



Minutes

Northern California Chapter of EERI Board of Directors Meeting

June 19, 2006



Attending

President	Ivan Wong
Past President	Keith Knudsen
Director	Ed Matsuda
Director	Alan Kropp
Secretary/Treasurer	Kate Stillwell (by phone)
Director	Joan McQuarrie
Director	John Osteraas
Guest	Laurie Johnson (by phone)

Absent

Director	Stu Nishenko
Director	Chris Rojahn

1. Call to Order

2. Review of the Agenda

3. Consent Item - Minutes from the May 2006 Meeting

Motion by Keith to accept with misspellings corrected; motion approved

Action: Kate to finalize and post to website.

4. Short Reports:

4a. Upcoming Events:

September Chapter Meeting – Lawrence Kornfield agreed to speak. EERI prefers September 7th or 12th over the 19th.

Action: Ed to check with Bechtel on the availability of the auditorium.

4b. Budget News: Current budget includes most recent invoice from Marla. Board is not interested in seeking SPI funding for School Safety CD because it would be mixing pots from previous years.

Action: Kate to look for special projects for funding from National.

4c. Tutorials on Website: There is now a link on our website to the tutorials, which are available on the 06 conference website.

4d. USGS Open House – This event was successful. Wong, Kropp, and Fabia Terra staffed the booth. There were a lot of questions from homeowners on home retrofits.

4e. EERI Post-Conference Committee – EERI is looking for a person to spearhead a committee effort to this effect.

Action: Ed to ask Catherine Westphal to take part.

Action: Ivan to find out timetable for this effort from Susan.

4f. Chapter Membership Status – No news.

4g. Publicity / Events – no news.

4h. Seismic Safety Commission – Letters to save SSC were prepared by Keith and Arietta. To be sent to Senator Alquist, Gov. Schwarzenegger and Assembly Member Hancock.

Action: Ivan to send to Tobin for his review.

4i. Lifelines Committee white paper on Delta – no news.

Action: Alan to compile distribution list of associated organizations, e.g. ASCE, and send letters to these organizations FYI.

4j. Nominating Committee – Fred Turner has been asked to lead the committee. Need nominations by mid-September.

4k. Other Reports – Does anyone have any items for the newsletter? Please inform Reid. We should broadcast the availability of the tutorials.

5. Discussion Items:

5a. Quake 06 Top Ten Action Items: –

Laurie: What are the Northern California chapter's post-conference efforts? The National board is not clear where to go from here and is in process of forming a committee to move forward before the window of opportunity closes.

- **Oakland and SF soft story initiatives**, especially as a combined effort with SEAONC, are a way for Quake 06 type of activities to continue, as effective and visible projects for the chapter.
 - Ivan: how did Berkeley get community buy-in for soft-story ordinance?
 - Joan: Lot of groundwork talking with Disaster council, Fire commission, Rent Board, City Council, actual invitation of all owners and renters of soft story buildings
 - 100 attendees, mostly owners, 50 owners of the 400 buildings identified
- John: Perhaps we should form a **soft-story task force** with SEAONC to be proactive with other jurisdictions throughout the state and Bay Area. The soft-story issue was an action that we were clear on getting out there in the Top-Ten list, and is well-illustrated, easy to understand why it's hazardous, so represents an excellent candidate for a next step
- Lifelines committee's **white paper on the delta** also falls into this category, and Fire station studies are in progress.
- Why wasn't nonductile concrete pushed? There is still not a clear and consensus view of the problem, what buildings to focus on, how to communicate the issue. Next step is to identify what buildings we should focus on.
- Keith: **School safety program**, gives opportunity for school outreach in classrooms and at PTA meetings. If we get Marla out here she would go make these presentations. (make use of the materials we've already paid for)
- Expand and Move forward with Charlie's **scenario**? improve hazard information, present to cities? John: use Charlie's work as a tie-in to the soft story issue, give credibility to the initiative
- Joan: Kelly Cobeen and ATC are seeking a grant from California EQ authority for issues concerning **prescriptive standards** for small buildings and wood framing, particularly for hillside homes.
- Laurie: Providing conference attendees and chapter members with the video which summarizes the top 10 – as outreach to members, send package of materials for **presentations to the public and city councils**, including relevant issues from the scenario. Willing to lead a committee toward this effort
 - Kate: Perhaps conduct a tutorial to provide a common message for presentations.

- Alan: how do you get on city councils' agendas? Start with fire chiefs, building officials, SAP, identify champions within each city, be flexible about who the potential audience should be
- Laurie: People for whom the video resonated were folks who wanted to understand it more, talk to their civic group or business. To have an informed perspective. Goal: every member of N. Ca to talk to one group
- Conference publicity companies sent the **conference video** to libraries and public agencies, with a cover letter suggesting to contact EERI with more questions
- Alan: make sure topics that are presented are bite-sized enough to communicate effectively.
- Joan: need to prepare materials, perhaps hold a workshop to train people to pick up the package
- Ed: local governments will want to know, how will this affect us? Charlie's San Andreas scenario may not be the worst case for them.
- Keith: Not sure if "talks" make a difference in making the world safer. Would prefer to better incorporate items from the top ten list.
- Laurie: looking for someone to help her develop a "kit" and set of instructions: contents, specificity, ways to create seismic activists, think through what material it would take to create activists?
- Ed: Reach people at ABAG annual conference?
- Ivan: put together a speakers kit, problem is how to motivate individual members to become advocates to give talks
- Alan: how do you get the opportunities? Do members generate them themselves?
- Laurie: start with friends and family, Church group, school group, kids groups
- John: yes pre-position it, but there may not be a lot of interest
- Ed: chambers of commerce showed a lot of interest in knowing earthquake risk
- John: Top Ten Agenda is too much for most organizations to deal with. Need something that organizations can do "right now" Tailor which parts of the top ten list are presented to various audiences.
- ?John: speakers kit for soft stories?
- Ed: Catherine Westphall could make this type of presentation.

- Keith: Does anyone talk about a "**living risk model**" anymore?

Laurie: So does N. Calif. want to form a post-conference committee?

Ivan: we do want to make the video and presentation materials available, but no.

Message to national board: chapter is focusing on soft stories and is open to other specific projects.

Kate: offered to review current materials for suitability / scope for use as a presentation kit.

Laurie: videos of plenary sessions are currently being prepared by Gabe for dissemination / publication. Example, concrete seminars – what would an online store look like for video teaching materials?

Dignitary talks can't be sold, but key soundbytes can be streaming on our websites

Consider how EERI can respond to a web-based environment, such as foreign requests to translate documents.

Action: Kate to participate in conference call for post-earthquake activities.

5b. Oakland Soft-story –

Joan, Keith, Arietta, Marguerite, and Ivan met with Claudia, Oakland director of planning. Joan and Arietta described Berkeley's experience with implementing a soft-story ordinance.

Claudia's initial skepticism was somewhat relieved

EERI offered support and input as needed

Claudia will put together a plan to submit to city council

SF city has approached SEAONC similarly

Should we respond / team up with SEAONC EBC? Yes – to broaden the pool of knowledge, provide a coordinated effort. We may have an opportunity to have enough critical mass for mandatory ordinances at the state level.

Part of this effort should be developing a speakers kit for community outreach
Action: Ivan will give OK to Marguerite to coordinate effort with SEAONC, tell them we are agreeable to joining forces, both for Oakland and SF initiatives.

5c. Quake 06 from here on – discussed as part of item 5a. Soft story efforts are part of this. Should we re-name the effort to re-invigorate it? Its essential identity is as a set of risk reduction efforts, which is somewhat independent of the chapter.

Keith: Quake 06 needs a mission statement and plan moving forward

Alan: We should ask former participants if their commitment which had been finite can be extended into the next era.

Action: Keith will circulate the last Quake 06 strategic plan to the board for review. Board to review and discuss at next month's meeting

5d. Committees and committee board liaisons – No news.

5c. Other topics:

Keith: City of Berkeley and Lonnie Hancock are supporting AB2140 which encourages cities and counties to revisit their safety element. Do we have comments or want to write letters in support?

Motion: write letter to Lonnie indicating our support and offering our assistance as desired.

Approved, all in favor

October speakers? Board members to think about it.

6. Next Board Meeting

August 29, 2006, 4:30pm

7. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved

Kate Stillwell
Secretary

Ivan Wong
President