



Minutes

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

(Meeting held via Zoom)

Members:

Neil Kennedy, P. Eng. (Chair)
James Lowe, P. Eng. (Vice-Chair)
Renee Frigault, P. Eng.
Saleha Hussain, P. Eng.
Dale Kerr, P. Eng.
Lisa MacCumber, P. Eng. (Council Liaison)
Peter Rüsçh, P. Eng.

Staff:

Sherin Khalil, P. Eng.
José Vera, P. Eng.

Guest:

Cliff Knox, P. Eng., Manager, Enforcement

Regrets:

Alfred Lightstone, P. Eng.
Donna Serrati, P. Eng.

1. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., with seven members of the Committee in attendance. Consequently, quorum was attained.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as modified as Item 4.3 - "Consultation Request for PSC from Enforcement Committee" was moved to the top of the agenda.

Moved by: J. Lowe Seconded by: L. MacCumber CARRIED

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ISSUES ARISING FROM MEETING

2.1 Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2021 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting as written.

Moved by: R. Frigault Seconded by: J. Lowe CARRIED

2.2 Action Items of May 11, 2021 Meeting

Staff reported the completed Action Items.

Staff reported that the existing Temporary Works guideline had no Terms of Reference as no approval was required by Council back then.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.3 Consultation Request for PSC from Enforcement Committee

C. Knox, Manager, PEO Enforcement attended the meeting as a guest to answer any questions from the PSC members on the memo received from the Chair of the Enforcement Committee.

It was reported that the Enforcement Committee was encountering issues regarding the lack of understanding by users of engineering services as to exactly what activities were considered to be the practice of professional engineering. The Enforcement Committee, therefore, initiated a work plan activity to develop three to five representative examples of engineering practice which illustrate traditional and emergent activities. The examples include the following:

- Structural Engineering Example - Bridge Design
- Software Engineering Example - Adaptive Cruise Control
- Environmental Engineering Example - Stormwater Management System

The Enforcement Committee requested that the PSC provide their feedback on the above examples; however, C. Knox advised that the PSC was not obligated to provide comments.

A PSC member indicated that the “life expectancy” listed in the structural example was not engineering. The PSC member disagreed with this conclusion and explained that it should be engineering as field reviews require engineers.

Furthermore, some PSC members disagreed that the “Length of Span” was not engineering.

A PSC member commented that it may be more appropriate that some contractors and worldwide companies, such as Hatch, be consulted. Currently, the City of Kingston is building a long bridge across the river between Highway 2 and Highway 401. Many companies, contractors and experts are involved in this project and it may be beneficial for the Enforcement Committee to consult them.

A question was raised regarding the purpose, content and audience of the proposed examples, and the answer was anyone involved in a project; for example, students and applicants are looking to demonstrate.

The PSC members felt that it would be difficult to deliver feedback to the Enforcement Committee by the requested deadline as the PSC does not meet during the summer.

The PSC members need to discuss if a response can be delivered to the Enforcement Committee, which could probably be mid-October 2021.

Action: Staff to add this item to the agenda of the September 2021 PSC meeting and remind the PSC members sometime during the summer.

3. GUIDELINES

3.1 Guideline for Performance Audits and Reserve Fund Studies for Condominiums

Staff reported that the guideline was ready for final approval.

A motion was made to approve the Guideline for Performance Audits and Reserve Fund Studies for Condominiums for publication.

Moved by: D. Kerr

Seconded by: J. Lowe

CARRIED

3.2 Use of Seal Guideline

The subcommittee members are still working on revising the existing guideline. Specifically, the subcommittee members had a discussion and different views on the section titled “Shop Drawings”.

3.3 MECP - Professional Engineers Providing Engineering Reports under O. Reg. 1/17 (ESDM and AAR Reports)

Staff reported that the guideline had been approved for publication by PEO Council. Staff is working with the Communications Department on final editorial changes.

The Chair of the ESDM and AAR Reports subcommittee reported that the subcommittee had met many times to discuss the ESDM and AAR performance standard. The consensus was that nothing could be included in the performance standard that was not already covered somewhere else, such as O. Reg. 1/17, or addressed by the *Professional Engineers Act*. The subcommittee decided that the performance standard would not be feasible and practical as there was no strong evidence to emphasize the development of the performance standard.

L. MacCumber commented that not developing the performance standard would be problematic from the perspective of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks as this area of engineering requires enforceability.

It was concluded that a decision on this matter would be deferred to another meeting.

3.4 Guideline for Pre-Start Health and Safety Reviews

A doodle poll was sent to approve sending the guideline out for public consultation. The majority of the PSC members voted to approve the guideline.

The comments from A. Lightstone will be addressed with the public consultation comments.

A motion was made to approve sending the draft guideline out for public consultation.

Moved by: L. MacCumber Seconded by: P. Rüsç CARRIED

3.5 Guideline for Professional Engineers Providing Acoustical Engineering Services in Land-Use Planning

Interviews for the short-selected applicants for this subcommittee have been scheduled for late June 2021. The next step would be approval of the selected potential subcommittee members by the Registrar and/or PEO Council.

3.6 General Review Guideline

The Task Force met several times to continue working on the Practice Bulletin.

3.7 Temporary Works Guideline

The Task Force met on June 3, 2021 and started addressing the comments received from the public consultation. They will be meeting sometime later in June or early July 2021 to continue working on addressing the comments.

4. OTHER BUSINESS (cont'd.)

4.1 Council Update on PSC Related Issues

It was reported that L. MacCumber would be the Chair of the new Regulatory Policy and Legislation Committee. Furthermore, starting from 2022, no Council Liaison would be required on the PSC.

4.2 Guideline Development and Maintenance Process Document

Staff will work on the proposed edits to the document.

4.4 Climate Change and Engineers' Responsibilities

Staff reported that there was a letter received from D. Ireland regarding a presentation that was provided regarding engineers' responsibilities concerning climate change. Some of the concerns in this letter were that design codes have not numerically accounted for factors such as aging, deterioration, weathering of materials and change of use, except for evaluating existing structures.

Another concern was that individual engineers could not be expected to be climate experts and be able to evaluate climate risks generally, or risks for a particular project at a particular location. For climatic loads, engineers rely on the expertise, measurements and research of the National Research Council and Ontario Building Code to provide data on climatic loads based on location and conditions, and to also provide partial load factors appropriate for those loads.

Staff reported that this issue could be addressed through a practice article, and has developed an article to discuss the above issues. The PSC members expressed interest in reviewing the practice article and providing comments.

It was reported that the government is taking action and updating the relevant standards.

There was a comment that the practice article should include a conclusion for the federal or provincial government to be responsible for updating their codes.

Action: Staff to send a copy of the practice article to the PSC members for comment.

4.5 PSC Skills Gap Analysis

Action: Staff to update and incorporate P. Rüschi's skills into the table.

5. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.