



Structural Engineers Association of Montana Meeting Minutes

Date: March 3, 2005

Location: Spring Engineering Festival, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

- 1.0 Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Dave Roberts at 5:15 pm. Dave announced that our President, Carol Pivonka, was out of the country so he would be running the meeting.
- 2.0 Role Call (by sign up sheet):** 39 persons signed the attendees list and two that were in attendance but missed the sign up were added. 31 were listed as members, 6 indicated they were in the process, and 5 stated they were not members or gave no indication.
- 3.0 Review/approval of Minutes from 11-04-04 meeting:** The minutes from the 11-04-04 meeting were approved.
- 4.0 Review of Action Items:** Dave reviewed the past action items from the 11-04-04 SEAMT meeting. The following items were listed as ongoing and are repeated below for future action and attention.

➤ **Action Item 1**

Assignment: All SEAMT members

Review the proposed committee structure and objectives. Provide input on additional or alternate committees as well as comment on the proposed purpose/objective of each committee. Members interested in chairing or serving on a committee need to let an SEAMT officer know and an assignment will be made. **For the SEER committee, we need local representatives for Helena, Butte, Kalispell, Great Falls, and Bozeman. Please contact Neil Poulsen (406-582-2377) for details.**

Status: ongoing (see Structural Engineers Emergency Response Committee report).

➤ **Action Item 2**

Assignment: All SEAMT members

Provide feedback to Dan Van Luchene on what we should include on our website.

Status: ongoing

➤ **Action Item 3**

Assignment: Kevin Feldman

Obtain information of SE Certification from NCSEA and distribute to membership by posting it on the website.

Status: ongoing (see Government Relations Committee report).

5.0 Treasurer's Report: Janna Moser reported we have \$5262 in our SEAMT account from dues and sponsorships. We have expended \$500 for our non-profit registration fee. We will be paying the NCSEA \$6 for each member.

6.0 Committee Reports:

Structural Engineers Emergency Response (SEER) Committee

Chairperson: Neil Poulsen

Local Community Representatives: Billings – Lance Redinger, Missoula – Dave Roberts

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: The committee needs volunteers to act as local representatives for Bozeman, Helena, Butte, Kalispell, and Great Falls. Lance Redinger has made contact with the State Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) and is arranging a meeting of SEAMT representatives with DES personnel. The SEER committee is working on establishing contacts with all major cities/jurisdictions. A major goal for the committee is to establish a series of emergency related structural evaluation training seminars (ATC-20 based training) for engineers in each jurisdiction. Neil has conducted several of these training seminars and refreshers in Bozeman over the last several years. There may be grant money available to local jurisdictions to fund this type of training.

Building Code Committee - Co-Chairpersons: Greg Benjamin, Jason Hicks

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Committee Description: Facilitate discussions of building code discussions amongst membership and development of consensus opinions for local building enforcement agencies.

Report: No action to date. Greg presented the following ideas for what objectives the committee could work towards achieving:

- 1) Help facilitate answering code questions and interpretations for building departments.
- 2) Provide a voice for structural engineers in Montana to promote or provide input into proposed building code changes, adoptions, and enforcement.
- 3) Help facilitate a forum on discussions and questions within the SEAMT membership.

After presenting these ideas, Greg and Jason asked for the group's input. Steve Meisner suggested that the committee could use the ICC website/forum as a resource in getting code interpretations. It was suggested that there be separate forum areas for general SEAMT discussions and code specific issues. It was also suggested that the forum have a link to a list of building code officials throughout the State. Jason suggested that the committee have a member for each major jurisdiction as a local liaison. Gary Grassell volunteered to serve on the committee as the Billings area jurisdiction.

Action Item 4

Assignment: Greg Benjamin and Jason Hicks

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

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: The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) is meeting in May. Kevin indicated that SEAMT could attend and introduce the organization to them at that time. Kevin brought up the issue of NCSEA certification and discussed how it differs from a State mandated registration for Structural Engineers. Kevin brought up the issue of what structural engineering examinations were currently available in Montana. Kevin requested that anyone interested in serving on the committee, especially with an interest in tracking legislative issues, that they contact him.

➤ **Action Item 5**

Assignment: **all SEAMT members**

Contact Kevin Feldman through the SEAMT forum if you are interested in serving on the Government Relations Committee.

Membership Committee

Chairperson: Alfred Hendrickson

Committee Description: Promote and maintain membership of SEAMT.

Report: Alfred reported that we currently have 47 professional members, 3 associate members, 4 affiliate members, and 7 sponsoring members. The sponsoring members were listed as follows: AISC, Beaudette Consulting Engineers, CTA, HKM, Integrated Engineering Services, Missoula Concrete, and Morrison-Maierle, Inc. Alfred questioned the group at the meeting in regards to what should and should not be done with the membership roster. He has not distributed it to anyone else at this point. His concern was with maintaining the privacy of members and not distributing a membership roster or other information onto the website or other locations that can be accessed by the general public. It was discussed by the group to begin limiting access to the SEAMT forum and upcoming technical discussion bulletin boards to members only. The question of whether the website can have a “members only” section requiring entry with a username and password that is given out with membership was discussed. If possible, it appeared to be the preference of those in attendance that there should be advantages to membership in the SEAMT and the access to and use of information on the website should be limited in the near future. It was suggested that the first newsletter discuss the opportunities and privileges that will be available to members prior to requiring membership and after that time have access limited to the membership.

➤ **Action Item 6**

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.

Continuing Education Committee

Chairperson: open

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

Report: Since this committee currently has no chairman, Dave asked if the group felt it was not needed. The general consensus of the group in attendance was that the function of this group may become more important as SEAMT grows and matures. In the meantime, it was agreed to keep the committee listed and to handle any continuing education questions/issues through polling of the general membership (eg. selection of structural areas of focus for the Joint Engineers Conference and the Spring Engineering Festival).

Information Committee

Chairperson: Ken Penney

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

Report: Ken reported that he plans to issue newsletters on a quarterly basis. The first one is schedule for distribution by the end of March and will serve as an introductory letter to others within and outside of the structural engineering profession. In the newsletters, he plans to distribute information on SEAMT activities and opportunities for members to participate. Ken requested volunteers to help develop and distribute the newsletter.

➤ **Action Item 7**

Assignment: all SEAMT members

Contact Ken Penney through the SEAMT forum if you are interested in serving on the Information Committee.

7.0 NCSEA Delegate Selection: Dave reported that so far the only SEAMT member expressing an interest to serve as the SEAMT delegate to the NCSEA conference was Lance Redinger. Dave asked for nominations or other interested persons for this position. Hearing none and asking if there are any objections to his serving as delegate, Lance was selected by a unanimous vote of silence.

8.0 Fall Joint Engineer Conference Technical Session Discussion: As mentioned in the Continuing Education Committee report, it was decided to develop a questionnaire for the membership to vote on structural engineering areas of focus for next fall's Joint Engineer Conference. Dan Van Luchene had polled the membership for the Spring Engineering Festival technical session focus and it was suggested that he may do the same for the Joint Engineer's Conference. Since Dan was not in attendance to agree to this task, he is listed below only as a starting point to make the assignment and will need to agree to complete this task.

➤ **Action Item 8**

Assignment: Dan Van Luchene (tentative, pending his agreement)

Develop list of potential structural engineering areas of focus for the Joint Engineers Conference (JEC) and coordinate with the JEC Committee on our group's preference(s).

9.0 Open Forum and Discussion: Some of the open forum discussions have been added to the agenda items listed previously. Other items discussed included:

- Building Codes Advisory Council: Neil Poulsen suggested SEAMT look into getting a representative on the board of this state government group. They meet on a quarterly basis. Kevin Feldman volunteered to contract Tim Lloyd with the State Building Codes Bureau to find out more information.

➤ **Action Item 9**

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.

10.0 Meeting Closure: With no further discussion brought forward, Dave suggested closing the meeting at 6:30 pm. Once again, the unanimous vote of silence confirmed that all agreed and the meeting was adjourned.