

American Society of Civil Engineers

**Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute**

Information Report to the Board of Direction

**August 2008**

The Governing Board (GB) of the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute (COPRI) met on September 7, 2007, and April 17, 2008. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2008.

**1.0 Responses to Resolutions Referred**

No resolutions were referred to the COPRI GB for action.

**2.0 Progress on Tasks Supporting the Strategic Plan**

The majority of COPRI's activities support the Institute's Strategic Plan and the ASCE Strategic Issue of addressing:

B) The increasing breadth, complexity, and rate of change of professional practice challenges:

b) The profession's ability to assure competence in engineering specialty areas.

Because this is addressed throughout COPRI activities, it is not highlighted in each case. In several cases, other ASCE Strategic Issues have also been supported by COPRI activities as indicated below.

COPRI has focused on implementing its strategic plan, as outlined below. Activities are discussed in light of supporting the COPRI Strategic Plan.

**2.1 COPRI Strategic Plan**

In October 2006, COPRI adopted a strategic plan for furthering its mission through its fifteen committees, with an emphasis on increasing the number and diversity of members in COPRI, expanding educational outreach, and enhancing informational dissemination within and beyond COPRI. This summary highlights the major elements of the strategic plan.

**Membership:** COPRI established a goal to increase the number of student and individual active members by 10% by the end of fiscal year 2010. As of Aug. 1, total COPRI membership is 3,986. Between January and June 2008, COPRI added one new organizational member and reactivated three who had been inactive, for a total of 12.

**Education:** Plans call for furthering educational opportunities for existing COPRI members, as well as fostering K-12 and university outreach.

**Technical Expertise:** COPRI plans to increase the number and quality of sponsored conferences, symposiums, workshops, and webinars. In January 2008, COPRI submitted a Business Plan for a Coastal Engineering Certification to Civil Engineering Certification Inc.

**Image:** The Strategic Plan includes a “continuous-renewal” process through which COPRI will evaluate ongoing policies, awards, and membership requirements to ensure that the Institute supports its members and related technical communities. This year, COPRI introduced a Project Excellence Award, for which judging of the three received entries is underway. The Institute is working with its Ports and Harbors Committee to introduce the Kenny Childs Award within the next few years.

## 2.2 Technical Conferences

### 2.2.1 COPRI Sponsored Conferences

- 2.2.1.1 Wetlands Regulatory Workshop – COPRI’s Wetlands and Sediment Management Committee spearheaded an April 3-4 workshop on the federal wetland regulatory program. Over 50 invited experts in wetland science, engineering, law and development met at Rice University in Houston, TX, and discussed the challenges to wetlands regulation since the two recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions sharply restricted the extent of federal jurisdiction over wetlands. Under the leadership of Chairman Dom Izzo, the committee has taken the results of the workshop and prepared a white paper for use by ASCE’s policy committees in updating the Society’s wetland policy (ASCE Policy Statement 378).
- 2.2.1.2 Solutions to Coastal Disasters 2008 – The Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference 2008 was held April 13-16, in Turtle Bay, Hawaii, which was the site of a major tsunami in 1946. More than 200 individuals attended three short courses and more than 110 presentations featuring state-of-the-art information on sea-level rise, tsunamis, hurricanes and storm surge, coastal inundation and flooding, shoreline erosion and beach nourishment, shoreline management, coastal hazard mitigation, vulnerability of coastal structures, marine facilities, and social science/coastal disasters.
- 2.2.1.2 OTC Hall of Fame Dinner 2008 – The third annual Offshore Technology Conference Hall of Fame Gala Dinner brought a record-breaking class of inductees and the largest number of international guests yet to the Houston Petroleum Club for an evening celebration May 6. Thirteen of eighteen winners were present to receive their wave-shaped plaques from ASCE President-Elect Wayne Klotz, D.WRE, F.ASCE. In his remarks to the winners, Klotz noted that the winners have provided vision, innovation and value to the profession. In addition, there were 9 sponsors in 2008, the greatest number yet.

## 2.2.2 Co-Sponsored Conferences

- 2.2.1 OTC '08 — COPRI and ASCE Membership Department staff promoted the Society at ASCE's exhibit booth at the Offshore Technology Conference at Reliant Park in Houston. Attendance reached 75,092, a 26-year high as energy professional from 110 countries met to learn more about the latest technology to find and produce offshore oil and natural gas resources. Attendance increased 11 percent from 2007. With more than one-half million square feet of exhibition area, the show included 2,500 companies from more than 35 countries in an area the size of 13 football fields. ASCE is one of 11 founding organizations of the OTC.

## 2.3 Publications

In addition to publishing the conference proceedings for Solutions to Coastal Disasters and the OTC Hall of Fame Gala Volume, COPRI also published the committee report: *Hurricane Katrina Damage Assessment - Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi Ports and Coasts*. The Damage Assessment documents the observations of two teams from COPRI's Ports and Harbors Committee that evaluated the damage to ports and other marine infrastructure following Hurricane Katrina.

Also this year, the Governing Board approved publication of a waterways ethics manual as well as monograph on SPAR technology. The *Navigation Engineering Practice and Ethics Standards* manual presents engineering criteria and practices for design, operation, and management of navigation projects and demonstrates how these criteria and practices are interwoven with engineering ethics.

The SPAR technology monograph developed by the Oceans and Offshore Engineering Committee provides a summary of knowledge gained from use of three SPAR types as well as trouble shooting technical problems associated with SPAR platforms and examining the use of modeling with those platforms and other future benefits and advances.

The Ports and Harbors Committee recently began development of a Dry Dock Asset Management Manual of Practice. The manual is scheduled for completion in April '10.

## 2.4 Codes and Standards

COPRI is continuing to move forward with the following guidelines and standards:

- Standard on Seismic Design of Piers and Wharves
- Engineer Diver Standard regarding qualifications to dive for underwater investigations
- Guidelines on Port Pavement Design

### **3.0 Summary of Matters Referred to the Committee**

No matters were referred to the COPRI GB for action.

### **4.0 List of the Meetings Held Since the Previous Meeting**

The Governing Board (GB) of the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute (COPRI) met on September 4, 2007, and April 17, 2008. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2008. At its upcoming meeting, the current Board members will be joined by Stan White, immediate past chair of the Ports and Harbors Committee and Ron Noble, a recent Chair of the International Coastal Engineering Conference and winner of the 2008 International Coastal Engineering Award. Both White and Noble will join the COPRI Governing Board in 2008 to replace Billy Edge and Steve Curtis who will rotate off the Board.

### **5.0 Summary of How the Committee Proceeded to Accomplish its Tasks**

Included in item 2.0 above.

### **6.0 Recommendations Approved by the Committee for Consideration by the Board or Other Society Entity**

None.

### **7.0 Include a Summary of All Critical Infrastructure Related Activities**

COPRI prepared comments for submission by ASCE on the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Dredging Policy (NDP) and the National Dredging Team's 2003 Action Agenda for Dredged Material Management (AADMM). In general, the review found the current NDP and the AADMM to be deficient and outdated. The comments recommended that the NDP and AADMM should reference or materially include the ASCE Policies on Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (PS 513, April 27, 2006) and Regional Sediment Management (PS 522, April 24, 2007) in order to present a more rigorous direction than currently presented.

Dominic Izzo, COPRI's Wetland and Sediment Management Committee Co-Chair, testified before the Louisiana Coastal Restoration and Hurricane Protection Council in December. His testimony focused on the need for increased cooperation among federal, state and local officials, the need for immediate action as well as technical details about needed restoration on the Gulf Coast and its nearby islands. Izzo called for an approach to coastal restoration that integrates the requirements of hurricane protection and navigation while restoring the natural hydrogeomorphic processes that originally built and maintained the coast. Izzo urged Council members to take away from the hearing a sense that the state of Louisiana must act now and begin the restoration process.

**8.0 Include Any Minority Reports from Those who Disagree with the Report Presented by the Chair**

None.

Respectfully submitted,

**Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute**

James H. Blanchar, P.E., President  
David L. Kriebel, Ph.D., P.E., Vice President  
Stephen A. Curtis, P.E., Past President  
Billy Edge, Ph.D., P.E., Past President  
Lesley C. Ewing, P.E., ASCE Representative  
John R. Headland, P.E., Treasurer

Report prepared by: Tom Chase, COPRI Director