

# NCSC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

January 19,  
2000

## Minutes of the Meeting North Central Superpave Center Steering Committee Kansas City, MO **January 19, 2000**

Members present: Chairman John Volker, David Andrewski (for Rick Smutzer), Lloyd Bandy, Wade Culwell (for Jim Jones), Garry Chegwidden, Tom Deddens, Mike Frankhouse, Lee Gallivan, Mike Heitzman, Ray Hogrefe, Dick McReynolds, Joe Meade, Laird Weishahn

Others: Becky McDaniel

Chairman John Volker opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. He welcomed everyone on behalf of the NCSC. He also reminded everyone that his term as chairman will end next year and suggested people give consideration to his replacement. The agenda for the meeting is attached as Appendix A.

### *Update on Center Status*

Becky McDaniel expressed the apologies of Jan Olek and Lynn Warble, who were both unable to attend this meeting. She then presented an overview of the current activities and status of the Superpave Center (Appendix B). McDaniel reported that all five centers are still in existence and still working together on various issues. The five centers met last week during TRB. At that time, Peter Sebaaly, who took over the Western Superpave Center when Jon Epps left the University of Nevada at Reno, reported that his center is actively working with individual states though regional, cooperative support and funding is lacking. Joe Button discussed the difficulties of establishing the relocated South Central Superpave Center (SCSC) at Texas A&M. State support there is proving difficult to obtain. All five centers want to continue working together on the joint newsletters and other activities, though funding may be a problem, especially for the SCSC, in the short term.

The committee discussed the possibility of expanding the number of states participating in the NCSC. We determined that we would make another overture to the Ohio DOT since they were originally part of our region, but would not solicit any other states. If another state comes to us asking to participate in our activities, we would welcome them, but they have to make the first step. The NCSC staff will prepare a letter to ODOT for Chairman Volker's signature inviting them to participate.

Activities at the NCSC continue to focus on research, communication and training, as summarized in Appendix B. McDaniel also reviewed the financial status of the NCSC, as shown in detail in Appendix C. Funding for the current fiscal year and next fiscal year appears to be sufficient. Funding in FY 2002 will not be sufficient unless we generate more income through research, training or other sources.

### ***Discussion of Implementation of Recommendations from Dells Meeting***

Lee Gallivan summarized the recommended priorities established for the NCSC at the Summer meeting of the Steering Committee and briefly outlined the Center's response to those priorities. The presentation is attached as Appendix D. The center has initiated actions in response to the highest priorities. Some clarification and guidance is needed from the Steering Committee for some of the lower priority items. Following Mr. Gallivan's presentation, the Steering Committee discussed the priorities.

- The committee wishes to know what would be required for the NCSC labs to obtain AMRL accreditation in terms of effort and cost. This may be needed if the Mixture Branch were to be used as a third party lab or to bid on future research through NCHRP. The Binder Branch is currently accredited for binder testing. Ms. McDaniel will collect information and report back to the committee.
- The Steering Committee clarified that under "Cost Effectiveness" they had envisioned a survey of how states are monitoring the performance of Superpave projects and how Superpave mixes are performing. Ms. McDaniel will send information on the Rocky Mountain User-Producer Group database as an example of how information could be collected on a regional basis. (Paper copy available upon request.)
- Ms. McDaniel will forward to each Steering Committee member a listing of everyone in his or her state/province currently on the mailing list. At their convenience, members are asked to review the list to ensure that everyone who should receive the newsletters is on the list. This can help to spread the word to local agencies, consultants and other interested parties.
- The next report on Center status will list the accomplishments under each priority.

### ***Report on Other Superpave Centers***

This formal discussion was deferred in the interests of time and since there was quite a bit of discussion of the other centers during the Update on Center Status.

### ***Involvement with the User-Producer Group***

Following a break, Mike Heitzman apprised the committee of changes regarding future NCAUPG meetings. Ken Archuleta is retiring and will need to be replaced as coordinator of the meetings. Mr. Heitzman had asked what would be required for the NCSC to serve in this capacity. The NCSC staff looked into how this could be done and reported as shown in Appendix E. Under Purdue and federal regulations, the NCSC is not allowed to handle registration fees. Therefore, the NCSC met with the Purdue University

Conferences Division to discuss having them coordinate the meetings. Conferences has a professional staff that organizes hundreds of meetings across the country every year. One big advantage of using Conferences is that they can accept credit cards for payment of fees. Conferences prepared estimated expenses and income based on the assumptions the NCSC staff provided. Based on these estimates, Conferences could organize the meetings anywhere in the region for about the same registration fee. (This does not include the cost of producing and distributing the meeting minutes, which we were not asked to consider.) The Steering Committee was then asked if they would approve of the NCSC serving in this fashion if requested by the NCAUPG Management Committee. The committee unanimously approved approaching the Management Committee with this offer. [The Management Committee later declined the offer, choosing instead to have Tom Bryan assume these duties.]

### ***Stressing the Implementation of Superpave***

Garry Chegwidden expressed his concern that more help is needed with the day-to-day implementation of Superpave, not just research. The work force is changing and new people need help with Superpave. More local agencies are also being faced with implementing Superpave. The committee then discussed ways to accomplish this. Ms. McDaniel mentioned the NHI courses on Superpave that are appropriate for local agencies and have been well received. She also mentioned a letter Iowa had prepared and sent to its counties; the letter offers guidance on how counties can implement Superpave. (Paper copies are available upon request.) McDaniel also mentioned that she is often called for advice on production, placement and testing problems during construction and has occasionally been asked to visit field sites to help troubleshoot. This is an area the NCSC would like to expand, staff time permitting.

Wade Culwell agreed that local agencies need education and assistance. He told of a city in Kansas that placed a turnpike mix over a milled surface. The new mix was much too permeable and allowed water to penetrate into the underlying pavement, causing problems. That made Superpave look bad although the real problem was inappropriate application of the Superpave mix.

Putting lessons learned on the web can help give people access to this type of information. Wisconsin has a lessons learned database. Minnesota also has good guidelines in their specifications on the web and Iowa issues technical bulletins. Dave Andrewski and others offered some cautions about lessons learned. It is important that the technical content be reviewed to ensure it is correct, sometimes conflicting advice may be offered by different sources, the content should be up-to-date and assumptions must be clearly stated (research on granite, for example, may not hold for limestone). Dick McReynolds suggested looking at the TRIS Research in Progress information as well. The NCSC website should be updated to include specific contacts at the DOTs (and elsewhere) for information similar to what the Lead State team had put out. Steering Committee members will be asked by the NCSC to provide these names.

Ms. McDaniel mentioned how she had made a presentation to the national LTAP center meeting several years ago telling them what resources were available for their use at the regional Superpave centers. Maybe it is time to contact the LTAP centers in the region individually to offer assistance. The NCSC will follow up on this.

***Next Meeting***

The Steering Committee discussed the need for another summer meeting. The feeling was that a meeting is probably not needed this summer but one might be appropriate next summer. This should be included as a budget item for FY2002.

The regular Steering Committee meeting will continue to be held in conjunction with the NCAUPG. The committee felt strongly that meeting before the User-Producer Group is preferable despite the conflict with the technician's meeting.

With thanks to all for their participation, the meeting was adjourned and luncheon was served.