

**MEETING OF THE NHERI USER FORUM COMMITTEE**  
**October 20, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**In attendance:** Russell, Nina, Elaina, Liesel, Jim, Adda, Antonio (NCO), David (NCO)

**1. Approval of meeting minutes from September 18, 2017 meeting**

Approval of the minutes will be confirmed via email since three UF members were not online at the start of the meeting.

**Action item:** Elaina will email last meeting's minutes out and request online approval. No email response by a next Friday will serve as a silent approval.

**2. Report from User Satisfaction Survey committee**

Documents and information has been sent to Oklahoma State University; funding still needs to be transferred, but the mechanism is being established. Liesel has lined up a student at OSU who will be doing the survey work for us. Liesel is in the process of lining up volunteers to review last year's survey to give immediate feedback on how to modify and improve the survey. Russell requests that Ellen Rathje.

**Action item:** Russell will provide an e-introduction (with Liesel cc'd) to Ellen Rathje for a request for her feedback on the User Satisfaction Survey. Liesel will follow up with the official feedback request afterwards.

Purdue University has submitted a justification for moving the survey work from TechEd to OSU. This is just a formality since there was nothing that specified an external source, or TechEd specifically, should be used. The justification is currently in review. Antonio will follow up in a week or two to confirm it is moving through the process.

Antonio suggested that we start inviting one or two EFs to join our calls at a time so we can start soliciting information from them about how we can modify our survey based on their observations and needs.

**3. Report from committee on NHERI sessions at community conferences**

The UF requested money for a budget to send 2 – 3 UF members to specific conferences to manage/host a NHERI session, and also invite ~10 NHERI users and/or potential users

to attend the session. In the future, the UF will propose more formal sessions. Due to the timing of this year, the UF will host meetings with attendees and send attendees to the existing NHERI sessions. In the future, the UF will propose and submit formal sessions designated for the User Forum.

The UF submitted the proposal to the NCO in late September who left it open for comment for a few days. No comments were received. The NCO submitted a package of proposals, including ours, to the NSF two weeks ago. NSF has received our proposal, and Joy P. is currently reviewing it.

To ensure that the timing will work out for next year, Antonio suggests the UF start looking at conferences now for 2019. Note: most conference abstracts are due over a year in advance of the conference. This timing presented issues for proposing new sessions for 2018 conferences.

**Action item:** Russell requests that everyone on the UF submit ideas for new conferences to submit/host UF sessions. This is in an effort to reach the UF's broad range of expertise.

In addition to selecting conferences to submit sessions to, and finding NHERI users to send to these conferences/sessions, we also need to find UF volunteers to travel to these conferences and host the meetings.

Elaina Sutley and Jim Malley will attend the 11NCEE to represent the UF.

Elaina asked: How will we establish the 10 users/potential users who we will send to attend the NHERI session and provide feedback to the UF?

Russell noted that identifying the appropriate listservs to effectively communicate this as an option to the wide variety of users is not trivial. DesignSafe, EERI Pulse newsletter for Earthquake, and Coastal-list were all suggested, although Nina noted that the Coastal-list may not be well-maintained. The UF needs to find a list-serv for wind that is not just coastal wind, but includes tornado, for example. At this point the UF has not secured the budget, so we will hold off on establishing an online application system and communicated this as an option. In the meantime, the UF should start identifying list-servs, so that this is established when we hear back on the proposal.

**Action item:** UF will bring the question of listservs that accommodate the range of disciplines to the NCO, specifically for non-coastal wind. The listservs will be used to

communicate when the UF has an open application for sending NHERI users/potential users to conferences for gaining direct interaction and feedback.

The other conference that was proposed for this year is AGU. There is a “late-breaking sessions” abstract submission still open for AGU with a Nov. 1 deadline. Elaina proposed that we could potentially put a spin on a UF abstract that people doing research for the recent disasters could benefit from engaging with the UF. Nina noted that presentations are extremely competitive at AGU and we would be more likely to get a poster. A poster would more or less defeat our purpose of engaging with users and getting any feedback. Russell suggested that if this were the case, it would be better for us to hold the money for next year to attend another conference. Antonio was not sure whether this was logistically possible. Nina volunteered to attend AGU and represent the UF if we did do a poster, however, she commented that it would be critical to schedule meetings with people ahead of time since there are 15,000 attendees, and the coastal engineers are likely to attend a difference conference(s) this year due to the recent disaster events and AGU not being a perfect fit.

Russell elected to not submit to AGU due to the uncertainty of whether we will actually have funding, and whether we will get an oral presentation. Nina and Elaina agreed; there were no objections.

Nina has multiple research abstracts in for the International Conference for Coastal Engineering (ICCE18), and will reach out to the organizers to see if the UF can submit a late abstract with presentation.

#### **4. Report from NCO representatives**

Antonio reported that two meetings ago, the big item was the funding of the various proposals, and there was discussion about the UF taking the lead on the User Satisfaction Survey. The dates of the next Summer Institute has been set to June 4-6, 2018 in downtown San Antonio. This is something to think about because it may be the date/location of the UF’s annual in-person meeting. The Summer Institute is intended to be only three days, instead of five, and so that will allow the committees to meet after the Summer Institute ends, and could potentially attend the Summer Institute, but also leave

time for the various NHERI committees to meet together.

The quarterly report has been submitted.

The Science Plan was discussed, specifically its lack of connection to the NSF. The NCO will reach out to the NSF to see if one or more of the NSF programs can specifically reference the Science Plan.

There have been quite a lot of RAPIDs funded from NSF for the recent disasters. There was discussion about how these would be coordinated. The NHERI RAPID EF will not be coordinating the various funded RAPID proposals.

**Action item:** User Forum should determine whether the dates for our annual in-person meeting can align with the set dates of the Summer Institute. Elaina will email the UF to request feedback on possibly holding our 1.5 day meeting that partially overlaps with the Summer Institute dates/schedule (June 4 – 7 as potential dates for UF meeting). NHERI leadership meetings have been tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of June 6.

## **5. Report from ECO representatives**

Elaina and Adda reiterated from above: the Summer Institute date has been set; REU dates have been set. REU survey indicated that REU participants were less likely to pursue graduate school after having participated. These outcomes contradict the goals of the program, and so the ECO is paying particular attention to this.

Liesel suggested qualitative follow up needs to be done to get a better sense of what is going on there. Additionally, if it is a yes/no question, then there should at least also be an open-ended question to explain their answer. Elaina and Adda will relay Liesel's suggestions to the ECO.

## **6. Report from Facilities Scheduling representatives**

Representatives were not on the call, and no items were emails in to share with the UF prior to the meeting.

## **7. Report from Technology Transfer representatives**

Jim reported that Bill Holmes (NCO) is chairing the group, and has sent out requests to professionals to join the committee. A number of people were nominated, and an

overwhelming response was received; 23 current members from a broad range of disciplines. Bill recommended sub-groups based on hazards, so there will be an earthquake group, storm surge and tsunami group, and wind group. The first activity of the earthquake group will be to look at the NEES research results; the TTC will not develop any new codes, but will review what has been published and identify any findings that should be implemented into codes. The TTC will then reach out to code committees to notify them of these findings. Since the other hazards do not have a NEES to work with, they will, in addition to earthquake, review all outcomes from NHERI research and go forward with the same process of code implementation recommendations.

#### **8. Application on DesignSafe for new UF member with coastal engineering expertise**

Nina reported that the application deadline has closed.

**Action item:** Nina will reach out to Chris T (NCO) to obtain any received new UF member applications. Nina will then assemble the applications into a reviewable document. The *users* will be emailed through DesignSafe and given between one to two weeks to submit votes.

#### **9. Other**

Antonio brought up that a big conclusion of the in-person meeting was the UF needed to spend more direct time with the EFs. He suggested the UF invite a couple or few at a time to join our UF meetings to start engaging and gaining direct feedback from them. The UF could form a subcommittee to establish groupings of the EFs, and start reaching to EFs to join our December call.

**Action item:** Elaina will add *Developing a subcommittee for EF interaction with the UF* as an official agenda item for our next meeting.

Russell adjourned the meeting at 11:13am CT.