

## CRC-CI Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2003  
3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. EST  
Telephone Conference Call

**Attendees:** Gena Abraham, Bud Griffis, John Messner, Keith Molenaar, and Michael Toole

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

The purpose of this meeting was to investigate ways that the Construction Research Council (CRC) can assist the Construction Institute (CI) in achieving its mission. The meeting was a focused discussion of mechanisms for the CRC to add value to the Institute. In general, it appears that the CRC can help the CI by providing material for newsletters, sponsoring sessions at regional CI-sponsored conferences, providing specialty conferences, offering continuing education courses to CI members, and possibly distributing specialty publications.

### **Committee Mission**

The following is a draft mission statement for the CRC-CI Liaison Committee. It is open for review and comment until the next committee meeting.

*The CRC-CI Liaison Subcommittee will seek to promote collaboration between the Construction Research Council and the Construction Institute to align goals and leverage participation of industry and academic members in the Institute. Additionally, the Subcommittee will seek opportunities to generate revenue for both the Construction Institute and the Construction Research Council.*

### **CRC-CI Opportunities**

#### *Participation in the CI Newsletter*

The CI Newsletter has a bi-monthly distribution of approximately 14,500. It is currently in an eight-page format, but the CI is seeking to add more pages and eventually move towards a magazine format. The CI is looking towards the CRC to supply materials for the newsletter. The committee discussed the following additions to the newsletter.

- *Research initiative announcements*  
John Messner and Gena Abraham have volunteered to collect research initiative announcements from the CRC membership and produce articles for the newsletter. Topics of interest for the CI readership might be new research project awards or calls for participation in data collection (surveys, case studies, etc.).
- *Education program announcements*  
Keith Molenaar has volunteered to collect education program announcements from the CRC membership and produce the articles for the newsletter. Topics of interest may include new faculty positions/announcements, student competition awards and new initiatives (e.g., courses, programs, etc.).

- *Teaser for the Journal*  
The committee agreed that Ed Jaselskis would be the appropriate author of the articles that describe upcoming topics in the journal.

The articles can be sent directly to Debbie Kates at CI ([dkates@asce.org](mailto:dkates@asce.org)). The deadline for the articles is two weeks before the newsletter distribution. The dates for 2003 are:

- Mid June for the July-August issue
- Mid August for the September-October issue
- Mid October for the November-December Issue

#### *Participation in CI Conferences*

The CI is becoming more active in sponsoring conferences. The CRC-CI committee can support this activity by having faculty from universities provide presentations on projects that they are involved with in this region or being responsible for a track on research and education. The following two conferences were discussed.

- *2004 Atlantic Coast Construction Conference*  
The CI board is planning a conference for the week of April 29-30, 2004 in D.C. on Atlantic Coast Construction. Regional projects (within a 500 mile radius) such as the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, Dulles Airport people mover, and mixing bowl will be presented.

Mike Toole has offered to coordinate the efforts of the CRC-CI committee with the CI conference planning committee. Bud Griffiths, Gena Abraham and John Messner have all agreed to assist Mike.

- *2004 Specialty academic conference*  
The CRC-CI committee is interested in supporting any academic specialty conference efforts for 2004. These could be handled through CI instead of ASCE. The sense of the committee is that there should be a smaller conference in 2004 to promote collaboration within the CRC membership. The CRC Executive council is currently soliciting proposals for the 2005 Construction Research Congress. After the proposal is selected for the Congress, the CRC-CI Liaison Committee will work with the other proposers to see if they are interested in sponsoring a specialty conference in 2004.

Keith Molenaar will bring the unsuccessful Congress proposals to the next meeting for consideration as a specialty conference.

## *Profit Oriented Opportunities*

- *Continuing Education*

If the Institute would like to offer continuing education courses, the CRC membership is a natural place for instructors. This could be profitable for both the CI and the instructor.

Keith Molenaar will contact Rick Lawhun to discuss the CI's interest in delivering continuing education. If there is interest, Keith will survey the CRC membership for continuing education proposals and bring them back to Rick for further discussion.

- *Specialty Publications*

There is an opportunity of selling ASCE specialty publications to bring additional revenues into the CI and promote academic research amongst the industry members. Other institutes such as the GeoInstitute already sell specialty publications as stand alone documents. This publication would contain a collection of refereed papers that have an industry appeal. It should be noted that the present agreement with ASCE is that the CI does not benefit from subscription fees from the Journal of Construction Engineering and Management (JCEM).

The issue was discussed in the meeting and a number of questions were raised:

- What topics would be interesting to the CI membership?
  - Bud suggested a FIAAPP topic would be interesting and he could likely get authors for the publication.
  - Mike mentioned that safety might be an interesting topic.
  - Gena and John discussed sustainability as an interesting topic.
  - Keith mentioned alternative delivery systems, constructability and engineering organizations as possible topics.
- How will this relate to the JCEM?
  - The committee discussed overlap with the Journal. The sense of the committee was that this would not take away publications from the Journal. The sense was the author's best work would go the Journal, but the specialty publications would offer another venue for publishing.
- How would promotion and tenure boards view this publication?
  - Bud mentioned that this would be viewed at the same level as a peer-reviewed conference proceeding on most academic CVs and cautioned that non-tenured faculty members might not want to spend too much time on the initiative.

Keith will continue a dialogue with Rick Lawhun at CI and Ed Jaselskis, editor of the Journal, to discuss the feasibility of a specialty publication. Keith will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

### **Additional Opportunities**

Gena Abraham requested that the committee explore the Construction Institute's mission to better understand the opportunities for collaboration. The Institute's mission statement is listed below. It will be discussed further in the next meeting.

*The Construction Institute (CI) was created through a merger of the Construction Division, Materials Division, and Construction Standards Council of ASCE on October 1, 2000. CI is the first national organization designed to meet the needs of all individuals working within the construction industry.*

*The mission of CI is to:*

- *Serve members of CI and participants in the construction process.*
- *Improve the state of construction practice through both the development of knowledge and technology transfer.*
- *Advance the knowledge and practice of construction.*

### **Action Items**

- **All:** Review and comment on CRC-CI Liaison Subcommittee mission statement.
- **All:** Review CI mission and think about additional opportunities for collaboration.
- **Mike:** Contact Rick Lawhun to offer assistance in the Atlantic Coast Construction conference. Coordinate with Bud, Gena and John on conference activities.
- **Gena and John:** Write solicitation for research-oriented newsletter articles and forward to Keith.
- **Keith:** Combine research newsletter solicitation with an education solicitation and forward the request from the CRC-CI committee to the CRC listserv.
- **Keith:** Contact Ed Jaselskis for Journal-related newsletter announcement.
- **Keith:** Bring unsuccessful Congress proposals to the next meeting for consideration as a 2004 academic specialty conference.
- **Keith:** Continue dialogue with Rick Lawhun about continuing education activities within CI. If needed, survey the CRC membership for possible continuing education classes. Report back to committee at next meeting.
- **Keith:** Continue dialogue with Rick Lawhun and Ed Jaselskis about specialty publications. Report back to committee at next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

Target middle of June for the next meeting. Keith will setup the conference call.