

2006 Annual Report
Engineering Geology Division of the Geological Society of America

December 2006

Prepared by Paul Santi, 2006 Secretary

The Engineering Geology Division held its annual management board meeting on Sunday, October 22, 2006 at the Philadelphia Downtown Marriott in conjunction with the Society's annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA. Details from each item on the management board meeting agenda comprise the annual report presented below.

1. Call to Order and Introductions. Chair Susan Cannon called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The meeting was attended by: Vince Cronin, Jerry DeGraff, Judy Ehlen, Duane Eversoll, Bill Haneberg, Syed Hasan, Allen Hatheway, John Jens, Robert Larson, Norm Levine, David Rogers, Becky Roland (invited guest representing AEG) Paul Santi, Abdul Shakoor, Charles Welby, and Terry West (also attending as an invited guest representing AEG).

2. Approval of the Agenda. The agenda, as presented by Susan Cannon, was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2005 EGD Management Board Meeting. The minutes, distributed by Susan Cannon, were approved unanimously.

4. Election Results. Susan Cannon announced the election results. The new officers are: Chair – Syed Hasan (University of Missouri – Kansas City), Vice-Chair – Paul Santi (Colorado School of Mines), Secretary/Treasurer – Abdul Shakoor (Kent State University), Member-at-Large – J. David Rogers (University of Missouri – Rolla).

5. Division Chair's Report. Susan Cannon deferred her report, with the exception of items covered at the Division Chair's Meeting. She noted that GSA wants to more strongly support the divisions (only 40% of GSA members join a division). They are debating whether division membership should be required, much like members are now required to join a geographic section. However, they recognize that not everyone naturally fits in a division, and that allied and associated societies may provide the technical specialty support for these members. They report that most people who do not join divisions cite "no time" as the main reason. As a support for the divisions, GSA will run advertisements for a division for free in the GSA Today. Furthermore, they intend to integrate divisions better into sponsoring section meeting sessions. There was some discussion on how we as the EGD might do this: two ideas included tapping into the AEG section chairs as a local presence, and tasking the member-at-large to recruit six EGD representatives (one from each GSA section) to champion sessions at the GSA section meetings.

Cannon also reported that the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is sponsoring the International Year of the Planet from 2006-08 and producing promotional materials targeted at the layman. They have also extended an offer to publish special publications.

6. Division Awards Report. Cannon announced the following Division awards:

E.B. Burwell, Jr. Award: Martin G. Culshaw, for the paper “From Concept Towards Reality: Developing the Attributed 3D Geologic Model of the Shallow Subsurface,” published in the Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrology.

Distinguished Practice Award: Terry West

Meritorious Service Award: Bill Haneberg and Scott Burns

Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lectureship: Jerry D. Higgins – 2006, John E. Moylan – 2007

Roy J. Shlemon Scholarship: – Lauren Siedman, Baylor University

7. Other Officers’ and Committee Chairs’ Reports.

- a. Secretary’s Report / Financial Report. Paul Santi presented the financial report. For the fiscal year (7/1/05-6/30/06), the division account closed with \$13,597.20, which is an increase of \$2,878.84 over the previous year. The Jahns Fund closed at \$42,519, an increase of \$6,333 and the Shlemon Fund closed at \$158,873, an increase of \$18,801. For the first quarter of the 06/07 fiscal year, the division account closed at 13,909.99, the Jahns Fund closed at \$44,770 and the Shlemon Fund closed at \$164,200. Overall, the division is in excellent financial health. The report was approved unanimously.
- b. EGD Website. Rob Larson noted that the awards page has not been redone since 2001, but the rest of the website is up to date. He reminded the board that he needs timely head shot photos of awardees in order to post the award announcements on the website. He requested student help to assist him in staying current with the website. His liaison with GSA is their webmaster, Joan Manly.
- c. Newsletter. Jerry DeGraff reported that all three 2006 issues have been sent at their usual time (January, June, and September). He would like to encourage more items of professional interest to be sent to him for publication (other than meeting announcements).
- d. Publications. Charles Welby presented a written report, which is summarized below. He also announced that he is resigning as chair, although he will continue to help with the publications in review and will mentor his replacement. The meeting attendees lauded his excellent work over the years as committee chair.

- Welby reported on seven potential publications: 1. "Understanding and responding to hazardous substances at mine sites in the Western United States," edited by Jerry DeGraff (all draft papers are in review), 2. "Landslides and engineering geology of Seattle," edited by Rex Baum (most papers have been reviewed, with second drafts due in 2/07), 3. "Surficial processes on military bases," edited by Eric MacDonald (not enough papers received, proposal for publication withdrawn), 4. "Coal fires," edited by Stracher (proposal under consideration by EGD management board, see 10b below), 5. "Salvage geology," edited by Savage (proposal withdrawn), 6. Publication of workshop notes on 3-D mapping for groundwater applications, edited by Russell and Hazen (Welby feels that material is not really appropriate for a Reviews volume), and 7. "Geologic monitoring manual," edited by Robert Young (proposal withdrawn, as submitted to another organization).
- e. Burwell Committee. John Jens reports on the committee membership: himself, Bill Schulz (who will be chair), Briget Doyle, Bob Fakundiny, Judy Ehlen, and Eric Zinn.
 - f. Jahns Lectureship. Susan Cannon relayed Jerry Higgins report: during 2006, he has given 23 presentations to universities and 17 to technical societies (including 2 presentations in Canada).
 - g. Shlemon Awards. Rob Larson reported that the fund supported one scholarship award (Lauren Siedman, Baylor University) and two meeting awards (Ms. Siedman, as well as Mr. Ngai Yuen Wong from MIT). He also encouraged submission of more applications, and noted that the applicants need to be student members of the EGD.
 - h. External Awards Committee. Abdul Shakoor reported that EGD did not have a member on the committee this year.
 - i. 2006 Annual Meeting Program Chair's Report. Syed Hasan reported that he and Paul Santi were EGD representatives this year. The division was sponsor or co-sponsor for 6 technical sessions, 2 topical sessions, 1 Pardee symposium, and 1 short course (which was cancelled, as only 4 people signed up and 10-12 were needed). GSA-wide, professional short courses have not done well recently and it seems that only the educator-related courses are running (such as GIS and groundwater modeling). One problem is that it is complicated and expensive to get computer facilities and internet access at meetings. Vince Cronin notes that he is hoping to offer an applied GIS course at the meeting in Houston in 2008. One suggested idea to help these courses succeed is the possibility of EGD subsidies for EGD members. Norm Levine notes that FEMA is pushing HAZUS training and will pay people to provide instruction, as they want counties to prepare HAZUS maps but they are not enough trained people to do the work.

- j. University Liaison Committee. No report (Scott Burns could not attend meeting).
- k. EGD at Section Meetings. Abdul Shakoor reported on EGD-sponsored sessions at the North-Central Section meeting (“Slope Stability Considerations in the Appalachian Region”) and at the Cordilleran Section meeting (“Challenges of Mapping Geologic Hazards in the Pacific Northwest and Cordillera” and “Engineering Geologic Challenges in the Pacific Northwest and Cordillera”).
- l. Applied Geology Committee. Jerry DeGraff reported that GSA has established a “Academic and Applied Geoscience Relations Committee,” whose goal is to make GSA a better home for applied geoscientists. The GSA council strongly supports this effort. The committee is composed of six councilors appointed by GSA, on staggered terms (DeGraff is one).

8. Division Appointments. Syed Hasan reported on the committee memberships as follows:

Jahns Lectureship (Syed Hasan-GSA, Paul Santi-GSA, Terry West-AEG, Dorian Kueper-AEG, West will chair committee this year)

Burwell Award (see 7e above)

Shlemon Awards (no changes: Betsy Mathieson, Scott Burns, Rob Larson)

2007 JTPC (Paul Santi, Abdul Shakoor)

Nominations (Sue Cannon-chair, Bob Fakundiny, Bill Haneberg, as committee is comprised of the three past EGD chairs)

9. Old Business

- a. Raising Dues. Cannon reported that the GSA Council approved our dues increase in March, now set at \$10 for professional members and \$5 for students. This is comparable to other divisions.
- b. Strategic Plan. Bob Fakundiny reported that he will e-mail the document to us. It includes a number of goals, but they have not been prioritized. It also includes the possibility of developing an endowment. He requests that Syed Hasan form an ad-hoc committee to discuss comments on the plan (Duane Eversoll volunteers to serve on this committee).
- c. Shlemon Conference on Mass Wasting in Disturbed Watersheds. Bill Haneberg presented a detailed written report, which is summarized below. EGD co-sponsored the meeting. There were 54 attendees for two days of technical sessions and a one day field trip. The meeting cleared approximately \$5000, and AEG is looking at either returning our donation or using these funds for student

support, travel, or scholarships. Terry West noted that the intent is to hold one Shlemon conference each year, but the next is scheduled for 2008 (on Natural Hazardous Materials, chaired by Dave Bieber)

- d. Consideration of a Permanent Division Secretary. Susan Cannon reported that Barb Echohawk from GSA requested that we consider this issue. The Board does not think it is necessary for our division, as officers tend to “move up the ladder” and there is enough experience and institutional memory available with our current system.

10. New Business

- a. Replacement of Chuck Welby as Publications Chair. Judy Ehlen expressed interest in the job, but postage/mailing is an issue, as GSA still requires disks and paper copies of manuscripts. The discussion produced the following plan of action: Susan Cannon will write a blast e-mail asking for volunteers (reviewed by Vince Cronin and Abdul Shakoor before it is sent), the new chair will be selected from the flood of volunteers, and then the new chair will set up a committee.
- b. Discussion of Proposal for REG Volume on Coal Fires. The proposed volume is very long, with 31 chapters, and unless there are page limits, it may be expensive to publish. However, it will appeal to broad interests, and shows that we are more than dams and nuclear power plants. Abdul Shakoor noted that there was some duplication within the list of chapters, and that perhaps some could be combined within larger themes. The board voted unanimously to accept the proposal, on conditions that the size is reduced, duplicate chapters are combined, and the book is reorganized under several unifying themes.
- c. Promotion of Shlemon Scholarship program to students/faculty. Rob Larson noted that the scholarship is advertised on both the EGD and Gsa websites. Support is available for research at both the MS and PhD levels, with two scholarships at each level each year, one for \$1,000 and one for \$500. Vince Cronin will write an article for the EGD newsletter and possibly GSA Today describing the scholarship and he will also get student write-ups. Becky Roland will advertise it in the AEG News. Becky will also send an e-mail blast to AEG student members (Rob Larson will write the text). As the deadline is in Feb/Mar, students need to hear about it early enough that they can join GSA and EGD in advance. Bob Fakundiny noted that GSA has a committee coordinating all scholarships of affiliated societies (a sort of clearinghouse). We should track what they are doing. Becky is on this committee (the “Intersociety Student Committee”).

Related to meeting awards, these also need to be more widely advertised. Awards are available for both annual and sectional meetings, and cover registration, luncheon, and a field trip or short course. Deadlines are one month before the meeting and before abstract deadline.

- d. Burwell Award Suggestions. John Jens noted that they had trouble finding guidance for the award: the criteria are broad and the web page does not really give any detail. There are no specific requirements for a nominating letter nor a description of how a publication meets the award criteria. Requiring nominations by Feb. 1 worked, but having a final decision by Apr. 1 was difficult to keep. He put in a one week deadline for management board review, which worked well. Another question he raised is that it is not clear who writes the citation (board response is that usually the nominator prepares it). Next, he asked about the policy for re-reviewing papers held over from a past nomination. The response was to ask the nominators if they would like to re-nominate the paper the following year. Bob Fakundiny will send more detailed information to John Jens, who will review it and then send it to the management board for review and approval. The board will then forward it to Rob Larson for the website.
- e. Jahns Lectureship Suggestions. Susan Cannon relayed comments from Jerry Higgins. He noted that the interim billing option for travel expenses was not clear (the speaker should submit the bill to GSA, who will then split it with AEG). Revised instructions will go to Rob Larson for the website. Jerry also asked if there were any resources to arrange travel, which was a substantial time commitment for him. The board suggested that future speakers work with a travel agent, as reasonable fees would be reimbursable from the Jahns fund. Susan noted that she signed an MOU with AEG clarifying the speaker funding process.

Abdul Shakoor suggested that to add prestige and exposure, the lecture should appear in the E&EG during the award period, probably in the November issue. This suggestion was unanimously approved by the board.

- f. Division Elections. Barb Echohawk requested that we consider a March deadline for nominations and that we consider having two candidates for each position. Neither item was approved by the board, as the consensus was that the current process provide ample time and a reasonable selection process.
- g. Plans and Ideas for Sessions at the 2007 Meeting. As EGD started in 1947, and is the oldest GSA division, this meeting will be an ideal time to coordinate some sort of 60th anniversary event. Syed Hasan is hoping to get a list of all past division chairs from Barb, and prepare a short booklet summarizing the history of the division. Vince Cronin is hoping to organize a session (or more) in Jim Slosson's honor, perhaps related to neotectonics, coastal erosion, ethics, landslides, or case studies. Much discussion followed as to the ideal time and venue for such sessions, noting that AEG's 50th anniversary meeting is in Southern California (and closer to Jim's main working area and colleagues) next year.

- h. **Booth and Poster Exhibit Possibilities at Annual Meeting.** Vince Cronin has been hanging an EGD poster every year. We can have a booth as well, but it must be manned. If someone is interested, it could be beneficial to the division.

11. Necrology. Will be read by Susan Cannon at the EGD Luncheon on Monday, October 23.

12. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Santi, Secretary