



# STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

## Sustainable Design Committee

### Minutes

Wednesday, September 29, 2010 • 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:  
Forell/Elsesser Engineers  
160 Pine St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111

#### Present:

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#### I. Old Business/Liaison Reports

1A Update on State SDC Committee EK

The state SDC Committee met at the SEAOC convention in September. Each regional committee provided an update on its work, and the committees discussed the possibility of pooling resources.

The San Diego chapter is working on a sustainable design manual for structural engineers. It is currently in draft form. The Southern California chapter is working on a database of products available for sustainable design in the building industry.

Next year's chair of the State SDC Committee is Lisa Podesto (since the SEAOC convention will be held in Central California). Lisa has been working on review of the new California Green Building Code (CGBC).

Erik moderated a sustainable design track at the convention. The presentations included one regarding cement replacement in concrete and one discussing thermal bridging. The thermal bridging presentation pointed out that R-values are different depending on the type of wall used, but these differences are not taken into account



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in Title 24. This could be why building performance does not always meet design expectations in relation to thermal issues.

- 1B ASCE SEI Update LM
- The national document being produced by the committee has not yet been released it is expected to be released before the end of the year.
- Applications were being accepted for a 15 person panel that will review the International Green Building Code. The deadline to apply is Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are still interested check on the IGBC website, the deadline may have been extended.
- A presentation by the carbon working group, which Lindsey is a member of, was accepted for next year's convention.
- 1C Green Building Bike Tour Review
- The second Green Building Bike Tour was successful. Approximately 7-8 people participated. Sites included Project Frog, Walt Disney Museum, California Academy of Sciences and the De Young.

## II. Committee Action Items

- 2A Newsletter Articles AN
- Allen's article recapping the Summer Seminar wood presentation was published in the October SEAONC newsletter.
- An idea for the next newsletter article is to discuss the structural engineer's role in the CGBC which will become mandatory in January 2011. Allen and Matt will pursue this article, and it will be submitted for the December newsletter (Deadline for newsletter submission is November 10<sup>th</sup>).
- 2B Potential Mini Seminar LM
- The Continuing Education Committee is organizing a mini-seminar that will give information on how to maintain LEED accreditation with the new requirements. No date has been set for this seminar. A second mini seminar related to the cost of green building is in the planning stages and will occur next winter. This will be a joint effort with COTE (Committee on the Environment, part of AIA).
- 2C OVE (Advanced Framing) Project EK
- Erik is still researching this topic and is hoping to have information ready to write an article for the February issue of the SEAONC newsletter.
- 2D SEAONC New Member Dinner Meeting LM
- Prior to the dinner meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the committees will set up booths for member outreach. Lindsey, Petra and Philip will be at the booth for the SDC



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committee. Anyone else is welcome to join.

### III. Discussion Topic/Project Updates

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| 3A | Sustainable Design Articles  | AN    |
|    | <p>Allen passed out various articles related to sustainable design. Topics included organically produced building materials, green roofs and BIM/IPD. Let Allen know if you would like copies of these articles.</p>   |       |
| 3B | Release of 2010 California Green Building Code   | AN    |
|    | <p>A copy of the code is available online.</p>   |       |
| 3C | Committee Paper Research Review  | LM/AN |
|    | <p>As discussed in previous meetings, the focus of this year's SDC paper will be to encourage research into third party certification of materials other than wood. The eventual goal is to develop a system to enable specification of environmentally friendly building materials, specifically concrete and steel. The audience for the paper is the building construction industry.</p> <p>The committee is currently in the early stages of research for the paper. The goal is to have a draft ready to present to the SEAONC board by May and to be able to present the paper at next year's SEAOC convention.</p> <p>During last month's meeting, committee members signed up to research certain parts of the paper (wood, concrete or steel in relation to industry or material). See the September minutes for this list. The members of these subgroups should keep each other updated on the research they are doing, and the subgroups should report back to the committee next month. Lindsey has found relevant articles that she will send to the concrete committee.</p> <p>Someone suggested that we have a consistent list of questions to ask industry representatives. Lindsey and Erik will work on putting this list together.</p> <p>Stephen discussed some research he did regarding Home Depot's decision to stock SFI certified wood. He spoke with Katie Fernholz, a representative from Dovetail Partners, a company that has done research related to the paper topic. She explained that in the 1990's, there was a movement to boycott Home Depot based on the type of wood they were selling. Home Depot chose to stock SFI certified wood in response to this movement.</p> <p>Megan reported on some of the articles she found during research. One was related to Energy Star certification, and it discussed how energy efficient technologies could be used in production plants. Another discussed a case study performed by the Department of Energy which found that there is potential for \$14 million in savings at the ten largest energy plants in California.</p> <p>Further areas of research include current AISC certification (Matthew will research this) and contacting PCA (Chris) and ACI (Erik). We should also research iCrete, a company that works project by project to improve efficiency in material production.</p> <p>Anyone else who is interested in helping with the paper should contact Lindsey or</p> |       |



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Allen.

## IV. Upcoming Events

- 4A Green Build: Nov 16<sup>th</sup>-19th  
Green Build is a large convention organized by USGBC. Most of the tracks are related to architectural and mechanical aspects of green building, and very few tracks pertain to structural.
- 4B Green Drinks – Next Tuesday at 111 Minna
- 4C AIASF – COTE meetings and presentations – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Visit <http://aiasf.org> to RSVP and for information on the presentations.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at SGH**

Respectfully submitted by Kate Coffaro, October 7th, 2010.

## END OF MINUTES

The above is considered to be a true and accurate recording of items discussed. Should any discrepancies be noted, please notify the Secretary as soon as possible.