



## Structural Engineers Association of Montana Meeting Minutes

**Date:** March 3, 2006

**Location:** MSU Spring Engineering Festival, Bozeman, MT

- 1.0 Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Matt Schmidt at 5:33 pm. Matt thanked outgoing SEAMT President Carol Pivonka, who was unable to attend, for her leadership and energy in getting SEAMT off the ground. Matt went on to introduce the new SEAMT Officers and Directors.
- 2.0 Role Call:** 29 members and 4 non-members registered on the sign up sheet.
- 3.0 Review/approval of Minutes from 11-03-05 meeting:** The minutes from the November 3, 2005 meeting held at the Joint Engineer's Conference in Helena were approved.
- 4.0 Review of Action Items:** The following list of old action items were carried over from previous meetings and reviewed with the attendees:

➤ **Old Action Item 1**

**Assignment: Greg Benjamin and Jason Hicks**

Recruit local liaisons for Building Code Committee and work with Dan VanLuchene to develop a building codes issues forum on the website.

**Status: completed (see agenda item 6.0 for further discussion).**

➤ **Old Action Item 2**

**Assignment: SEAMT Board and Directors**

Establish a policy for how membership information can be shared and protected and develop the framework for member privileges on the website and other SEAMT information.

**Status: completed (officers/board will control access).**

➤ **Old Action Item 3**

**Assignment: Kevin Feldman**

Contact Tim Lloyd at the State Building Codes Bureau to check into the possibility of SEAMT's involvement with the Building Codes Advisory Council. Kevin will also solicit for volunteers within SEAMT to serve on the council if it appears that we may propose someone for this position.

**Status: ongoing (contacts were made, the positions on the council are appointed by the Governor, will want to track changes to Administrative Rules. Derek Brown, Director, was a past member of the council and Neil Poulsen, Affiliate Member, is currently on the council).**

➤ **Old Action Item 4**

**Assignment: Carol Pivonka**

Contact Alfred Hendrickson and discuss the schedule for sending out notices.

**Status: completed.**

- 5.0 Treasurer's Report:** Janna Moser, Treasurer, was absent. Matt Schmidt reported for her. For year end 2005, SEAMT had expenses of \$2710.27 and income of \$6385.00 for an account balance of \$3674.73. As of 3/1/06, income for 2006 is \$6225.00 with currently budgeted expenses of \$2436.00.

Matt indicated that there would be an opportunity to provide a "delegate gift basket" for the NCSEA conference in Salt Lake City. Matt also requested from the SEAMT membership other ideas for scholarships, sponsorships, etc. for SEAMT funding.

➤ **New Action Item 1**

**Assignment: SEAMT members, Officers/Directors**

Develop and submit ideas for gift baskets and other potential expenditures for SEAMT funds.

- 6.0 SEAMT Website Forum:** Dan VanLuchene discussed the use of the forum. It is intended to be a place where SEAMT members can exchange ideas and share technical information. It requires a simple sign up on the SEAMT web site. Access to view the discussions will be open to anyone. The ability to post on the forum will only be accessible to SEAMT members. The committee will review the content of any questionable postings. Please send any ideas for improving the forum to Dan.

- 7.0 NCSEA Delegate Report:** Lance reported that the national NCSEA was very impressive. The main focus of the meeting was strategic planning for the future of NCSEA. No votes were taken this year. There is a national advocacy/media relations committee being formed to provide outreach to the general public. If any SEAMT members are interested, please contact Lance. Lance also reported on the structural certification and uniform practice acts that are a hot topic nation wide. Next year's NCSEA meeting is in Salt Lake City

**8.0 Committee Reports:**

 **Structural Engineers Emergency Response (SEER) Committee**

**Chairperson:** Open

**Local Community Representatives:** Open

**Committee Description:** Develop the framework and volunteer organization necessary to respond to local, state, or national emergency situations requiring structural engineering evaluations and assessments.

**Report:** Dave Roberts, former chair, was not present and requested his removal as chair. Therefore, no formal report was given. A general discussion of what larger communities are doing for emergency preparedness occurred (Billings, Helena, Missoula, Bozeman). Neil Poulsen, Bozeman Building Department Chief Building Inspector, indicated he

would like to simply have a list of qualified individuals to assist in the inspection of buildings.

➤ **New Action Item 2**

**Assignment: SEAMT Officers/Directors**

Find volunteers to chair and staff this committee. Develop a list of individuals attending the ATC-201 training.

✚ **Building Code Committee**

**Co-Chairpersons:** Greg Benjamin, Jason Hicks

**Committee Description:** Facilitate discussions of building code questions and issues amongst membership and development of consensus opinions to assist local building code enforcement agencies.

**Report:** Greg reported that the committee has worked with Dan VanLuchene to develop a forum on the SEAMT website to post and discuss issues (see agenda item 6.0). Jason led a discussion on the use of the latest “Snow Loads for Montana” developed by Jerry Stephens at MSU. SEAMT members are reminded to submit the \$50 cost to Jerry at MSU for use of this updated and valuable reference. Jerry reminded users to make sure they review the notes that come with the web based and hard copy versions of the reference.

✚ **Government Relations Committee**

**Chairperson:** Kevin Feldman

**Committee Description:** Encourage and support governmental actions (legislation, administrative rules, and professional registration) that provide protection of the general public and enhancement of the structural engineering profession within Montana.

**Report:** Kevin reported there were no significant issues developed by this committee in 2005. It was agreed that a forum discussion on the structural certification-registration would be useful in gauging the membership’s interest in these hot topics.

➤ **New Action Item 3**

**Assignment: Kevin Feldman**

Develop discussion item on forum to gauge membership opinion on structural certification-registration issues.

✚ **Membership Committee**

**Chairperson:** Alfred Hendrickson

**Committee Description:** Promote and maintain membership of SEAMT.

**Report:** Alfred reported that we currently have 76 members (53 professional, 7 corporate, 3 associates, and 13 affiliates). Last year we had 80. Alfred will continue to work on promoting SEAMT and increasing the membership.

✚ **Continuing Education Committee**

**Chairperson:** Dan VanLuchene

**Committee Description:** Provide opportunities for continuing education of SEAMT membership and, when requested, suggestions for technical presentations at statewide conferences.

**Report:** Dan agreed to formally serve as the chair of this committee. There was a discussion on possible topics for the Joint Engineers Conference.

➤ **New Action Item 4**

**Assignment:** **Dan VanLuchene, SEAMT members**

Send out a request for and develop list of potential topics for the Joint Engineers Conference this Fall.

✚ **Information Committee**

**Chairperson:** Carol Pivonka

**Committee Description:** Development of a quarterly newsletter, press releases, advertisements, etc., to support the objectives and efforts of SEAMT.

**Report:** Carol was not in attendance but submitted a report that Matt read. She plans to run 3 newsletters this year (April 15, August 15, and December 15). See the attached copy of Carol's report. Carol would like to have a co-chair for this committee.

➤ **New Action Item 5**

**Assignment:** **SEAMT members**

Volunteer to co-chair this committee. Develop information for the newsletters as requested in Carol's report.

**9.0 2006 NCSEA Convention Delegate:** Matt requested nominations for this year's delegate to the NCSEA convention in Salt Lake City. Lance Redinger, last year's delegate, indicated he was not interested in serving as the delegate this year. There were no volunteers or nominees made during the meeting.

➤ **New Action Item 6**

**Assignment:** **Matt Schmidt**

Develop a list of nominees to serve at the SEAMT delegate to the NCSEA convention.

**10.0 Open Forum and Discussion:** Alfred requested any updates to SEAMT member's email, addresses, etc. be forwarded to him so he can maintain the membership database. He also requested that the SEAMT membership actively recruit other interested engineers to become SEAMT members. It was agreed that we need to request a better time for our SEAMT meeting at the JEC.

➤ **New Action Item 7**

**Assignment:** **Kurt Keith**

Contact JEC organizers and request a more reasonable time for our fall meeting.

**11.0 Meeting Closure:** The meeting was closed at 6:45 pm.