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To: ASCE-SEI TAC Metals

Re: ASCE-SEI Committee on Cold-Formed Members
2004 Annual Report
July 26, 2003 – August 11, 2004

The committee's focus over the past year has been on (1) Tom Sputo's special project on bracing, (2) 2004 Structures Congress, (3) coordination and assistance with 2004 Center for Cold-Formed Steel Structures (CCFSS), and (4) development of a list of Frequently Asked Questions for cold-formed steel (CFS).

Meeting

Members of the committee (14 members and guests) met for a funded meeting in February 2004 at the semi-annual AISI Committee on Specifications in Albuquerque. Members of the committee (9 members and friends for a three hour meeting on Monday and 14 for a one hour meeting on Wednesday) met for an un-funded meeting in August 2004 at the semi-annual AISI Committee on Specifications in Charleston. In addition, the members of the committee are in regular contact through email, web-based surveys, and a small home page dedicated to the committee (linked at www.ce.jhu.edu/bschafer). The committee will next meet, in person, in a funded meeting in February 2004.

Publications

The committee is developing a special publication based on Tom Sputo's Bracing Design Guide Special Project. This publication should be to TAC on Metals within 3 months. The committee thoroughly reviewed Tom's 100% draft at its recent August meeting. The work is excellent and 11 members and friends of the committee provided detailed feedback to Tom at the meeting. The committee is confident the final product will be a significant benefit to the practicing CFS engineering community.

Technical Sessions

The committee's held a session at the 2004 Structures Congress "Practical Advances in the Design of Low-Rise Metal Buildings Subjected to Environmental Loading." The session was chaired by B. Schafer and included the following papers: MBMA Seismic Design Guide for Metal Building Systems, Bachman & Shoemaker, Uplift Capacity of K-Series Open Web Steel Joist Seats, Green & Sputo, and Improved Ponding Criteria for Cantilever Framing Systems, Sputo & Green. The session was well received, a full room of approximately 40 attendees listed to the talks and asked several questions of the authors.

Our session for the 2005 Congress "Load Bearing Cold-Formed Steel Behavior and Design" was ultimately rejected, after being initially accepted. The committee had commitments from speakers of direct interest to practicing engineers including seismic design of CFS and detailed information on the

latest standards that engineers need to design with CFS. The committee felt that in-line with previous success that this 1 session would be very popular with practicing engineers, as most know little CFS design, but many are interested and/or faced with it in some fashion. The committee was disappointed that (a) willingness to condense our best work into a single session and (b) previous success of the committee's session at much smaller Structures Congress meetings in Seattle and Nashville did not provide a better incentive to the organizers to make our session happen.

After significant discussion at the last meeting the committee has decided to continue to attempt to have a presence at Structures Congress. We will propose a session for the St. Louis Congress, likely with those members from the 2005 previous proposal still willing to contribute.

It goes without saying that the confusion in the run-up to the 2004 congress, combined with the rejection in the 2005 congress – leaves this committee a bit frustrated with their participation in the Structures Congress sessions. The web site for submitting abstracts does not recognize the difference between submitting a paper or a session, it seems that the submissions often get lost – this has happened to us at least once in both of the last years, and the role of the tech. comm. is not as clear as it might be. The committee recognizes the conference is a complex endeavor, and has a new local committee every year, but we hope that we begin to strive towards something better.

Journal Articles

The committee is coordinating a special issue of JSE that will include a subset of “best of” papers from the upcoming CCFSS Conference. Schafer will be a guest AE, and the committee will provide peer review. We are currently working on selection of the papers that will be invited for submission and coordinating the process.

Other Activities

Tom Sputo's Special Project on bracing of cold-formed members is on schedule. The 100% draft has been thoroughly reviewed by the committee at the August meeting. (See discussion above under Publications for more information).

An interactive webpage has been developed for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on cold-formed steel design. The FAQs were developed through a survey of the committee members and compiled by the chair. The Chair has created a public web page that is completely editable by remote users (<http://bayes.ce.jhu.edu/bayeswiki>) that will be used so that the committee can openly collaborate on the answers to the FAQs. The committee is currently evaluating this novel collaborative tool and will determine if this is a suitable medium for sharing and searching this far-reaching information on cold-formed steel design with practicing engineers.

With the help of a librarian at Hopkins (Liz Mengle) the committee has successfully convinced one of the premier online research database search engines: Compendex to catalog all CCFSS conf. and SSRC conf. proceedings. Thus the technical contributions of this community will be more likely to be found by modern researchers and practitioners when they perform electronic literature searches.

Our bi-annual research needs list exercise will begin again in 6 months. The developed list of research needs will be used to determine our next special project priority. This was the method used for justifying our selection of bracing as the previous special project.

The committee continues to coordinate with SSRC, AISI-COS and COFS, LGSEA, SSMA and other CFS groups. Over the last several years attendance at our meetings and involvement of the committee members in activities has continued to increase.

Membership

The committee (as of summer 2004) consists of 17 members (including 7 academics) and 10 friends (past-members, non-eligible corresponding members, etc). In 2005, 5 members will rotate off the committee. The members and friends list includes 6 past members who are re-eligible for the committee in 2005.

Chair's note

The Chair was re-appointed for an additional year in order to shepherd the bracing special project through to its publication. That effort remains on track for completion in 2005. Identification of the next Chair is a growing priority for the group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Schafer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ben Schafer