

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

April 2004

Across the Board

WTCA Board Meeting: February 27, 2004 • San Diego, CA

San Diego played host to another productive WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting, which included a full round of committee meetings.

WTCA President Dan Holland opened the meeting at 8:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. The Nominating Committee chair Scott Arquilla introduced the new Board members elected by general ballot since the October 11, 2003 meeting in Phoenix: Rip Rogers, Chris Lambert and Bruce Bain.

CURRENT ISSUES UPDATES

The Florida Executive Committee: Bob Becht and John Herring presented a resolution to the Board of Directors requesting that the Florida Executive Committee be formalized. The Committee is made up of WTCA's five Florida Chapters with the goal of having one collective voice and common goals and objectives for all of Florida. The Board unanimously adopted the proposed committee charter.

Adoption of the New IBC/IRC & the Availability of Software to Comply: With the adoption of the new IBC/IRC, component manufacturers reported that different jurisdictions (even in the same area) are interpreting the code differently. The code and reference documents refer to different standards, which is confusing. WTCA staff is drafting a comprehensive guide on how to load trusses based on ASCE 7-2002 and 2005, which will be reviewed and approved by TPI TAC and WTCA's Engineering and Technology Committee.

Educational Programs & Addressing the Questions about BSCI 1-03, B-Series & Jobsite Safety Package Distribution: Chapters are educating their membership and others in the market on BCSI 1-03 using the new BCSI PowerPoint® (Truss Technology Workshop) presentation and the new B-Series documents.

Wide Load & Transportation Issues: In some areas, individual counties and communities require companies to purchase a separate wide load permit rather than the state permit for the transportation of components on state highways. Highway patrol interpretation is different in different places. For instance, in some areas a permit is required for every trip. WTCA Staff is researching the new federal law covering trucking issues and will prepare a guide specifically for to the truss industry.

Communication with Structural Engineers Associations & Building Departments on Design Responsibilities: Design responsibilities continue to be an important issue; therefore,

communication with structural engineers associations and building departments is critical. Chapter involvement and plant tours have been valuable in helping both sides understand the issues.

Additional Topics Addressed in Board Meeting Roundtable Discussion: Other issues that were discussed included the status of the agreement between the U.S. and Canada on softwood lumber, fastener requirements for preservative treated lumber, standard industry warranties, beta sites for electronic seals and signatures (Jacksonville, FL is a key site), and the creation of a Wall Panel Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dan Holland reported the board approved increasing the rebate for chapter and chapter member purchases of WTCA Publications. The board approved the final version of the WTCA/TPI "Litmus Test" and the WTCA/TPI policy and procedure on handling building code and professional engineering issues.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Kendall Hoyd reported that in reviewing WTCA's 2003 Financials and 2004 Budget, the association is healthy and financially strong. The board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report and the 2004 budget.

CARBECK STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS INSTITUTE

Staff reported that Carbeck's focus continues to be on fire performance of trusses educational work. The CD has been very well received by the fire service. Staff will prepare a comprehensive work plan for 2004 and beyond.

BCMC REPORT

The Committee reported that the show's theme is "Revvin' Up the Component Industry" and that the exhibitor promotion is in the mail. The Committee has been busy planning the educational sessions. This year, two manufacturing-oriented sessions are planned.

SBC MAGAZINE

Staff reported they are re-organizing advertiser support tasks following the death of Dick Bowman, longtime advertising salesperson. Staff and Dan Holland urged board members to thank advertisers for supporting the magazine. Staff reported they are compiling the results of an online reader satisfaction survey.

TRUSS KNOWLEDGE ONLINE (TKO)

The board reviewed Truss Technician Training Online statistics and considered if online training

as effective as classroom training. The comparison between Level I online and live class exam scores revealed little differentiation: 84.13 percent for 210 exams versus 84.03 percent for 700 exams. The Level II comparison yielded similar results: 77.54 percent for 23 exams vs. 77.24 percent for 309 exams.

The board discussed how component manufacturers will use TTT Online in the future. A question of truss technician longevity was raised. Staff will gather data about the number of years of service in the next Wage & Benefit survey. Some noted they use the certification to determine who will be considered first for technician openings. Others have established an incremental pay grade according to the level of certification the technician has established.

BCSI DOCUMENT

It is still undetermined whether we should keep the Post Frame poster. Staff reported they will contact the customers to see if they prefer to keep the poster as well as the post frame document B10.

BRACING WHITE PAPER

Staff reported this project is in process. All the information will go into the BSR TPI 3 project committee on bracing. In the future, a bracing standard to replace TPI's DSB 89 will be created.

INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE: TRUSS PLATES & STEEL

Joint WTCA/TPI Publications Agreement: TPI President Bill Turnbull reported that the publications agreement is at least 95 percent complete. The board recognized the work that Charlie Hoover had put into the agreement.

Preservative Treatment Update: This policy was completed and is a great example of how our joint work provides sound direction to the industry.

ANSI/TPI 1 Issues: The moment equations are being revisited in the ANSI/TPI 1 Standard by TPI TAC.

Status of document on how to load trusses (per ASCE 7-2002): Steve Cabler reported that Richard (staff) and a MiTek engineer are working on the first draft of interpreting the standard, which will be sent to TAC and WTCA's Engineering and Technology Committee for review. The goal is for our industry to have an example document that provides guidance on interpretation.

Steel Price Increase: There was a discussion about the current steel shortages and significant increase in steel prices. The board discussed the possibility of taking action on the legislative front.

KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE: CONNECTOR INDUSTRY/STEEL

Kelly Gutting of Simpson reported that Corrosion testing by the hanger companies has been finalized, so changes to the recommendations from that testing will probably require some experience with the new preservative treatments in real-world applications. Testing continues to generate data for short heel height applications and the effects on allowable hanger loads. Another issue under investigation and testing is hanger gaps and effects of gaps (between the end of the joist/truss and the carrying member) greater than 1/8". There was also a discussion about WTCA and TPI creating a new tag for trusses using treated lumber.

KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE: LUMBER

Helen Griffin of Weyerhaeuser reported that Canada and the U.S. both proposed settlements that were rejected by the other party. Key sticking points are how provinces will implement lumber market pricing changes to satisfy the U.S. that they are not subsidizing lumber and who is to receive the money collected from the duties. A key message that we will take to this year's Legislative Conference is that we need a long-term negotiated settlement.

Cooperation with AWC on fire issues as they pertain to structural building components: Dave Gromala of Weyerhaeuser requested WTCA's assistance with a project the American Wood Council is undertaking with the U.S. Fire Administration. The project will involve the creation of a resource guide covering fire performance of wood structures. The board agreed to provide assistance on the wood truss section and online training. The work on the fire performance of wood trusses that the Carbeck Structural Components Institute has done will be useful for this project.

KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE: ENGINEERED WOOD PRODUCTS

Gary Dunn of the Wood I-Joist Manufacturers Association (WIJMA) reported that they are considering participation in a Canadian fire performance project. WIJMA has been following ICC acceptance criteria. New criteria include engineered studs and finger jointed lumber for I-joists and trusses.

COMMITTEE UPDATES: REPORTS & MOTIONS

Engineering & Technology Report (staff for Clyde Bartlett): The committee reported their top priority is to create an industry guideline on applying loads onto trusses per code. Other key tasks include creating a database of code officials with whom strong relationships exist, monitoring the issue of offshore (India, Costa Rica) truss design and engineering, drafting talking points on how our industry practices engineering and printing it in SBC Magazine, and writing for SBC Magazine on the long-term performance of floor trusses.

Component Manufacturers Roundtable (Dan Holland): A motion passed to move the Wood Promotion Network lumber policy to the background section of the policies. There was a task to create a subcommittee to research the current status of design software products and make a recommendation to the CM Roundtable in terms of action items. The roundtable's consensus was that there is value in the Industry Data Standard project. The committee will reconvene and move forward.

Marketing: The committee reported their top priority is to educate the industry on WTCA's online educational offerings. To this end, staff will create a demo CD of programs and send it out with SBC Magazine and to all members and potential members. Further, SBC Magazine will highlight a program in each issue. Staff will visit Wisconsin members and non-members to demonstrate online products and all WTCA services and create a sales test market.

Quality Control: The committee recommended creating a policy that all third party inspections shall be in line with In-Plant WTCA QC. A motion passed that the committee assess the need to incorporate a moisture content measurement as the truss is manufactured, due to mold issues. The committee requested to be kept informed of the WTCA proposal to TPI TAC about the flexibility of the Cq value within the PPM. Staff will create a bilingual TTW refresher course for QC and will investigate methods to assess proper plate embedment/rollover.

Management/Business Insurance: The top priority for 2004 is to define the approved insurance broker program value proposition for component manufacturers. We will schedule a meeting with the brokers prior to the August Board meeting to ensure that we have a solid strategy to make the program work. A subcommittee will review and revise the policy on WTCA developing a sample contract. A standard scope of work may need to be agreed upon by the entire chapter. Operations Safety Certification on a beta test site basis. If you are interested in participating, contact staff.

Membership Committee: We will research cost of having new presidents and/or board representatives meet in Madison to go over expectations and general items that will help them develop their new role. Staff will post Top Chord points on the web site. This will include general information on the Top Chord Club and the breakdown of points. The committee will research how to provide more value to wall panel manufacturers and consider forming a committee to address wall panel issues. The Committee passed a motion recommending that the Board approve the Executive Committee's proposed dues increase for 2004 and send a letter to members that will inform them of the increase (see page 20).

Legislative: Staff will update the policies to make them current in preparation for the legislative conference. The key issue for this year's Legislative Conference will be steel prices and supply. The committee will modify the steel tariff policy to reflect the recent occurrences. Preparations for the conference include: creating a steel statistics fact sheet and a list of key questions members should ask their legislators.

WTCA's next Open Quarterly Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2004 Legislative Conference, May 5-7 in Washington, D.C.

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