

CELSOC/Caltrans Structures Liaison Committee

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 28, 2006
TIME: 10:00 am
LOCATION: Caltrans DES, Sacramento
Farmers Market I, Room 212

MINUTES

I. REVIEW OF February 24, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

Minutes approved.

II. DESIGN CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

CAD Subcommittee

Action: Earl Seaberg to contact Stephen Boll for statewide meeting minutes regarding CAD Subcommittee. (Action from 2-24-06 meeting: Earl to forward these meeting minutes to CELSOC/Caltrans Structures Liaison Committee members).

III COORDINATION/PARTNERING

A. LRFD Training Program Update

Mark Ashley mentioned that the promotion campaign has begun. The flyer has been posted on the Caltrans OSFP web site. Stephen Boll requested it also go on the CELSOC web site. As of today's date, 21 people have signed up for the Sacramento workshop, 34 have signed up for the southern California workshop. Instructors have prepared outlines and a draft of the slides. The instructors are planning to meet this coming Thursday to work on the presentation. They will send out a draft of the presentation to committee members for review and comment.

Earl mentioned the desire to have a more comprehensive web page. The Institute of Transportation Studies through UC Berkeley may be interested in having a 2-day LRFD class. Could be offered throughout the state in 5 to 9 sessions. Budget would be set up for paying for instructors and expenses. A web site is available.

Action: Wei Koo to draft up a notification for Earl who will distribute to OSFP Liaison Engineers who in turn will distribute to consultants.

B. Timely As-Builts

Bob Buckley mentioned that the security and submittal/storage/microfilming of as-built plans is a broader concern and may go to the statewide CELSOC committee. This item can be taken off this Structures Liaison Committee's future meeting agenda. Discussed briefly using .tif files for as-built plans. But as-built plans will stay hard copy for now.

C. Project Development Oversight

No action performed.

Action: From the 2/24/06 meeting, Earl Seaberg's action was to propose to Bob Buckley a group for establishing a team for updating the Caltrans oversight guide.

D. Recorded Minutes on OSFP Web Site

Earl has established a draft procedure/practice for getting this committee's meeting minutes ready for the web. Earl requested any committee comments on the procedure by end of next week.

Action: Walt LaFranchi to edit past meeting minutes dating back to February 2005, forward to CELSOC members of this committee, compile comments and then forward to Earl for posting on the web site. Once the Annual Minutes are developed at the end of the fiscal year, individual meeting minutes can be deleted. Wei to call Stephen Boll and discuss getting meeting minutes from the statewide committee.

E. Use of CT Software

Rob Stott mentioned that they are meeting with their legal department and are securing an expert to get advice on distributing software. The goals are to potentially distribute it. Concerns with errors in the software and potential liability. Caltrans is investigating their options from doing no distribution to possibly distributing through a vendor. Software still needs to have California amendments inserted. In summary, no decision yet as liability issues are discussed. Discussed potential for longer oversight review times during transition to LRFD as a result of various software used by different consultants.

IV. CELSOC REPORT (Wei Koo)

Wei noted SB 1434 regarding Design-Build process and CELSOC is supporting it. There is an amendment to previous year's senate bill. Design sequencing being addressed.

Mark Ashley noted the status of SB573 is unknown regarding local agencies that have been trying to shift their risk to the consultants with indemnification clauses that are uninsurable for the consultants.

The PEGC vs. Morales case is in front of the State Supreme Court. CELSOC supports preserving Proposition 35.

Signatures have been gathered for the Proposition 42 initiative firewall.

Action: N/A

V. DES REPORT/DIVISION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT (Bob Buckley)

Bob mentioned the need for more uniform certified testers, both internal and external.

Race conscious news is due out on Monday, May 1, 2006.

Action: N/A

VI. STRUCTURE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT REPORT (Vong Toan)

\$62M for consultants; much of this amount is not being used. Projected to only spend 71% of allocations. Projects not coming to them from the Districts.

\$72M (340 PYE) for next year has been requested.

Bridge cost index has come down in first quarter. Number of bidders is going up.

Number of bidders has increased (average~4).

\$3.8B funded so far this year (mostly SFOBB).

Action: N/A

VII. SPECIAL FUNDED PROJECTS / STRUCTURE LOCAL ASSISTANCE REPORT (Earl Seaberg)

Quarterly cost index to be posted on web site. Earl warned of the volatility of this quarterly number.

Regarding the infrastructure bond measure/local agency seismic retrofit program, if the money comes through, the question will be on how to get it done. There are 497 local bridges yet to do throughout the state (some are already designed).

Training beginning next week for preventative maintenance for local agency bridges. Not enough funds however to follow through.

Discussed gathering information on those bridges in California that have been or are planned to be cast high on falsework and lowered into place. Caltrans is discussing making this a research project. About 20 have been built in California.

Earl discussed the OSFP 05-06 projects and the difficulty in tracking schedules and providing review resources.

Action: N/A

VIII. STRUCTURES DESIGN REPORT (Kevin Thompson)

Have increased capacity of the Diamond Bar office by 8 or 9 staff.

Working on Contract for Delivery list.

A Task Management meeting is scheduled for the 3rd week in May, off-site. Will discuss roles and responsibilities on the Caltrans in-house side. Looking to provide input at proper stages. May see a change in liaison management as a result of this.

There will be steering committee for risk management of constructability reviews. Goals are to visit sites earlier, review APSs, look at substructures early, review General Plans. The baseline used for comparison purposes will be the APS stage.

Planning to attend the annual AASHTO meeting. Will provide input on design-build in a steering committee. Would like input from consultants on design/build.

Action: N/A

IX. STRUCTURE DESIGN SERVICES AND EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING REPORT (Rob Stott)

For projects greater than \$5M, construction cost estimates need to be certified by District Directors for state advertised projects, after Ready to List and before award. Estimate updates may end up being requested every three months. Cost estimates to be escalated to mid-point of construction.

2006 Standard Plans available on on-line and available for purchase. 2006 Standard Specs are close to being released. Section 90 will not be included but will be an amendment.

Estimating group is meeting weekly and reviewing bids.

Discussed Global Insight, a subscription service for forecasting costs. Will be used on OE contract.

Considering "turnkey" approach for local agency bridge retrofit projects. Caltrans would take over the bridge from local agency during retrofit project then return to the agency when project is completed.

Action: N/A

X. GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES REPORT (Jim Davis)

Jim noted that the new foundation guidelines are on the web.

LRFD implementation of substructure is April 1, 2007 – internal transitioning of substructures. April 1, 2007 target now includes all foundations, not just deep foundations. Retaining walls will be in 2010. Consultant LRFD deadlines have a 6 month lag behind Caltrans deadlines.

The environmental challenges for drilling tasks are escalating. Developing brochures for helping to explain risk management and working with the community.

Working with the drilling industry on how to improve expensive challenges. Next meeting for Jim with the drilling industry is May 11, 2006.

Action: N/A

XI. STRUCTURES CONSTRUCTION REPORT (Dolores Valls)

N/A

Action: N/A

XII. REMAINING 2006 MEETING CALENDAR

June 16, August 25, October 27, December 15

Next meeting will be on June 16, 2006 at DES (Farmers Market I building)

ATTENDEES

Caltrans

Kevin Thompson
Rob Stott
Bob Buckley
Earl Seaberg
Vong Toan
Robert Weber
Jim Davis
Ray Shaw

CELSOC

Mark Ashley
Wei Koo
Walt LaFranchi
Tom Walker