



DFI Helical Foundations and Tiebacks Committee

Meeting Minutes

Harrahs Casino, Las Vegas, NV

02/03/09

10:05 AM Open – Howard Perko, Chairman welcomed those present and passed out an attendance sheet to sign.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Vice-Chairman Seider presented the minutes from the October 15th, 2008 committee meeting held in New York City. Bob Hoyt moved and it was seconded by Frank Scobbo to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

2008 HFT Specialty Seminar Report – Mamdouh Nasr

In seminar chairman Nasr's absence, Chairman Perko reported that an estimated 45 people attended the specialty seminar at USC. He handed out a summary of the evaluation forms submitted by the attendees. There was some discussion regarding the appropriateness of the presentation made by the Manta-Ray Representative from Europe. DFI Executive Director Theresa Rappaport has asked the committee to come up with a procedure to select papers for the next specialty seminar. At a request from Chairman Perko, Randy Dikeman volunteered to draft guidelines for acceptance of papers for HFT seminars. The draft is due by the end of February 2009 so that it can be available for the 2009 Specialty Seminar. The paper review should include a 3 committee panel from the HFT Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Standard Specification for Helical Anchors – Frank Scobbo

Frank Scobbo reported in 2007 the HFT Committee voted to accept most of the changes by the TAC. Frank presented V.1/09 of the specification to the committee with suggested changes from the TAC review. Discussion centered on page 7, Section 7.G. with respect to the advancement of helical anchor with respect to the pitch. It was decided to change the wording to make the statement more general. Robert Hoyt agreed to provide a defense of the committee's position on this subject for the next TAC review. A motion was made by Robert Hoyt to accept the specification as presented with changes. The motion was seconded by John Pack. Motion passed. Frank Scobbo agreed to make the changes and submit the specification with Hoyt's defense back to the TAC once again. It is hoped the specification will be approved by the TAC this time so it can then be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

University PowerPoint® Presentation – Howard Perko

Chairman Perko presented a revised version of the PowerPoint presentation on CD to all members present. The TAC review said the presentation was too commercial, and needed to be more neutral. In response to the TAC review, Perko added some slides to point out some disadvantages of helical anchors/piles and to "tone down" the content. Discussion ensued. **It**



was decided that the HFT committee members could respond/comment, and all such comments and suggested changes/additions must be done and back to Chairman Perko by March 3rd. Perko will then incorporate committee changes and resubmit the presentation back to the HFT Committee. **ANY COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT MEETING WHO WANT TO REVIEW THE PRESENTATION MUST CONTACT VICE-CHAIR SEIDER FOR A COPY.**

Final version and vote will be done at the proposed spring HFT Committee meeting held at specialty seminar location to be determined. Upon this final approval, the PowerPoint presentation will be presented back to the TAC.

Helical Research Initiative – Mike Melworm

Mike Melworm explained to the committee what the objectives for the HRI are. The purpose of the initiative is to solicit proposals from universities and private research firms for basic research in helical foundations and tiebacks. The initiative would be funded by HFT Committee members. Chairman Perko asked for a show of hands of those present who would be willing to fund the program. Approximately 11 members present raised their hands. Mike Melworm made a motion for HFT members to provide their top five research topics and rank them in order of importance, **and that this is done by the end of February 2009**. Motion was seconded by John Boulware. Motion passed. Mike's email address is michael@premiumtechnical.com.

New York City Building Code

Frank Scobbo handed out correspondence from the NYC Dept. of Bldgs. OTCR, which detailed the moratorium on helical pile foundations issued last year. However, the Dept. of Bldgs. committed to evaluate and develop criteria for the safe and legal use of helical piles. Frank has contacted Alan Price, the Director of OTCR, to get him to move on a decision. So far, there has been no action on the part of the OTCR despite the rumor that a specification would be available by the end of the year. Frank was able to find out from Gus Sirakis that OTCR has sent back comments to Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers, and are waiting to hear back from them. At this point we don't have any way to know when of if the OTCR will issue a specification. Chairman Perko suggested the HFT Committee members send emails; write letters, etc. to the NYC DOB requesting closure.

New Specification for Helical Compression Piles – Philip Slemons

Philip Slemons was not present to give a report. Vice-Chair Seider handed out the latest version of the specification to the committee with suggested changes. The latest revision includes all changes made by the HFT review committee. Discussion ensued. John Pack made a motion to accept the specification as presented, but to include changes to Section 7.G. to be the same wording as in the helical anchorage specification. Motion also stated the specification be submitted to TAC upon committee approval. After TAC response, the committee will correct any inconsistencies between the helical anchor and helical pile specifications. Motion was seconded by Don Deardorff. Motion passed.



Chairman Perko asked Frank Scobbo to submit the helical compression pile spec. to the TAC at the same time he submits the helical anchor spec. Frank agreed. Vice-Chair Seider will send the latest revision of the compression spec to Frank.

New Specification for Helical Soil Nails – Gary Seider

Vice-Chair Seider handed out the latest version of the specification to the committee with suggested changes. The latest revision includes all changes made by the HFT review committee. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by John Pack and seconded by Frank D'Angelo to approve the spec. as-is and submit it to the TAC. Motion passed.

Chairman Perko again asked Frank Scobbo to submit the helical soil nail spec to the TAC at the same time he submits the other two specs. Frank agreed. Vice-Chair Seider will send the latest revision of the helical soil nail spec to Frank along with a cover letter to TAC.

NEW BUSINESS:

2009 DFI HFT Specialty Seminar

Discussion centered on where and when to have this year's seminar, and future seminars. A straw poll was taken to see what those present would like. Results are as follows:

Time of Year	Location	HFT Mtg & Seminar at Same Time	Poll Result
Spring	Different Venues	Yes	7
World of Concrete	Las Vegas	Yes	4
Fall (current time)	Different Venues	Yes	2

Based on the poll results a suggestion was made to try for a Spring seminar and meeting in '09 and a World of Concrete meeting and seminar in Las Vegas in 2010. Motion was made by Bob Hoyt to this effect. The motion was seconded by Mike Melworm. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Frank Scobbo and seconded by Jeff Kortan to have the 2009 somewhere in Canada. Motion passed. Chairman Perko then asked for volunteers for a seminar committee chair. With no volunteers forthcoming, Perko will work toward finding a seminar chair from Canada. Volunteers to be members of the planning committee are Rich Davis, Jeff Kortan, Frank Scobbo, and John Pack.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Bob Hoyt asked if there was interest in the following options:

1. Add push piers to the HFT Committee - 0
2. Starting a new DFI push pier committee - 4
3. Do nothing at all with respect to push piers – 4



The numbers following the options above are the results of a straw poll taken of the members present. As a result, the committee for now will not pursue push piers or make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

TORQUE AWARDS:

Rich Davis announced the 2008 winners of the Torque Awards.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Perko announced he has resigned from CTL/Thompson and is now a consultant for Magnum Piers.

Next Meeting of the DFI Helical Foundations and Tiebacks Committee

The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the proposed Spring Specialty Seminar at a location in Canada. The exact time and location will be determined and announced.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion passed and meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Seider
Vice Chairman