~800 online
 - Geo-Congress 2023
 - i. Los Angeles, CA; March 26-29, 2023
 - ii. John McCartney is on the organizing committee.
 - iii. Unsaturated Soils Session led by Soonkie Nam and Omid Ghasemi-Fare (Chairing)
 - iv. Simple Methods to Rapidly Characterize and Model Unsaturated Soil Behavior by Zhang and Hoyos
5. Updates on Upcoming Conferences
 - UNSAT 2023 Conference, Milos Island, Greece.
 - i. Scheduled for 2-5 May 2023.
 - ii. John McCartney, Sandra Houston, and Xiong Zhang are giving theme lectures.
 - 8th Asia-Pacific UNSAT 2023

- i. Will be hosted by RMIT in Melbourne, Australia.
 - ii. Proposed for December 4-6, 2024.
 - 5th European Conference on Unsaturated Soils
 - i. Will be in Switzerland.
 - ii. Scheduled for 2024, call for proposals is being sought.
 - 4th Pan-American Conference on Unsaturated Soils
 - i. Will be in Canada, Ottawa
 - ii. Scheduled for 2025, call for proposals is being sought.
 - Geo-Extreme 2025
 - i. To be planned.
 - UNSAT 2026
 - i. Our committee would like to submit a bid when the call is open.
 - ii. Work with Geo-Institute; although ISSMGE open access publication is something that needs to be discussed with GI.
 - iii. A draft proposal presented with Boston as the location.
 - iv. The proposal will be potentially presented in UNSAT 2023 in Greece.
 - 5th international transportation geotechnics, Sydney Australia, Nov 18-2, 2024.
 - 3rd Energy Geotechnics, Symposium, Delft, 3-5 October, 2023.
 - Geo-Americas 2024, Toronto, April 28-May 1, 2024.
 - Geo-Shanghai, 2024, May 26-29.
6. Reports from Liaison Organization Contacts
- TCC updates (McCartney)
TCC Liaison – Matt Evans provided updates.
 - i. DIGGS – and Geotech Tools
 - ii. Task force to form an energy geotechnics committee.
 Natalie Webster presented slides on ASCE Publication – focus on special topics which could be short document.
 - G-I Geoenvironmental (McCartney)
The committee is Working on manual of practice.
 - G-I Geology and Site Characterization (Puppala)
No update.
 - G-I Shallow Foundations (Zhang)
A brochure is being developed for shallow foundations on expansive soils.
 - G-I Soil Dynamics Committee (Ghayoomi)
No update.
 - G-I Soil Properties and Modeling (Muraleetharan/Hoyos)
The short course offered by Zhang and Hoyos was in coordination with this committee – 14 students attended.
 - G-I Embankments, Dams and Slopes (Vahedifard)
Committee of the Year
Several GI special issues were developed and published by the committee.
 - ISSMGE TC 106 Unsaturated Soils (Zhang/Hoyos)
No update.
 - ISSMGE TC 308 Energy Geotechnics (Sanchez)
Task force is formed to explore the idea of a new committee. The work will officially start in October.

- TRB AKG40 Mechanics and Drainage of Saturated and Unsaturated Geomaterials (Siekmeier)
Zapata: The issue of database and making them available to all DOTs is a topic of interest. The committee is preparing a document on ways to enhance implementation.
 - ASTM D18.04 Hydrologic Properties and Hydraulic Barriers (Ghasemi-Fare)
No update.
7. Awards (McCartney)
- 2023 Karl Terzaghi Award by Ning Lu for “seminal contributions to the understanding of the fundamental mechanisms governing the behavior of unsaturated soils and their implications in slope stability and other geotechnical problems.”
 - Idil was nominated with GeoEnvironmental for Casagrande Award.
 - TC106 Nominations/Deadlines
Paper award, Blight Lecture Award, Innovation Award; No communication from TC106 on these yet.
 - Submit paper award nominations to Dunja Peric for consideration by the awards committee.
 - For non-paper awards please contact John McCartney directly.
8. Progress on Webinar Series
- Has not been active recently.
 - Goals for future webinars – perhaps combine with special projects below.
 - Tech Sessions
9. Web conference
- Mohammad Sadik Khan organized a web conference for unsaturated soils committee:
 - Unsaturated Soils in a Changing Climate; December 7 2022
 - Presenters: Austin Downey, Farshid Vahedifard, Majid Ghayoomi, and Sadik Khan
 - This year’s web conference solicitation might come up early.
10. Progress on Special Journal Issues
- None in progress.
11. Update on Special Projects (McCartney)
- Special project was approved for “Social Media Shorts on Unsaturated Soils” - \$3000
 - Meeting in December was organized to discuss ideas.
 - Volunteers were sought for preparing the videos.
 - The committee discussed on how to finalize the topics/presenters and several people volunteered and ideas were shared. The videos need to be prepared and reviewed and finalized by June or July, so the payments be made before project expiration.
12. Website Update (McCartney - Leo)
Austin Olaiz volunteered to take over the website.
13. Other Business
14. Adjourned on 11:41 AM