



THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS OF BC
MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 29, 2008 at 8:00 am

Read Jones Christoffersen, 1285 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC

Present:

Romilly Cavanaugh, P.Eng. (Vice-Chair)
Maggie Wojtarowicz, P.Eng.
Michael Blackman, P.Eng.
Cathy Marr, P.Eng.
Michelle Bast (via teleconference)

Conor Reynolds, P.Eng.
Mike Simons, EIT
Linda Bily, P.Eng.
Steve Rogak, P.Eng.

Regrets:

Fred Bjork, P.Eng. (Chair)
Christie Love, EIT
Donna Salahub, P.Eng.

Richard Kwan, P.Eng.
Claudio Arato, P.Eng.
Gillian Moran

Guests:

Loghman Azar, AIBC
Jennifer Black, GIT
Tim Smith, P.Geo., Eng.L. (via teleconference)
Janet Sinclair, Director, Communications & Engagement, APEGBC
Megan Archibald, Communications Officer, APEGBC

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

2.0 APPROVAL OF MAY 29, 2008 AGENDA

It was moved (Michael Blackman), seconded (Conor Reynolds) that the agenda be approved.

3.0 APPROVAL OF APRIL 24, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved (Cathy Marr), seconded (Romilly Cavanaugh) that the minutes be approved.

4.0 COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 24, 2008

4.1 APPROVAL OF SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE 08/09 ACTION PLAN

Motion that Council support the 2008/09 Sustainability Committee Action Plan was passed. The motion passed by a one-vote majority.

4.2 APPROVAL OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Council passed a motion that the Terms of Reference be developed for the proposed Climate Change Task Force. After the TOR are developed, they must be submitted to Governance Committee for approval and then presented to Council before the Task Force may form.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY AS COMMITTEE VS DIVISION

5.1 DISCUSSION RE: ADVANTAGES, DISADVANTAGES

Janet Sinclair and Tim Smith joined the committee discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of moving from a Sustainability Committee to a Sustainability Division.

Advantages:

- Division is a larger component with more voices, and a greater chance of being heard.
- As the response to the Sustainability survey indicated, many people want to get involved in Sustainability – we would be better able to welcome people that are interested in participating
- Divisions have developed bursaries with the additional funds they make, which also allow them to develop fee guidelines. The first guideline DEGIFS developed (Terrain Stability Assessment Guideline) was used within 3 months for investigation and discipline
- Our Workplan illustrates how many tasks the committee undertakes with few people. Our ultimate goal is to get Sustainability fully incorporated into the Association.
- As a Division, DEGIFS is counted on as a source of knowledge and expertise on a regular basis. A Sustainability Division could be relied on similarly.

Disadvantages:

- Divisions are one step removed from APEGBC
- If the Division does not involve its members, members will not be involved
- The Division of Structural Engineers recently dissolved because there were three bodies trying to accomplish the same thing
- Will members respond to a Division structure?
- An administrative body is needed and our energy would be spent there rather than in doing the work.
- With respect to advocacy, changing to a division may not improve the dialogue between APEGBC-Sustainability and government.

The suggestion to move to a Division did not come from Council – it is a personal suggestion from Tim Smith and Claudio Arato. The Governance Committee does have a concern with the existence of both the Sustainability and Environment Committees, especially with the formation of the Division of Environmental Professionals and the Climate Change Task Force on the horizon.

There are so many groups active in sustainability throughout the province that our function may become lost – what differentiates this committee from all the others is that we offer the public protection of interest within the realms of engineering and geoscience. Michael Blackman noted that people who want to become involved with sustainability could be directed to any of the many other opportunities outside the Sustainability Committee if that better suits their purposes.

The committee considered putting out an expression of interest to the membership to see what kind of interest there is in a Sustainability Division.

ACTION: Megan to forward the expression of interest put forward by the Division of Environmental Professionals to Michael Blackman.

5.2 PROCESS AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF A SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION

The budget for a Division would be under \$1000 for the year. This would cover admin costs but not staff salaries. Conor Reynolds noted that the model is not the main consideration – it should be what will be most effective for our goals. The committee hasn't required much funding for initiatives in the past two years.

A Division would be less about special interest and more about changing the Association – not committed to individual goals of different members. We want to avoid dividing the interest, or having people leave the newly formed Division because they don't agree with the structure.

A joint Division with AIBC was suggested to examine public advocacy, but there was a concern that this Division would focus on Green Buildings only.

Janet Sinclair added that the Environment committee didn't support the formation of the DEP, but Council supported the initiative because of the many people who were interested and dedicated to its formation.

The Committee will consider both structures, and will discuss the details, scope, and funding at a future meeting.

6.0 SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

6.1 COMMUNICATIONS

Michael Blackman updated the committee. The subcommittee is looking for future ideas for Sustainability Now articles, and may use some ideas from the Energy subcommittee if their articles don't make it into Innovation. An article about how to join Sustainability subcommittees (written by Fred Bjork) would be beneficial.

The subcommittee will be recycling the sustainable doors and moving towards sustainable windows. Mike Simons sent out a summary document about new publishing methods for Sustainability Now, and would like committee feedback at the next meeting.

6.2 ENERGY

Steve Rogak updated the committee. The Climate Change Task Force's purpose is inform the Association of government policies and regulations regarding climate change and GHG reductions, and to advise the Association when advice is sought by government on climate change and GHG reductions. There are some concerns about overlap with other committees (Environment, DEP). The Task Force needs to be more defined with a mandate.

Electricity pricing and electricity supply articles are underway for Innovation.

6.3 SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Michelle Bast spoke with Blair McCarry about the Sustainability Now article, and will send him the version that Cathy has edited, which would be additionally shortened in length. Vladimir will replace Cathy's position on the subcommittee, and Christy will volunteer if necessary.

Letters requesting detailed submission for the Sustainability Award have been sent to all 5 shortlisted applicants.

6.4 SUSTAINABILITY STREAM

The subcommittee met last week to confirm the day's agenda. The speakers will be taking a vanpool to Whistler.

7.0 SC 08/09 DETAILED WORK PLAN

The committee may be reorganizing subcommittees to match deliverables and goals and will consider this option as needed.

ACTION: Subcommittee chairs will send updates to Megan a week prior to the next meeting and she will update the Working Plan.

8.0 INNOVATION EDITORIAL BOARD

8.1 INNOVATION EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

Susan Nesbit is wondering whether any members of the Sustainability Committee are interested in joining the Editorial Board, including people who were previously on the Sustainability Committee. If anyone is interested, please contact Susan or Megan.

8.2 SUSTAINABILITY PROPOSAL FOR INNOVATION EDITORIAL BOARD

Maggie Wojtarowicz, Linda Bily, and Christy Love submitted a proposal to the Editorial Board to request that the Project Pictorial submissions include information on how sustainability was incorporated into the projects.

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Romilly Cavanaugh updated the Committee on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) study she is completing for APEGBC. She is examining building emissions and business-related travel for staff and committees. Survey on commuting will be given to staff and its results compared with the survey results from 2003. Emissions will be calculated to see whether they have changed at all in the 5-year period.

Romilly wasn't able to get any data from Translink so will have to estimate emissions. Maggie and Linda will try to get Romilly in touch with Translink.

10.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 26, 2008 at Read Jones Christoffersen at 8:00 am.