



A U S T R A L I A N
E A R T H Q U A K E
E N G I N E E R I N G
S O C I E T Y

AEES Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16 December, 2020
Zoom Online Meeting

6.00pm – 7.10pm AEST

MINUTES

In attendance:

Trevor Allen, Sharon Anderson, Jordan Bartlett, Kaiming Bi, James Daniell, Ahmad Firouzianhaji, Michael Griffith, Hong Hao, Bill Jordan, David Love, Scott Menegon, Lisa Moon, Jack Pappin, Adam Pascale, Cvetan Sinadinovski, Jaroslav Vaculik, Dion Weatherley, John Wilson

Apologies:

Mark Edwards, Kevin McCue, Kurt Zink

Acceptance of 2019 Minutes

Moved: Hong Hao Seconded: Adam Pascale

President's Report

Trevor Allen presented the President's Report. A copy of his report is attached as Appendix A.

TA reported that it had been a challenging year for members and Committee, and he felt for all who have been very badly affected by the COVID crisis.

TA thanked the Committee for their support throughout the year and in putting on the conference

Four teleconference Committee meetings were held this year. The AEES conference was the biggest discussion item – largely re should it run and how. Lots of work was put in behind the scenes to put on a viable conference. Pleasing that there had been lots of overwhelmingly positive feedback after the conference. It ran very well, despite a couple of technical glitches, and lots of people who don't usually attend were able to. Some Committee members and attendees keen for remote option for future conferences. Hope to resume in person in 2021.

TA mentioned the two excellent keynote speakers at the conference and also congratulated again Peter McBean on his prestigious award.

TA reported that there had not been very much engagement with EA this year. TA has though updated them on the update to the AS Commentary and conference.

John Wilson commented that he completed a draft update of the Commentary in February this year. Major update is around section 8 – parts and components. Covid has slowed progress. Scott Menegon, Jordan Bartlett and Peter McBean are working it up. Hopeful to get it out in first quarter of next year. JW and TA need to get together to discuss certain components. Keen to involve Jerry Vaculik & Michael Griffith in unreinforced masonry section. Other part is around existing buildings which aren't part of the Standard but industry always crying out to know what to do with existing buildings. JW feels that, in the Commentary we have a chance to provide some guidance. SM has been looking at some of the NZ guidelines around that. Another opportunity around another guideline for this exists for AEES.

Update of Constitution – Peter McBean was only alerted to this just as he was leaving office. Draft document from EA was circulated amongst the membership. The intent behind the document from EA's behalf was for it just to be a common document addressing compliance amongst all its technical societies. We do have a lot of latitude re edits to that draft. We haven't progressed as much as we would have hoped to this year. Thanks to David, Kevin and Peter for their advice to date. TA proposed that we finalise some of the draft changes amongst working group and circulate these amongst the membership. Asked if anyone else keen to be involved in this working group to let him know.

Post disaster deployment guidelines - Raised by Kevin McCue following his post disaster trip to PNG re need to have guidance documents around such a deployment should any future deployments happen. AEES does have a duty of care to its members and we have an opportunity to develop some more bilateral engagements with sister organisations overseas and national. Working group consists of – Kevin McCue, Peter McBean, James Daniel & Hong Hao. Adam Pascale keen to be involved also. DFAT relationship needs to be nurtured also.

Cvetan Sinadinovski asked if there will be a dedicated pool of instruments. AP said this is one of the things that needs to be discussed by the working group.

James Daniell said he has reached out to SARAID and EEFIT so happy to have a call on the post disaster guideline, similarly in our World Bank rapid response work. Can then send across their insurance guidelines etc EC ECHO as well.

See Attachment A for full President's Report.

Treasurer's Report

Adam Pascale presented the Treasurer's Report.

Cheque account balance at 30 Jun 2019 \$54,510.

Income \$68,340 expenses \$85,456. Largest cost was scholarship award - \$30k spent. 2018 payment and three 2019 awards all made in that financial year.

Term deposit balance - \$555,000.

AP discussed our aim to break even each year and what to do if we do make a profit. Spend on more grants for example.

JW asked if we can do better than .1% interest.

Nominated signatories to be Adam, Sharon and Michelle Salmon from hereon.

Moved: Trevor Allen

Seconded: Jordan Bartlett

Secretary's Report

Lisa Moon had nothing to report.

AP thanked Lisa for organising our Zoom meetings and the AGM Zoom.

IAEE Representative's Report

Hong Hao reported lots of communication with IAEE office this year. Mainly re selection of next Assembly. Five countries expressed interest in being host for next Assembly.

HH consulted with TA re who to vote for and voted for NZ. Canada, France, India were eliminated early followed by NZ. Italy won the vote. 2024 IAEE 30 Jun – 5 Jul will be in Milan, Italy. Combined format – can attend in person or virtually. Registration in person 600Euro or 150euro for remote registration. Discount for people from developing countries and students 360Euro.

Post-Earthquake visit – HH tried to make contact with Indonesian representative but they would not give contact details. HH proposed a discussion at the very least with national delegates at next Assembly.

TA commented that there are some laws about foreigners conducting research in Indonesia.

TA asked if Japan World conference is providing a virtual registration option. HH not sure. Postponed to 27 Sept – 2 Oct 2021.

CS asked if he tried the BMKG organisation in Indonesia. HH said he did visit there years ago and said BMKG could be a good choice to approach. TA and GA have worked with BMKG and said there are possibilities there but we need to be careful not to infringe on sovereign rights.

Webmaster

Adam Pascale said we had had a hacking incident early in the year. AP was notified by a member and updated a plugin which fixed the issue. eCommerce is working well. Selling Commentary online. We can do registrations online now also. Content for website is slow. All members welcome to provide original content for website. Discussion group quite active.

TA asked whether some of the papers contributed to the conference might be able to be put onto the website – perhaps in condensed version.

CS asked when conference papers will go onto the website.

SA to make sure Hong Hao linked back with membership – EA to invoice Hong.

Election of Office Bearers

TA advised that James Daniell is standing down as VP. Trevor thanked James on behalf of the Committee and membership.

JD spoke of not being able to get back to Australia from Germany for at least another year now due to Covid. Hopes to get back here in a few years and be able to do more for the Cttee.

Motion of thanks to James:

Moved: Bill Jordan

Seconded: John Wilson

Replacement for James as VP – Scott Menegon. Nominated by Trevor Allen. All in favour.

Other business:Building Monitoring

Scott Menegon gave a quick overview and thanked Trevor for the nomination of VP. A few options were investigated as to what type of buildings could be monitored. \$30-40 to \$70-80K could be cost to AEES. Decided it was too much money to spend and that a linkage project with an industry partner/Uni/government body could be a better approach. TA agreed there should be opportunities for AEES to join some other linkage projects and/or to access some grants.

CS asked if we can look at building monitoring city by city. AP said it's not about which city to monitor it's about how best we utilise our funds. More a governance issue.

Bill Jordan spoke of monitoring currently being done and asked if we could find out where this monitoring is being done and whether we could access this data. AP commented there is proprietary regulations around this information but that we could certainly ask if there are structures being monitored that we are interested in.

TA said other sector we could tap into could be the insurance sector.

Software purchase

The request from Kevin McCue was discussed by Committee and decided that the intent of the bequest needs to be followed and that this grant request falls outside that. Not something Committee can endorse at this present time.

Dates for 2021 Conference

Bill Jordan asked if we have dates yet. We don't have firm dates yet but it will be in Adelaide in 2021. We will decide on dates asap and notify members. Will need to open registration earlier next year as if we are to offer a virtual registration we'll need a minimum number of in person registrants.

State Reps:

Carried forward for another year

Meeting closed 7.10pm

2020 President's Report

2020 has thrown up many challenges to society and some of our members and committee have been affected more than others – it has not been a normal year and we hope that our lives and will return to a new Covid-safe normal in the not-too-distant future.

However, there have been some unexpected benefits. We've seen the normalisation of remote working and working from home. While I'm sure some of us are itching to get to our next conference or working group meeting, the new and emerging technologies have made various forums more accessible. For example, I have been able to attend and participate international conferences and meetings, which I wouldn't have ordinarily had a chance to participate in. However, these professional interactions do have their limitations, and as we all know, sometimes the best conversations are those that occur outside of the formal conference and working group settings.

The committee met four times via teleconference throughout the year. One of the benefits this year was that we were able to take advantage of the Zoom platform that made it easier for the committee to interact. Meetings largely discussed the organisation of the annual conference as the community health situation around us evolved. To that end, we successfully held the first virtual AEES conference. While there were some hiccups with the online platform (myself included), overall, I felt it was very successful and we saw the depth and breadth of work being undertaken in the fields of earthquake engineering and engineering seismology within Australia. We also had two excellent keynote presentations and we are grateful for them volunteering their time to deliver their lectures at our annual conference. Overwhelmingly the committee received positive feedback and there have been suggestions for "remote" conference participation options for future conferences.

Again, I would like to congratulate Peter McBean on his receipt of the 2020 John Connell award for his outstanding contribution to the structural engineering profession over the past 35 years, both nationally and abroad. This is an excellent and well-deserved achievement for one of our most active and well-regarded members.

There was very little engagement with Engineers Australia this year, other than providing EA with an activity statement for the society, which included the annual conference and initiatives to update the AS1170.4 commentary.

The commentary working group is led by John and Nelson, with major work being done on Section 8 (Design of Parts and Components) – an update on this process has been provided by Peter McBean.

In terms of the Constitution update – there has been some recent progress in reviewing and updating the draft document provided by EA. Thanks to David Love, Kevin McCue and Peter McBean. Some background to the update:

- originally initiated by EA in 2016
- EA needed a common base document which addressed certain matters of compliance, without interfering in the operation of the AEES

Given this process has apparently been on the cards for several years now, I would like to see the working group make draft changes to the EA constitution and circulate it to the broader membership, and consult with EA on proposed changes by 30 June 2021

A draft AEES Post disaster reconnaissance guideline has been developed by Kevin and is being considered by the committee. The timing of any post-disaster trip will depend upon many factors including geographical and

political complexities, as well as resource availability. The timing should also be sensitive to the severity of the disaster and should avoid unnecessarily impeding or impacting rescue and relief efforts. The document is currently in review and there are several factors that should be considered in more detail:

- What is the AEES duty of care/liability for members?
- How can we develop bi-lateral arrangements with other earthquake engineering societies? What role can DFAT play?

I would like a draft ready to circulate amongst the membership and seek feedback by 30 June.

Regretfully, James Daniell has had to tender his resignation as VP due to personal circumstances in Germany. We thank James for his service in the role for four years and look forward to the day when he will be able to participate – in person - in the society again.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee and regular committee members for their support through this uncertain year. I would also like to thank Sharon for her ongoing role, which enables the society to function.

Trevor Allen
AEES PRESIDENT