



DEGIFS

Division of Engineers and Geoscientists in the Forest Sector

MINUTES

DEGIFS EXECUTIVE TELECONFERENCE

September 8, 2003, at 7:50 – 9:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Brian Chow	Eric McQuarrie (chair)	Peter Mitchell
Calvin VanBuskirk	Mike Greig (until 9:00)	Kevin Turner (minutes)
Bill Grainger	Doug Dewar	

Executive Member(s) Absent:

Doug Nicol with regrets

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- Brian moved and Kevin seconded that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried.

2. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- Doug re-circulated April 28 and June 2, 2003 meeting minutes last Friday.
- April 28 minutes: Kevin had minor edits. Brian moved to accept April 28 minutes with Kevin's comments. Seconded by Bill Grainger. Motion carried.
- June 2 minutes: Executive to provide comments. Carry forward.

3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The following action items were carried forward from previous meetings:

Kevin Turner and Bryan Brassington - develop a plan to address issues with affiliates and particularly the students - *carry forward*

Kevin Turner: Send re-newel notice to affiliates – could be free of charge for 2003. Check for lost affiliates from previous years (no automatic re-newel was forwarded to non-APEGBC members) – *combine with above item and carry forward*

Heather Blyth – to summarize proposed changes to web site and forward to Executive for review and comment – *Brian to send reminder note. Protocol for web site use sent out by Brian this morning. ACTION: All Executive – review protocol.*

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Kevin Turner draft policy for the selection of task forces and committees and related compensation by AGM – *carry forward*

Eric McQuarrie to write the first update (executive) for next issue (Aspect) – *done – second one also done*

Peter Mitchell to circulate FRPA training module to DEGIFS Executive – *done. See 5.1.*

The following action items were raised during the June 2nd, 2003 meeting:

Kevin Turner – roll up questions/comments from Innovative / Alternative Road Construction techniques and Costs workshop and post – *Kevin will request roll-up from FCSN and forward to Executive.*

Award selection subcommittee (Calvin and Eric) - to finalize recommendation for the Forest Engineering Award of Excellence – *Done – recipient will be announced at APEGBC AGM. ABCPF conducted their own review and came to same conclusion (even though it is not their year for selection).*

Mike Greig - update Executive re: possible partnership with FORREX (seat on Board?, referral agency, funding requirements? etc.) – *See 5.9*

Eric McQuarrie develop policy for DEGIFS logo use - *carry forward*

4. CRITICAL DATES CALENDAR (Kevin Turner)

Nominating Committee collected 10 nominees for this year's election. Candidate election statements must go out by September 11. Ballots close October 8. DEGIFS must appoint a committee to count the ballots. Kevin will make arrangements.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 APEGBC (Peter Mitchell)

- ASCTTBC lobbying hard to strengthen their role as forest resource professionals. Peter met with biologists, agrologists, etc. For now, they seem to accept they will not be specifically mentioned in the FRPA Training
- FRPA Training Module – delay in implementation of FRPA, therefore on-going discussions with MoF regarding this item.

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5.2 JPB (Mike Greig)

Mike provided the majority of the following prior to the meeting in a report, with discussion notes inserted.

Bridges

- Last JPB meeting June 23rd was attended by 2 P.Eng. reviewers (Fournier and Jobke) and 1 RPF reviewer (Steve Smith). Good constructive meeting where we discussed concepts and went through the draft in detail.
- DEGIFS concerns were expressed again, the overall control concern, that only qualified individuals do bridge design. No arguments there. The idea of a Limited Licence for RPFs was brought up.
- Major focus is to ensure that someone has responsibility for a bridge. APEGBC is comfortable with a person responsible for coordination, as it is analogous to architect in civil projects. There is a desire for RPFs to get involved in the coordination, non-engineering aspects and low risk sites. There is a feeling that many crossings are of this nature. Taking a results-based approach, getting away from a prescriptive approach. Focusing on teamwork elements, some aspects of risk, identifying key tasks, the Skills and Knowledge to undertake the tasks, as well as some standards. Teamwork is being promoted, concept of a CRP is responsible to oversee a bridge project, while a QRP is responsible to undertake design elements.
- Brian noted concern about the concept of a co-ordinating registered professional when this should be a P.Eng. He expressed concern that APEGBC hasn't voiced concern over this. Topic was discussed further by Executive. There was concern about getting into a jurisdictional battle with ABCPF over bridge design, even though their new Professional Foresters Act does not specifically say bridge design. Bill suggested that APEGBC will need to get a legal opinion.
- Another draft guideline has been developed based on the last meeting and currently under review. Want to get a draft for external review fall, 2003.
- Next JPB meeting is Sept 22, 2003.

Aspect

- Need to confirm that we have put all JPB members on mailing list.

Mike left meeting at 9:00 after report was presented.

5.3 GUIDELINES (Calvin VanBuskirk)

- External review of TSA Professional Practice Guidelines completed by ABCPF / JPB / MoF. ABCPF and JPB were involved in lengthy conferences about the document. Comments have been reviewed and incorporated into document where appropriate. Council and various committees are currently reviewing.

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5.4 RISK TASKFORCE (Calvin Van Buskirk)

- Glenn Moore circulated Chapter 3 of the Risk Case studies document in August. This chapter explains the risk assessment process and presents terminology. Unsure what the status of the review is.

5.5 AGM (Doug Dewar)

- All speakers are confirmed.
- Presently getting speakers to provide biographies. All else is on target.

5.6 TREASURER'S REPORT

- \$6100 just came in for the membership fees from last year.
- Due to the funds received for the TSFA Task Group, no money is being spent.
- Eric noted that APEGBC has a \$3,800 cost for DEGIFS' technical sessions (speaker's expenses etc.) and that DEGIFS may be asked to cover any over-expenditures.

5.7 ASPECT (Bruce Thomson)

- No report as Bruce not present.
- Eric noted he will do a column about FRPA in the coming Aspect issue.

5.8 WEB PAGE (Heather Blyth)

- No report as Heather not present.

5.9 FORREX- DEGIFS PARTNERSHIP (Mike Greig)

Mike provided the majority of the following prior to the meeting in a report, with discussion notes inserted.

- FORREX is an umbrella group that guides research programs and provides extension services. DEGIFS would likely be the provider of input into forest engineering and geoscience areas. FORREX only just enlisted FERIC. The Partnership is in the business of knowledge brokering, both identifying the knowledge gaps in the natural resources community and helping find the best sources of knowledge to fill those gaps. FORREX business activity areas include:
 - Identifying Information Needs
 - Extension Services



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- Information Management. The Partnership uses the BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management, the website and the newsletter LINK to communicate new information about the management of BC's ecosystems.
- The Partnership has about 70 members from:
 - Natural resource agencies in government and Crown corporations
 - Resource managers in industry and communities
 - The public and special interest groups ; First nations
 - Learning institutions
- FORREX invited DEGIFS to have a Forest Research Extension Partnership. They want to move into the forest engineering side of research and extension. Good opportunity to increase the exposure of DEGIFS members, to open a more communication in the research and extension fields, potential opportunity for members in projects and to influence or suggest the programs being proposed. Must sign the partnership agreement. Require a DEGIFS representative at meetings twice a year, can contribute in-kind for referrals of ideas. Mike Greig is available to be the rep for the 1st year.
- The Executive expressed that for certain issues, political objectives may overrule technical ones, and in such cases we may not be able to dissuade the majority from an issue that does not meet with the best interests of DEGIFS. Eric also noted we do not meet the definition of a member in any case.
- FORREX has a biological rather than a geoscience / engineering slant.
- Brian suggested discussing this further with to Rob Shearer of FORREX.
- Mike suggested we stay with the status quo for now.

5.10 CEBC / MoF LIASION (Eric McQuarrie)

- Committee first met on June 23 but have not met since as CEBC keeps re-scheduling.
- DEGIFS forwarded a copy of the approach taken by the Southern Interior Region (qualifications based) and that was well received.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 AGM - COMMITTEE REPORTS (Eric McQuarrie)

- Eric requested committee heads to submit their annual reports for this year's AGM report. **ACTION: Kevin Turner** – forward copy of last year's AGM report / ppt presentation to all committee heads for example.
- **ACTION: All Committee Heads** – forward Eric committee reports by September 26.

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6.2 FOREST ENGINEERING AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

- recipient selected and will be announced at APEGBC AGM. **ACTION: Doug Dewar** – ensure that this is time slated in for one of the lunch-time presentations for the presentation of the Forest Engineering Award of Excellence.
- ABCPF conducted their own review and came to same conclusion.

6.3 STUDENT MEMBERSHIP FEES (Kevin Turner)

- At last year’s AGM, Members directed Executive to consider lowering fees for student memberships. Kevin had circulated options to carry out this mandate, and recommended lowering fees for all Affiliate Members, not just students. Reasons cited included simplicity in changing the Terms of Reference, plus the issue of the low benefits that Affiliate Members actually receive for their membership status.
- **MOTION:** It was moved by Brian and seconded by Bill to recommend the changing of the fees for Affiliate Members to \$10.00 plus taxes. **MOTION CARRIED** – unanimous.
- **ACTION: Kevin Turner** – prepare ballot to seek approval from Membership on changing the fees for Affiliate Members to \$10.00 plus taxes.

6.4 DEGIFS EXECUTIVE AGM EXPENSES (Eric McQuarrie)

- Issue regarding the payment of the AGM Fees for Executive members brought up for clarification. At last years AGM, there was a clear mandate from Members to pay for the costs of attending the AGM, including travel and accommodations. Executive discussed this and clarified that this only covers the actual DEGIFS AGM, and not the technical training sessions. Some concern expressed that this may reduce the number of Executive attending. Others noted that this was intended to be an “as needed” funding and given our limited revenue each year, it is all that was reasonable.

6.5 FOREST PRACTICES BOARD MEETING (Eric McQuarrie / Peter Mitchell)

- Forest Practices Board (FPB) requested an opportunity to speak at the DEGIFS AGM this year regarding their role and mandate, as well as observations of the quality of professional reports.
- Eric and Peter will meet with them on September 17 in Victoria.
- Brian suggested this would be a good article for Aspect.



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6.6 FOREST ENGINEERING – PRINCE GEORGE INITIATIVE (Eric McQuarrie)

- A group of forest engineers from Prince George are presenting strong statements regarding two issues they feel are significant. They note that “The issue of forest engineering overlaps but goes beyond bridge design.”
 1. Forest engineering can be practised with a minimal training / courses.
 2. Engineering under the new FRPA can be carried out by non-professionals.
- Eric suggested that this is best left for the new Executive.

6.7 JPB NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Eric McQuarrie)

- A committee needs to be struck to recommend to Council two replacements for the JPB, with one P.Eng. and one P.Geo. needed.
- The names need to be submitted to APEGBC by October 8 for review by Council for their October 22 meeting.
- **ACTION: Eric McQuarrie and Brian Chow** – Strike a nominating committee for the JPB Member replacements.

6.8 FORESTER-IN-TRAINING SESSION (Eric McQuarrie)

- Eric presented presented a talk on the role of APEGBC, DEGIFS and professional engineers and geoscientists in the forest sector at an ABCPF training session for FIT's writing their professional practice exams this fall.
- Doug Dewar was asked to present this talk in Prince George.
- Next session is September 12 in both Prince George and Burnaby.
- **ACTION: Eric** – forward the forester-in-training presentation to Heather for posting on the web site.

NEXT MEETING

- October 22rd, 2003 after field tour (7:00 p.m.)

Attachments:

Summary of Action Items

Minutes prepared by Kevin Turner

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS
EXECUTIVE TELE-CONFERENCE MEETING – September 8, 2003

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Kevin Turner and Bryan Brassington - develop a plan to address issues with affiliates and particularly the students

Kevin Turner draft policy for the selection of task forces and committees and related compensation by AGM

Kevin Turner – roll up questions/comments from Innovative / Alternative Road Construction techniques and Costs workshop and post – *Kevin will request roll-up from FCSN and forward to Executive.*

Eric McQuarrie develop policy for DEGIFS logo use

The following action items were raised during the September 8th, 2003 meeting:

All Executive - Review protocol for web site use.

Kevin Turner – forward copy of last year's AGM report / ppt presentation to all committee heads for example.

All Committee Heads – forward Eric committee reports by September __ .

Doug Dewar – ensure that there is time slated in for one of the lunch-time presentations for the presentation of the Forest Engineering Award of Excellence.

Kevin Turner – prepare ballot to seek approval from Membership on changing the fees for Affiliate Members to \$10.00 plus taxes.

Eric McQuarrie and Brian Chow – Strike a nominating committee for the JPB Member replacements.

Eric – forward the forester-in-training presentation to Heather for posting on the web site.