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Technical Region Directors' Report **November 14, 2007**

All members of the ASCE Board of Direction (BOD) are expected to communicate effectively with the constituents in their respective regions. The 102,806 members of the eight ASCE Institutes comprise the Technical Region. This report is the tenth in a series of brief summaries intended to keep you informed of news from the ASCE Board of Direction and the Technical Region Board of Governors (TRBG). Stan Caldwell and Tom Rachford jointly produce this report and ask that the Institutes promptly distribute it to their members. We would appreciate receiving your thoughts on how ASCE and its Technical Region can be more effective.

November 1, 2007 Technical Region Board of Governors Meeting

The following summary of subjects discussed and actions taken is not all-inclusive. Additional information is available from staff (jdurrant@asce.org).

- Stan Caldwell and Tom Rachford (Technical Region Directors) reviewed highlights of actions taken by the ASCE Executive Committee and BOD since their previous Technical Region Directors' Report. (See below for details.)
- In addition to two Governors from each of the eight Institutes, David Prusak and Steve Marvin of the ASCE Technical Activities Committee (TAC) participated ex-officio. Stan Caldwell made a presentation about the Technical Region at the TAC meeting two days later.
- Andy Herrmann (ASCE Director and Chair of the ASCE Publications Committee) and Bruce Gossett (Managing Director of ASCE Publications) attended the meeting to discuss the excessive amount of time taken to move ASCE journal manuscripts from submission to publication. At present, two thirds of the accepted manuscripts undergo two rounds or more of review and average 23 months between receipt and publication. Manuscripts undergoing one round of review average 16 months between receipt and publication. This problem is being addressed at all levels because authors, editors, reviewers and ASCE all contribute to the problem. One area of improvement will come from the full implementation of the electronic Editorial Manager which will allow unedited manuscripts to be posted as preprints soon after acceptance, thus making the papers available for viewing several months prior to actual publication.
- Kathy Caldwell (ASCE Director and Chair of the ASCE Strategic Planning Committee) and Stefan Jaeger (Managing Director for Strategic Geographic and International Initiatives) described the ASCE Strategic Planning process and the opportunity for the Institutes to participate.
- After a robust discussion led by Kyle Schilling, a consensus was reached on the nature of an Institute-by-Institute hybrid Self-Assessment/Peer-Review Program. Institutes will be reviewed in the order in which they were established, which means that SEI and GI will kick off the



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process next year if final details can be worked out at the January 2008 TRBG meeting. This is a self-motivated effort designed to help each Institute maximize its opportunities and to extract and share "best practices" that can be adopted by all Institutes.

- After another robust discussion, this time led by John Anderson, a consensus was reached on revision of the TRBG Bylaws. The TR Governors were particularly careful to set forth the responsibilities and workings of the Technical Region without encroaching on the prerogatives of the individual Institutes. Assuming that final agreement on wording can be reached at the January 2008 TRBG meeting, the revised Bylaws will then be sent to the ASCE BOD for final approval.
- The importance of the Institutes' interest in ASCE Policy Statements was briefly explained. Institutes can help to ensure that existing ASCE policies are updated appropriately and that new policies are developed in anticipation of issues of importance to the Institutes. Without a Public Policy Statement in-place, neither the Institutes nor the ASCE External Affairs staff is permitted to speak publicly on an issue.

The next meeting of the TRBG is scheduled for Saturday, January 12, 2008 in Herndon, Virginia. The TRBG will have a full agenda. In addition to nominating candidates to replace Stan Caldwell as Technical Region Director in FY09 and possibly nominating candidates for FY09 ASCE President-elect, it is desirable that the Institute Self-Assessment/Peer-Review Program and the revised TRBG Bylaws also be finalized at that meeting.

October 30 and 31, 2007 ASCE Board of Direction Meeting

The ASCE BOD met at the Buena Vista Palace in Orlando, Florida, discussed a wide range of items and made several decisions relevant to the Technical Region. The following summary is not all-inclusive; additional information is available on the ASCE website (www.asce.org).

- The BOD received several informational reports from: the ASCE Executive Director, the ASCE Foundation, the ASCE Treasurer, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, and a consultant on Collaborative Marketing. The BOD also heard a guest presentation from Patrick I. Reed, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Federal Express Freight, on that industry's projected infrastructure needs.
- The Society's financial performance during Fiscal Year 2007 was very positive. Major contributors to the Society's net positive revenue stream were publications and continuing education. Conferences results were also positive. The Institutes operated in the black during Fiscal Year 2007.
- The BOD agreed to reassess the Institute Funding Model contained in the ASCE-Institute Operating Procedures no less frequently than once every five years.



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- The BOD established a reserve goal equal to 35% of the annual budget for both the Society and the Institutes. Institute reserves in excess of 50% of the annual Institute budget that are not expended on Institute programs flow back to ASCE.
- The BOD approved an expenditure of up to \$2.75 million from the FY08 capital budget to upgrade the Society's websites, file servers, and databases. The update will include all Institute websites and online services.
- The BOD adopted a resolution that ASCE will remain a domestic organization with effective and active engagement and leadership in the international engineering community.
- The BOD approved amendments to the EMI and G-I Bylaws that had been requested by the respective Boards of Governors of those Institutes.
- The Board approved an amendment to the Rules of Policy and Procedure to clarify that expenses for domestic travel by Technical Region Directors on Technical Region and Institute business will be covered by the Society.
- The BOD approved an Affiliation Agreement with Engineers without Borders – USA (EWB-USA). The terms of the Agreement set the stage for enhanced collaboration between the two organizations. Institute members are expected to have significant opportunities to bring their technical expertise to bear on EWB-USA projects. Additional information is available about EWB-USA can be found on its website (www.ewb-usa.org).
- The BOD continues to evaluate the performance of Civil Engineering Certification (CEC) and the Civil Engineering Forum for Innovation (CEFI), both of which are of significance to the Institutes. The TRBG anticipates a presentation on CEFI's proposed activities at a future TRBG meeting.
- The BOD approved a report from the Task Committee on Committees. Opportunities for past and current Technical Region Board Members to participate in ASCE Board-level standing committees will become more numerous as the number of ASCE Directors continues to shrink because of ongoing governance restructuring.
- The BOD adopted a Public Policy Statement on "Interstate Transport of Municipal Solid Waste", adopted revised Public Policy Statements PS 144 "Energy Policy", PS 330 "Coastal Data Collection Program", PS 360 "Impacts of Global Climate Change", PS 488 "Greenhouse Gases", PS 515 "Evaluation of Federal Water Resources Projects", and PS 507 "Restoring and Maintaining America's Beaches", as amended.
- The BOD continued to revise and refine its strategic planning documents. The Institutes will be well represented in the Society's strategic planning efforts during FY08: Stan Caldwell was appointed to serve on the newly created Task Committee to Achieve Vision 2025 and, in that capacity, will also serve as a liaison to the ASCE Strategic Planning Committee.

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- The Institutes will also be well represented in the Society's financial affairs. Tom Rachford was appointed to serve on the ASCE Finance Committee.

The next meeting of the BOD is scheduled for January 13 & 14, 2008 in Reston, Virginia.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stan R. Caldwell

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Thomas M. Rachford

REMINDER: Anyone interested in being a candidate for ASCE Technical Region Director or ASCE President-elect next year must contact their Institute President as soon as possible so that all necessary paperwork can be provided to Stan Caldwell by November 30, 2007.