



GI Soil Improvement Technical Committee Meeting
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm (EST), March 17, 2021, Location: Microsoft Teams
Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 5:00pm by José Clemente**
- II. Introductions**
 - a. Self-introductions – Attendee List provided in Attachment A
 - b. Committee Officers
 - i. *Secretary & Webmaster = Mr. Chris Woods*
 - ii. *Award committee = Dr. Jie Huang*
 - iii. *Technical conference paper chair = Dr. José Clemente*
 - iv. *Liaison with ISSMGE TC211 Committee = Dr. Vernon Schaefer*
 - v. *Past chair = Dr. Jie Han*
 - vi. *Vice chair = Dr. Armin Stuedlein*
 - vii. *Chair = Dr. José Clemente*
- III. Approval of 2020 Committee Meeting Minutes**
 - a. *Motion to Approve by Lyle Simonton, Seconded by Antonio Marinucci. Motion Passed.*
- IV. Student Participation Fund - \$125K matching fund from Dr. Ed Kavazanjian. You can contribute at <https://www.geoinstitute.org/student-participation-fund>. Donations are 100% tax deductible.**
 - a. *Jose provided an update on the fund and match program; please use the link above to donate if you are able.*
- V. ASCE Publications – Donna Dickert**
 - a. *New development, E-book publications. A publication option for shorter books (100 or so papers) or white papers. Main goal is to find a home for content being generated by the various ASCE Technical Committees. Not a collection of papers, but perhaps a document written by a task committee, for example.*
 - b. *Provided a reminder about Manuals of Practice program, 145 published to date. Not a standard, but a reviewed document and can be useful in practice. Preference is that the document is written by a committee.*
 - c. *GSP program has most recently consisted of conference proceedings. Can also prepare technical reports that can be designated as GSPs. Several under works right now.*
 - d. *Technical committees can also generate documents that are not Manuals of Practice or GSPs, like the shallow foundation publication, "So Your House is Built on Expansive Soils".*
- VI. Update from the G-I Board – Dr. James Collin**
 - a. *GI Budget down this year, largely owing to COVID from the past year. However, overall, expenses way down for the past year, and so GI will build the reserves to highest level in about four year, with a \$75,000 surplus for this past year.*
 - b. *Funding of special projects for committees to continue at same pace/rate/amounts as in the past.*
- VII. Update from the G-I Technical Council Committee – Dr. Nick Hudyma**
 - a. *In-person traveling speaker series has gone entirely virtual during the past year. SI Committee has provided a list to the G-I. Refer to Item XVII.*
 - b. *Requests for virtual speakers are way up during the past year. All committees asked to provide speakers.*
 - c. *December 2021 – 6th Annual Web Conference. 2020 Web Conference had over 300 attendees, 37 speakers, Soil Improvement Committee provided 6 of those.*
 - d. *Special Projects – Proposals were due in September. 13 proposals overall (\$131,000), 6 projects funded (\$70,000) at TCC level. Same plan for this year, with goal to have project starts aligning with first of the fiscal year. SI Committee special projects listed in Item XV.*
 - e. *TCC going to be developing a committee handbook.*
 - f. *TCC going to be working on a mechanism for committees to submit annual reports; likely a Google Docs type set up through ASCE Collaborate.*
- VIII. Updates from the G-I – Krystina Scott**
 - a. *ASCE working to update the Collaborate site; annual reports to be submitted there.*
 - b. *Offered thanks for the participation of our committee during the 2020 Web Conference.*
 - c. *Needs proposal for this year's speakers/topics for the December Web Conferences by sometime in June. Template to be provided by Krystina to streamline the process.*



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IX. FHWA Update – Silas Nichols

- a. *Five focus areas – innovation in construction methods, advanced site characterization, geotechnics of scour, geotechnical aspects of pavements, geotechnical assessment and performance management. These topics are where FHWA will be focus research dollars.*
- b. *Biggest item as it relates to ground improvement is rebuilding the pavement testing facility; will be looking for input over the next few years.*
- c. *FHWA paying attention to GeoTechTools development to be able to communicate long-term impacts to end users. Working with AASHTO to find home for ground improvement specifications; research needs statements are in the works.*
- d. *Gaps in seismic guidance, working to develop scopes to address this over next few years.*
- e. *GEC-13 updates to be prepared based on GeoTechTools updates.*
- f. *Going to be working with states to help them better understand data management.*

X. GeoTechTools – Dr. Vernon Schaefer

- a. *Second funding cycle of projects. First cycle projects going well.*
- b. *Embankment dams committee working on strategic plan for addition to GeoTechTools.*
- c. *Rock Mechanics committee also working on content.*
- d. *Sustainability committee working on a stand along module as well.*
- e. *Soil improvement committee working on projects; updates below in Item XV.*
- f. *Fundraising effort performed during the past year; sponsors shown on GeoTechTools site.*
- g. *Login still presently required – can this be waived somehow? Vern to investigate.*

XI. ISSMGE TC211 Committee - Dr. Vernon Schaefer

- a. *No action within the past year owing to the COVID-19 situation. Committee leadership has not even met during this time.*
- b. *Kyle Rollins still nominated as Louis Menard lecturer, no action taken yet.*

XII. DFI Ground Improvement Committee Update - Timothy Siegel

- a. *Committee so far this year focused on the DFI project funding proposals. Three rigid inclusions proposals submitted through the DFI GI committee.*
- b. *Will have committee meeting in Dallas during IFCEE.*
- c. *DFI Annual Conference in Las Vegas in October.*
- d. *Will be supporting development of the ASCE Document on Design of Foundations*
- e. *Chris Woods and Jerry Bishop will be heading up special issue of DFI Journal later this year – focused on slopes and embankments.*
- f. *Working on formulating a committee podcast.*
- g. *Mary Ellen Large provided a report that is provided as Attachment B to these meeting minutes.*

XIII. Committee [Website](#) – Chris Woods and Armin Stuedlein

- a. *Committee sites to be hosted on new site; information pushed out by Dimitrios Zekkos during past week. Expect changes to the website in coming weeks as we get our arms around the new site. Will also likely combine with expanded use of ASCE Collaborate for housing of agendas/meeting minutes/documents/etc.*

XIV. Past Project Update

- a. Roadmap for GeoTechTools – Dr. Thomas Taylor
 - i. *No update at this time.*
- b. State of the Practice in Rigid Inclusions – Dr. Jie Han
 - i. *Presentation on SOP by Jie Han. Jie to share pdf of presentation; any questions to be directed to José.*

XV. On-going Project Update

- a. Incorporation of State-of-the-Art Geosynthetics Case Studies into GeotechTools - Dr. Jie Han (in cooperation with the Geosynthetics Committee)
 - i. *Development of 24 Case Histories.*

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- b. Update and merge vacuum consolidation modules on GeoTechTools – Dr. Jie Huang and Dr. Lisheng Shao
 - i. *Started in November, literature review complete, revisited the two technologies on the website and developed plan for how to combine – also complete. Next step is to develop changes for the website.*

XVI. Ideas for New Projects in 2021-2022

- a. *GI is looking for ideas particularly in the three areas below. Any ideas, please submit to Jose.*
 - i. [GeotechTools](#)
 - ii. *DIGGS*
 - iii. *Committee initiated projects*

XVII. G-I Speaker Program, Web Conference – Dr. José Clemente

- a. *Have developed a list of speakers/topics/abstracts – submitted to GI.*
- b. *Six speakers from this committee participated in the 2020 web conference; TCC meeting mentioned that the soil improvement conference had second highest attendance of the sessions overall with about 85 attendees.*

XVIII. GeoCongress 2021 Update – Dr. José Clemente

- a. *Content being finalized in next few weeks to be included as part of upcoming IFCEE 2021 conference.*

XIX. Award Nominations – Dr. Jie Huang

- a. *Vern Schafer – Hayward Baker Award (won)*
- b. *Ryan Berg – Martin S. Kapp Foundation Award (won)*
- c. *Tom O'Rourke – Schnabel Award (did not win – noted because of rotation between academia, consultants, and contractors)*
- d. *Will start working soon to develop nominations for the coming year.*

XX. Upcoming GI Events

- a. IFCEE 2021, Dallas, TX, May 10-14, 2021
 - i. *Happening both in-person and remotely. Surveyed speakers for attendance preference, going to be making some tweaks to the conference schedule now. Speakers can register to speak remotely only for free; remote participation in other sessions would require registration fee.*
 - ii. *Online content to be available for 90 days post-event.*
- b. GeoExtreme, Savannah, GA, August 15-18, 2021
 - i. *Conference Pushed back to Nov 7-10, 2021, still in-person, in Savannah.*
- c. GeoCongress 2022, Charlotte, NC, March 20-23, 2022
 - i. *Over \$100,000 in sponsorship sales to date.*
 - ii. *Abstract acceptances sent out last week (over 900 submitted), draft papers due June 11.*
 - iii. *The SI Committee submitted 3 Special Session proposals*
 - *Recent Developments in Soft Soil Improvement Methods*
 - *Recent Developments in Applications of Rigid Inclusions – Analysis, Design and Construction*
 - *Recent Developments on Bio-Mediated Soil Improvement Methods (in collaboration with the Soil Properties and Modeling Committee)*
 - iv. *State-of-the-Art (SOA) and State-of-the-Practice lectures – at least 14 planned*
 - *Conference committee is looking for proposals from the various TCs. Each lecture will have a SOA and SOP back-to-back. One block of time each day would be devoted to these topics, 45-minute time slots. Papers will be developed out of each lecture.*

XXI. Upcoming International Events

- a. *The 4th International Conference on Ground Improvement and Ground Control, Cape Town, South Africa, originally scheduled for 29th to 31st March 2021, postponed, new dates TBD.*
- b. Deep Mixing 2021, Online, June 1&3, 8&10, 15&17 – DFI
 - i. *All virtual, Tuesdays and Thursdays during June. 9 keynotes, 12 selected lectures.*
 - ii. *Same platform as DFI Annual Conference.*
- c. *6th International Conference on Grouting & Deep Mixing, New Orleans, February 13-16, 2022 – DFI*



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- d. DFI-PFSF Piling & Ground Improvement Conference, Sydney, Australia, February 23-25, 2022 – DFI
- e. 20th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2022), Sydney, Australia, ~~between February and April 2022~~ – ISSMGE
 - i. *May 1-6, 2022 are the updated conference dates.*
- f. DFI-EFFC International Conference on Deep Foundations and Ground Improvement: Smart Construction for the Future, Berlin, Germany, May 18-20, 2022 – DFI – Possible Panel Discussion proposal in collaboration with the DFI Ground Improvement Committee
 - i. *International conference series, every four years.*
 - ii. *Paper deadlines in June; abstracts due 3/19/21.*
 - iii. *Should have some papers and a panel discussion submitted from this committee.*

XXII. Announcements

- a. *None reported.*

XXIII. Other or New Business

- a. *No new business.*

Attachments: Attachment A – Attendee List
 Attachment B – DFI Report



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Attachment A – Attendee List

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José Clemente
Antonio Marinucci
Jie Han
Donna Dickert
Miriam Smith
Silas Nichols
Nasser Hamdan
Scott Anderson
Nick Hudyma
Prabir Kolay
Ali Maher
Chulmin Jung
Duane Bents
Aaron Gallant
Allen Bowers
Billy Camp
Brian Metcalfe
Jack Franke
Ray Franz
Greg Simmons
Jim Hussin
Hamza Jaffal
Jie Huang
Jim Collin
Juan Baez
Juan Rodriguez
Pourya Kargar Ghomesheh
Kash
Kord Wissman
Kyle Rollins
Rene Laprade
Guoming Lin
Mary Ellen Large
Muhannad Suleiman
Rakshya Shrestha
Deepak Rayamajhi
Vern Schaefer
Krystina Scott
Lisheng Shao
Lyle Simonton
Armin Stuedlein
Marty Taube



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Tim Siegel
Yasser Abdelhamid
Dan Alzamora
David
Brad Keelor
Anh Tuan Tran
Xijin Zhang
Leon van Paassen
Mahi Galagoda
Derrick Dasenbrock
Tanner Blackburn
Sherif Abdelaziz
Erol Guler
Fathey Elsaid
James George



DEEP FOUNDATIONS INSTITUTE TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE – MARCH 2021

DFI President: Michael Wysockey, Ph.D., P.E., Thatcher, mwysockey@thatcherfoundations.com

DFI Executive Director: Theresa Engler, tengler@dfi.org

DFI Director of Technical Activities: Mary Ellen Bruce Large, P.E., D.GE, melarge@dfi.org

DFI INFO: DFI Website at www.dfi.org, over 4000 members in over 55 countries.

DFI STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- Regional Chapters: Europe, Middle East, India (vibrant chapters, online webinars and conferences, **welcoming international colleagues to support regional activities**).
- Partnerships and Collaborations: ADSC, EFFC, PDCA, GeoInstitute, International Society for Micropiles, Mexican Society of Geotechnical Engineers, Piling and Foundation Specialists Federation (Australia), ASCE COPRI, TRB.

2020-2021 DFI TRAVELING LECTURER

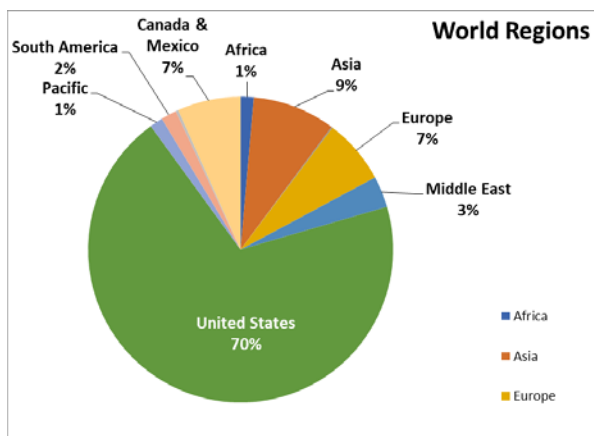
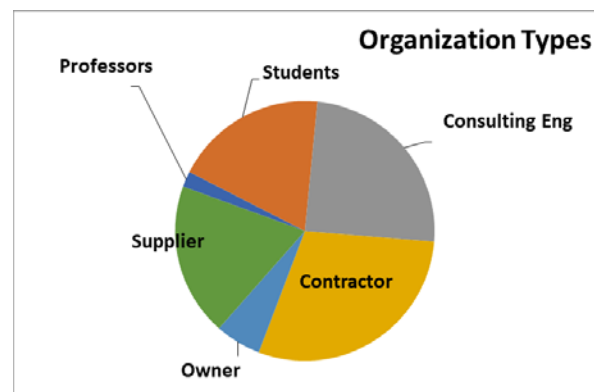
David B. Paul, P.E., managing partner of Paul GeoTek Engineering, Denver, Colorado, retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Topics: seepage control cutoffs, risk and data management for dams and levees. Learn more, request a lecture, or nominate a future lecturer by visiting the Awards tab/Traveling Lecture page at www.dfi.org.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- [2020 Technical Committee video](#) DFI YouTube channel.
- [28 DFI Technical Committees](#) (3 specific to Regional Chapters) with nearly 500 active members, and 2 industry wide working groups
- Complete **listing of DFI committee activities Jan/Feb 2021** [DFI Magazine](#) online.
- DFI Sustainability Committee revved back up – new Chair Gerald Verbeek (Allnamics).
- **ITS Money webinar series (first Wednesday of even numbered months)**, DFI Testing & Evaluation Committee – Increased Testing Saves Money. Free for DFI members, students, and government representatives. Fee for non-members, includes DFI membership.
- Geotechnical Baseline Reports panel discussion series – DFI Subsurface Characterization for Deep Foundations Committee. Third discussion to be held at IFCEE 2021.
- **Mid-Year Committee Week (March 22-March 26) – virtual online meetings of all DFI committees. All are welcome to join. See schedule at www.dfi.org.** Contact Mary Ellen for call-in details.

WORKING GROUPS AND ALLIANCES

- [Industry-Wide Working Platform Working Group](#) - improve design and construction for safe platforms for tracked rigs. [New U.S.-based guidance document on safe working platforms](#) for construction equipment.
- [Geo-Industry-Wide Risk Working Group](#) – share and leverage resources related to all risk aspects.
- NHI Courses: Partnership with National Highway Institute/FHWA to deliver geotechnical courses.
- [U.S. Levee Safety Coalition](#): DFI is member this group which includes ASDSO, ASCE, USSD, NAFSMA and ACEC aimed at promoting quality and safety of levee systems in the U.S.
- EFFC-DFI working groups on tremie concrete, slurry support fluids research, and working platforms.



RESEARCH FUNDING - DFI COMMITTEE PROJECT FUND

- Over \$1 million in committee research project funding since 2012. [Download deliverables](#) from DFI website. Proposals invited annually on December 1.

DFI PUBLICATIONS – Available at www.dfi.org/publications.asp

- [Deep Foundations](#) Magazine: published six times per year, free download.
- *DFI Journal*: submit at www.editorialmanager.com/dfi. Visit new website: www.dfi-journal.org
- <http://www.dfi.org/onemine.asp> free downloads for DFI members foundations/tunneling/mining documents.
- Recent conference proceedings released for DFI-PFSF Australian Conference, DFI-GI International Symposium for Offshore Geotechnics and DFI 45th Annual Conference.

EVENTS

March 11, 2021	2020-2021 Traveling Lecturer Hosted by Geotechnical Graduate Student Society of California	Online Webinar
March 12, 2021	2020-2021 Traveling Lecturer Hosted by Geo-Institute Student Chapter at University of Texas, Austin	Online Webinar
March 18, 2021	2020-2021 Traveling Lecturer Hosted by the ASCE Geo-Institute Pittsburgh Chapter	Online Webinar
March 22-26, 2021	DFI Midyear Technical Committee Week	Online Meetings
April 7, 2021	ITS Money Webinar Series	Online Webinars
April 7, 2021	2020-2021 Traveling Lecturer Hosted by ASCE Central PA Chapter	Online Webinar
April 14-15, 2021	DFI-COPRI 2021 New York City Ports and Marine Engineering Seminar	Online Seminar
May 10-14, 2021	IFCEE: International Foundations Congress and Equipment Exposition	Dallas, Texas
June 1&3, 8&10, 15&17, 2021	Deep Mixing 2021 Workshop Series	Online Conference
June 23-25, 2021	SuperPile 2021	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
August 3-5, 2021	S3: Slopes, Slides and Stabilization	San Francisco, California
October 12-15, 2021	46th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations	Las Vegas, Nevada
November 8-10, 2021	Shotcrete Short Course	Golden, Colorado
November 18-20, 2021	DFI-India 2021: 10th Anniversary Conference on Deep Foundation Technologies for Infrastructure Development in India	Subject to Change Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
February 13-16, 2022	6th International Conference on Grouting & Deep Mixing	New Orleans, Louisiana
February 23-25, 2022	DFI-PFSF Piling & Ground Improvement Conference	Sydney, Australia
May 18-20, 2022	DFI-EFFC International Conference on Deep Foundations and Ground Improvement: <i>Smart Construction for the Future</i>	Berlin, Germany
June 15-17, 2022	SuperPile 2022	St. Louis, Missouri
August, 2022	International Symposium on Frontiers in Offshore Geotechnics	Austin, Texas
October 4-7, 2022	47th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations	National Harbor, MD

DFI STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- **Free Student Memberships**: apply online at www.dfi.org.
- Student Chapters: University of California at Berkeley, University of Missouri, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, City College of New York, Manhattan College, Sapienza University (Rome, Italy), Al Iraquiya University (Baghdad, Iraq)
- [Student](#) and [Young Professor](#) Paper Competition: held annually.
- DFI Groundwork student seminar program to launch Fall 2021.

DFI EDUCATIONAL TRUST – www.dfitrust.org

- **2021 Scholarship applications open April 1, 2021. Deadline May 17, 2021**
- More than \$1.25 million scholarships awarded since inception to >350 students.
- Seventeen scholarship funds awarding scholarships to students from over 25 colleges and universities in the US and Canada.
- Five Women in Deep Foundations grants to be awarded in 2021.

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