



*North American Geosynthetics Society*

President: Dr. David Elton  
President-Elect: Dean Sandri

Treasurer: Robert Mackey  
Past-President: Dr. Grace Hsuan

**REPORT OF THE BIENNIAL MEETING  
NORTH AMERICAN GEOSYNTHETICS SOCIETY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2008, 7 PM  
HILTON CANCUN HOTEL**

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President Hsuan. Dr. Hsuan asked David Suits, Executive Director to review the organization of the North American Geosynthetics Society.

The following information was presented:

- ◆ Mission of NAGS: To Provide Leadership in Advancing the Education and Research of Geosynthetics.
- ◆ Vision of NAGS: NAGS is an organization of individual members representing all aspects of the geosynthetics community. NAGS will continue to be a recognized North American leader in advancing the education, research, and development of geosynthetics.
- ◆ Membership Includes:
  - ◆ Membership in the International Geosynthetics Society;
  - ◆ Free on line subscription to “Geotextiles and Geomembranes,” and “Geosynthetics International” Journals;
  - ◆ New members receive a free one year subscription to Geosynthetics,” formerly “GFR,” the industry trade magazine;
  - ◆ Reduced subscription rate to “Geosynthetics” after the first year free subscription for North American Members;
  - ◆ Reduced registration rates to International and Regional Geosynthetics Conferences and Seminars.
- ◆ Organization of NAGS:
  - ◆ Regional Chapter of the International Geosynthetics Society
  - ◆ Governing Organization
    - ◆ Eleven Member Board of Directors
      - ◆ President
      - ◆ President-elect
      - ◆ Treasurer
      - ◆ 7 Vice Presidents
      - ◆ Immediate Past President
      - ◆ Executive Director

L. David Suits, Executive Director  
North American Geosynthetics Society  
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- ◆ Managing Director
- ◆ 2005 – Present Board of Directors:
  - ◆ President – Dr. Grace Hsuan
  - ◆ President-elect – Dr. David Elton
  - ◆ Treasurer – Robert Mackey
  - ◆ Vice Presidents
    - ◆ Sam Allen
    - ◆ Corey Bobba
    - ◆ Dr. Craig Lake
    - ◆ Dr. Mark Meyers
    - ◆ Boyd Ramsey
    - ◆ Dean Sandri
    - ◆ Dr. Jorge Zornberg
  - ◆ Past President – L. David Suits
  - ◆ Executive Director, also Managing Director - L. David Suits

The floor was then turned back to President Hsuan, who gave the following review of the past two years.

- ◆ Starting in December 2005, Mr. Dave Suits became the Executive Director of NAGS. The responsibilities of the Executive director include the following:
  - ◆ Work with the President and the Board
  - ◆ Promote NAGS
  - ◆ Organize conferences and seminars
- ◆ Mr. Dave Suits is also the Manager of NAGS
  - ◆ Organize the Board meetings
  - ◆ Book keeping (financial and membership)
  - ◆ Contact person for members
- ◆ The following conferences were co-organized/sponsored or co-operated with:
  - ◆ NAGS 2005, Las Vegas
    - ◆ Co-organized with GSI, GRI-19
  - ◆ Geosynthetics 2007, Washington DC,
    - ◆ Co-sponsored with IFAI and GMA
  - ◆ Canadian Geotechnical Conference 2007, Ottawa
    - ◆ Co-operated with Canadian Geotechnical Society
  - ◆ Geo-Americas 2008, Cancun, Mexico
    - ◆ Co-organized with other IGS Chapters in Americas

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- ◆ The following FHWA/NHI courses were scheduled:
  - ◆ NHI courses, October 2007, Philadelphia
  - ◆ Two one and a half day courses were offered
    - ◆ Geosynthetics in Roadways and Geosynthetics in Reinforcement
    - ◆ The roadways course was not held due to low registration.
  - ◆ The reinforcement courses were taught by Dr. Christopher and Dr. Collin.
- ◆ Two student paper competitions were sponsored:
  - ◆ NAGS 2005
    - ◆ Winner was Miss. Katrina Lange, Queen's University
    - ◆ Ms. Lange was scheduled to present her paper at the 8<sup>th</sup> Intl. Conference in Japan (co-sponsored with IGS). She unfortunately was unable to attend the conference.
  - ◆ Geosynthetics 2007
    - ◆ Winner was Miss. Melissa Chappel, Queen's University
    - ◆ She is presenting paper here at the Geo-Americas 2008.
- ◆ The final report for the 2003 Award of Excellence project was completed in March of 2007.
  - ◆ "Final Report on Use of Geosynthetics in the Mining and Mineral Processing Industry," by Renkin, Mchaina, Yanful
    - ◆ The report is available on CD through the NAGS office.
- ◆ Participation in the following activities:
  - ◆ We provided financial and technical support for revision of NHI-FHWA Geosynthetics Design Manual.
    - ◆ Dave Suits monitored the pilot course for the revised 3 day course held at the Colorado DOT.
    - ◆ Dave Suits, at the request of Andrew Aho of the Geosynthetics Materials Association, is acting as a non-industry monitor for an industry suggested re-write of the reinforcement chapter of the manual.
  - ◆ GI-FHWA workshop on "Trends Affecting the Geo-Community"
    - ◆ Dave Suits attended the two-day workshop at ASCE Headquarters.
    - ◆ A copy of the final report is available through the ASCE – Geo-Institute

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The following report was given by Treasurer Robert Mackey on the projected income and expenses for the year 2008.

**Projected Income**

Income Categories	
CGS Membership	\$1,250.00
Conference Profit Share	\$15,000.00
Conference Registration	
Total Conference	
Registration	\$0.00
Geo-Institute Membership	\$1,000.00
IAGI Membership	\$300.00
IGS Membership	\$1,700.00
NAGS Membership	\$14,000.00
Other Income	
Award of Excellence	
Report	
Conference CD	
Total Other Income	\$250.00
Reimbursement	
Travel	\$2,300.00
Total Reimbursement	\$0.00
Subscription	\$2,500.00
Training Course	\$7,500.00
<b>Total Income Categories</b>	<b>\$43,500.00</b>

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Projected Expenses

Expense Categories		Continued	
2007 Year End Profit Share	\$400.00	Membership Fee	
2008 CGSMembership	\$1,250.00	IAGI	\$300.00
2008 Geo-Institute	\$1,000.00	Total Overpayment	\$0.00
Automobile		Post Office Box	\$62.00
Rental	\$500.00	Postage	\$500.00
Award of Merit	\$0.00	Profit Share	
Chapter Fees	\$5,500.00	Geo Americas Conference	\$800.00
Checks	\$20.00	Publicity	\$300.00
Education		Office Supplies	\$300.00
Student Competition	\$750.00	Tax Preparation - 2007	\$900.00
NHI Manual Revision	\$0.00	Travel	\$6,000.00
Total Education	\$5,000.00	Utilities	
Fees		Telephone	
Bank		Total Utilities	\$1,900.00
Credit Card Discount		WEB Management	\$350.00
Total Fees	\$650.00	Total Expense Categories	\$40,530.00
G& G Subscriptions			
	2008	2008 Profit (Loss)	\$2,970.00
GFR Subscriptions		2007 Year End Bal.	\$8,101.00
	2008	<b>Projected 2008 Year End Balance</b>	<b>\$11,071.00</b>
Management Fees	\$12,000.00		

The following current status of NAGS was given by Dave Suits:

- ◆ 2008 Paid Members
  - ◆ Feb. 29<sup>TH</sup> – 169
    - ◆ 26 members paying through CGS not included – funds not received yet from CGS
- ◆ Total to date 2008 income:
  - ◆ FEB. 29<sup>TH</sup> - \$6990.53

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- ◆ Total to date 2008 expenses:
  - ◆ FEB. 29<sup>TH</sup> - \$7487.24
    - ◆ The following reimbursable expenses are included in above total:
      - ◆ \$1233.70 reimbursable from TRB for LDS travel as TRB Group Chair – reimbursement not received yet (received since the meeting.)
      - ◆ \$864.53 reimbursable from Auburn Univ. for LDS travel. – received
    - ◆ The monies on hand at the time of the meeting are \$8989.32.

The following report was given on the recent Board of Directors election:

- ◆ Ballots Sent Out - 191
  - ◆ Ballots Returned
    - 5 – for errors in mailing address
    - 59 – Completed ballots
      - 6 invalid ballots – return directions not followed
      - 1 invalid – returned late
      - 52 valid ballots
      - No write-ins
- President-elect – Dean Sandri  
Vice President – James McKelvey III

The 2008 – 2010 Board of Directors:

- ◆ President – Dr. David Elton
- ◆ President – Elect – Dean Sandri
- ◆ Treasurer – Robert Mackey
- ◆ Vice Presidents
  - Sam Allen
  - Corey Bobba
  - Dr. Mark Meyers
  - James McKelvey III
  - Boyd Ramsey
  - Dr. Jorge Zornberg
  - Co-opt Vacancy – Canadian Member
    - ◆ Following the open meeting, the Board of Directors approved Dr. Marolo Alfaro of the University of Manitoba as a co-opted Canadian member of the Board.

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- ◆ Past President – Dr. Grace Hsuan  
Executive Director and Managing Director - L. David Suits

Outgoing President Hsuan introduced Dr. Elton as the new President and handed him the official NAGS gavel.

Dr. Elton presented Dr. Hsuan with a plaque expressing gratitude for her leadership over the last two plus years. Dr. Hsuan had served out the unexpired term of Past President Suits who became the Executive Director prior to the expiration of his two year term as President.

Dr. Elton then expressed that one of his goals over the next two years is a continuation of the types of activities undertaken over the past two years, emphasizing that membership growth is a vital goal of his.

The floor was then opened for comments and discussion from those present at the meeting. A suggestion for holding a NAGS solely sponsored conference in the near future was given. In regards to this it was explained to the attendees that negotiations are underway with IFAI/GMA regarding a Geosynthetics 2009 Conference, as well as negotiations with ASCE-Geo-Institute for NAGS to be a co-sponsor for the ASCE G-I 2011 Geo-Congress.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

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