

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

December 2004

Across the Board

WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting: October 9, 2004 • Charlotte, NC by WTCA Staff

The WTCA Board of Directors held their annual post-BCMC Show meeting in Charlotte, NC on October 9. Following is a summary of the meeting minutes.

October's Board meeting started with 2005 President Kendall Hoyd welcoming everyone to the meeting. The Board then approved minutes from the August meeting with one modification.

Nominating Committee Chair Scott Arquilla introduced the new and returning WTCA Board representatives. Hoyd presented retiring Board members with plaques in appreciation for their service.

Hoyd reviewed the 2005 Board meeting schedule:

- February 25: Atlanta, GA
- May 6: Washington, D.C.
- August 19: Denver, CO
- October 15: Milwaukee, WI

Hoyd pointed out to those in attendance that the primary function of the WTCA Board is to address key industry issues. The detail work is to be done through the many existing committees. He reviewed the top priorities for 2005 and asked the Board to recommend project ideas. Suggestions included:

- Marketing the value of WTCA products/services to component manufacturers.
- Contacting all members and provide information and assistance.
- Staff attendance at all chapter meetings on a quarterly basis.
- Automating the FPS and Wage and Benefit Survey online.
- Workforce Development implementation.
- Data Standard creation and implementation.
- Finalizing bracing fundamentals.
- Wall panel support and code development.
- Online TTW business plan.
- Creating truss testing program to further our current bracing analysis knowledge.

There was a discussion about current or emerging local and/or national issues affecting members' markets:

- Tim Rouch brought up the issue that big developers are placing the responsibility of straight ceilings on component manufacturers, although the issue has more to do with taking responsibility for the poor practices of the other trades. The Central California Chapter (CalESCA-Central) has scheduled a meeting to discuss the issue. John Huck of the Colorado Chapter noted that this is also happening with wall panels in his market.
- Tom Manenti noted that another 2005 priority should be following up after the hurricanes in Florida, as it will be important to monitor building department issues prior to the 2005 hurricane season.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Hoyd recognized Finnforest USA's \$500 contribution to the Marketing Committee to help maintain our strong work in this area.

Hoyd reviewed the proposed bylaws change ([see below](#)). The change was brought before the Board to strengthen our association and ensure that our bylaws are consistent with the various duties that Board members have under existing law.

Hoyd pointed out that Board members have a duty to contribute to the policy-making process within WTCA and that we need to be united in policy implementation to take advantage of having a strong, consistent message in all the markets we serve. This policy will also help us reduce our association risk and possibly allow us to gain the benefit of being able to provide or offer affordable Directors & Officers insurance for our chapters.

There was some concern by suppliers that they may belong to other organizations that some may deem competitive and as such, they would have a conflict of interest. WTCA Legal Counsel Kent Pagel noted that under existing law, Board members have a duty to identify where conflicts of interest exist and to recuse themselves from any vote on any issue that would present a conflict.

A resolution to change the bylaws was unanimously approved.

INVESTMENT POLICY DISCUSSION

[Editor's Note: For more information on this topic, please see the [Editor's Message](#).]

Hoyd reported that the Executive Committee has formed a subcommittee to handle association funds investment strategies, which is one of the most important responsibilities of the members of the Executive Committee. The reason this is important to WTCA is that two major streams of revenue are generated from June through August and then dispersed to pay for all our expenses throughout the remainder of the year. Without a sound investment strategy for these pools of funds, we are not gaining all the benefit we can for our association and the additional projects that we would like to undertake. An overview of the Investment Subcommittee report was given, as well as the proposed policies for operating and non-operating funds.

There was a recommendation to have an independent outside audit performed every year on the investments and a suggestion that the Executive Committee should approve any draws on the

line of credit that is part of the investment policy. These concepts were added to the policy.

The Board unanimously passed a motion to approve the updated investment policies, including the Board's recommended changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Don Groom reviewed the financials and requested questions for discussion purposes. The August financial statements show that WTCA is strong. Operating revenue was \$1,990,081 and operating expenses were \$1,883,630. This resulted in a net income of \$106,451 and a positive budget variance of \$468,923, given that we were projecting a \$362,472 operations deficit for this budget period. The Board voted to approve the report. The Board discussed and unanimously passed a motion to transfer such amount of funds so that \$1 million would be held in the reserve fund.

CARBECK STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS INSTITUTE REPORT

Staff reported that the slot car racing fund raiser at BCMC was well attended. Truss and bracing testing and continuation of educating about the fire performance of trusses are the important 2005 objectives and that will go into the Carbeck project plan.

BCMC

Tom Manenti reported that there was a post convention meeting as well as an exhibitor meeting. He provided preliminary attendance statistics, noting that we broke the 2003 records. The committee and staff spoke to a lot of folks and overall the show was very good. A site meeting is scheduled for December 9 to begin the 2005 planning process for next year's show, October 12-14, in Milwaukee, WI.

SBC MAGAZINE

Staff thanked SBC's advertisers for their part in making the magazine possible. The BCMC Thursday afternoon manufacturers' roundtables again proved to be excellent opportunities to get ideas for SBC articles that can be used throughout 2005.

2005 MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY

WTCA will perform an online Member Satisfaction Survey this year. Our goal is to have this completed in the spring of 2005.

KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE: TRUSS PLATES & STEEL

Charlie Hoover noted he was pleased to hear that the work of putting together a joint publications agreement has worked very well and he thanked all those who made this agreement and success possible.

Hoover also asked how many component manufacturers are being asked to design trusses to ANSI/TPI 1-2002. Approximately 15 people raised their hands. TPI TAC has been addressing issues surrounding the new moment equation in the standard, determining how to address issues that have been found with the equations we're using. Our industry has asked Professor Steve Cramer of the University of Wisconsin to help us refine our equations to better represent actual joint performance. The goal is completion by year-end.

TPI promoted their third party inspection program during BCMC and brought on six new licensees. These new licensees have also expressed interest in WTCA QC.

A question was asked about WTCA's work on the industry's "Guide to Good Practice for Applying Loads to Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses." Richard Zimmermann of WTCA staff is in the final phases of drafting the guide. The plan is to hold a "Guide" subcommittee meeting in December to finalize the draft and then hold a meeting of TPI TAC and WTCA's Engineering and Technology Committee in January to review, complete and implement this work. Component manufacturers can begin to use the state-of-the art technology, as long as the building officials in the local market are in agreement. Additionally, this work will aid in providing public comment on ASCE 7-2005 that will happen this fall.

KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE: CONNECTOR INDUSTRY/STEEL

An update on the testing relative to treated lumber was given. There are instances where there may be short-term exposure to moisture for trusses that could cause a plate corrosion problem. The typical case is when trusses are attached to the ledger in the basement. Current information on corrosion of connectors can be found on the connector manufacturer web sites.

KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE: LUMBER

Joe Kusar, a member of the Southern Pine Council, noted that their promotional efforts are going to focus specifically on raised floor systems, which is a benefit to truss manufacturers. At their last meeting, they had a presentation on current cement shortages. Due to regulations and issues such as the demand of the Chinese market, cement supply is limited. Based on this, raised floors have become a good alternative to slab on grade. He also noted that wood structures performed very well in the Florida hurricanes.

Helen Griffin reported on the status of the U.S./Canada lumber dispute. Since August, the NAFTA panel ruled on the threat of injury, disagreeing with the ITC and sending their ruling back to the ITC to provide a response. The ITC reluctantly accepted the NAFTA panel ruling. There are currently no negotiations going on between the U.S. and Canada. There are discussions going on between the industry and governments. In December, the Department of Commerce is revisiting the preliminary CVD and AD determinations, and going back to companies to set the rate for the first year. Meanwhile, deposits continue to increase and the next phase of the dispute will likely include an extraordinary challenge.

KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE: ENGINEERED WOOD PRODUCTS

A discussion took place on the current allocation status of LSL and laminated products. The discussions at BCMC seemed to indicate that there is no end in sight for the short supplies of beams and headers. Helen Griffin said that the resin supply is likely the key issue and she was not aware of any increases in the volume of resin in the near future.

COMMENTS FROM SCOTT ARQUILLA

Scott Arquilla reflected on his participation in 32 consecutive (eight years) WTCA Board meetings. He said that he had seen many changes in WTCA over that time period and praised the many accomplishments and milestones he has seen the association achieve. Finally, he mentioned that one of the real values of being part of this association are the friendships that he has developed and the support he has received when he has had an issue or problem to deal with. The Board recognized Scott's outstanding contribution with a standing ovation.

Wood Truss Council of America Bylaws Change

September 24, 2004 -VERSION APPROVED-

[Under Article V, Board of Directors]

SECTION 12. DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF ALL DIRECTORS.

All Directors shall meet certain standards of conduct and attention to his/her responsibilities to the Council including:

- a. (a) Exercising due care in all dealings with the Council and its interests. This includes careful oversight of financial matters and reading of minutes and Council policies, attention to issues that are of concern to the Council and raising questions whenever there is something that seems unclear or questionable;
- b. (b) Avoiding conflicts of interest, including the appearance of conflicts of interest. This includes personal conflicts of interest or conflicts with other organizations with which a Director is a member. The Council recognizes however that Associate Member representatives may find themselves at times in a position where their interests are not perfectly aligned with Component Manufacturer representative Directors and in those instances such Associate Member representative Directors shall clearly identify areas of potential conflict of interest prior to taking action with respect to the Council in their positions as Directors; and
- c. (c) Obedience to the Council's central purposes must guide all decisions. Directors must also ensure that the Council functions within all legal requirements and its own bylaws and other policies.

Additionally, all Regular Member representative Directors shall (i) Use reasonable efforts to implement the Council's mission statement; (ii) Contribute to the Council's policy formation process by offering opinions, discussion and drafts of new policies or policy modifications; (iii) Use reasonable efforts to develop and strengthen, through the Council's policies, practices,

products and services, the structural building components industry; (iv) Assist in the mentoring of Council staff through providing industry knowledge; (v) Communicate with and seek the assistance and expertise of the Council and its staff regarding issues and activities locally and regionally concerning industry matters pertaining to legislation and regulation, building codes, engineering practices and requirements, education/training opportunities, industry risk issues, insurance, or the quality or fire performance of structural building components; and (vi) Report to the Council on chapter activities, policies, meetings and undertakings.

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