

Minutes of the 30th Meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Institution of Highways & Transportation on 14th October 2009.

Present:

Greg Perks	CSS/Northumberland CC (Chairman)
Graham Bessant	London Underground
Graeme Brown	DRD (NI) Roads Service
David Mackenzie	SCOTS
Paul Foskett	DfT
Neil Garton Jones	CSS Wales
Rod Howe	British Waterways
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitans / Salford MBC
Trevor Pennell [for Paul Williams]	LOBEG
Andy Phillips	Welsh Assembly Government
Stephen Pottle	TfL
Bill Valentine	Transport Scotland
Ronnie Wilson	DRD (NI) Roads Service
Mike Winter	CSS/Dorset County Council
Justin Ward	IHT (Secretariat)

Apologies

Ian Bucknall	Network Rail
Graham Cole	CSS/ Surrey County Council
Bob Flitcroft	CSS/Lancashire County Council
Paul Williams	LoBEG/London Borough of Brent

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

a) Greg Perks welcomed members to the 30th meeting of the UK Bridges Board. Greg thanked members for their participation on the Board and their employers for their support.

b) The Board thanked Ronnie Wilson for his contribution to the UK Bridges Board - and acknowledged his work with CSS Bridges Group and the Bridge Owners' Forum - and wished him an enjoyable retirement.

c) The Board welcomed Graeme Brown who will be taking over from Ronnie Wilson on the UKBB.

Apologies were received as shown above.

2. Note of last meeting and matters arising

a) Rod Howe reported that he is working with Bob Flitcroft on the remit for liaison meetings between CSS and British Waterways.

b) Neil Loudon advised the Board that the HA Eurocodes implementation advice would be available within the next 3 weeks.

Action: Neil Loudon to send HA Eurocodes implementation advice to JW for circulation to UKBB members

All other “updates” from the last meeting are included in this minute.

3. SCOSS 17th biennial report

a) John Carpenter from SCOSS presented the 17th report, noting that the report was a summary document that aims to direct people to further information that is downloadable from the website. John encouraged UKBB members to disseminate the report through their own organisations.

Topics covered by John included:-

- The importance of people, process & product.
- CPD training for young engineers.
- Bridge practitioners’ role as “risk managers”.
- Global sourcing of materials e.g. rebar.
- Consider safety-critical items in a risk management plan.
- I Struct E to publish guidance on “robustness” in Spring 2010.
- SCOSS guidance note available on “independent reviewer”.
- SCOSS note available on the 6 assumptions of Eurocode EN1990.

Action: All – disseminate the SCOSS report through organisation

b) John provided an update on CROSS, presenting the 16th newsletter. He asked that the Board encourage organisations to develop a “proactive strategy” for the reporting to CROSS by practitioners.

Action: All – discuss proactive management strategy to address the reluctance of individuals submitting reports to CROSS and also address how to engage wider support from senior management to ensure reporting both of large and small issues

c) John also noted the economic benefits of CROSS providing the example of the Boston Tunnel where problems with \$1 fixings have resulted in \$1.5Bn in the cost of civil claims.

Action: *John Carpenter would be pleased to speak to individual organisations on the safety and economic benefits of CROSS*

3. CSS/NR Liaison Group update

Greg presented the update paper in Bob Flitcroft's absence noting that the next meeting is on 13 January 2010.

The templates for overbridge and underbridge construction will shortly be sent to the secretary for distribution to Board members for their information.

Action: *Bob Flitcroft to send template agreements to JW for circulation to UKBB members*

4. Bridges Board Business Plan

- a) Greg informed the Board that the plan is currently being refined.
- b) Greg recorded that since the previous meeting the Board has developed policies on "response to emergencies" and "international liaison".
- c) Greg informed the Board that the UKBB survey of UK bridges is underway.

Action: *All - Respond to Greg Perks request for information on bridge inventories (for members of the Board who have not yet responded)*

d) Greg noted that at the last meeting of the UK Roads Liaison Group, there was agreement that the UKBB would have a remit for Earthworks & Geotechnics. Following discussion the Board agreed that this should only be when associated with structures and would not include bulk "cut and fill" earthwork elements.

Action: *Board agreed to focus on earthworks and geotechnics that are associated with structures*

e) The Board discussed how it might interact with those involved in other "non-bridge" areas e.g. tunnels and geotechnical assets. It was agreed that the

chairman make contact with the Tunnel Owners [Operators'] Forum and the Geotechnical Asset Forum with a view to inviting them to attend a future Board meeting.

Action: *Andy Philips to send details of the Geotechnical Asset Forum to Greg Perks*
Action: *Andy Philips to send details of the Tunnel Owners' Forum to Greg Perks/Justin Ward*

5. Communication

Justin Ward provided a brief update on communications

Action: *All – any issue of particular interest/relevance to the profession for bridges should send details to Justin Ward as these could be covered in the Transportation Professional Journal*

6. UK Roads Liaison Group meeting

Greg provided an update from the meeting in July. Some points thus:-

- RLG has completed its report on winter services.
- RLG yet to determine its role in highway research.
- Guidance on commuted sums will be published on the CSS website.
- “Climate change” will be on the next [11 November] agenda.

7. Research – current projects

a) Greg asked for an update on current research projects and the Board were informed about the Parapet Research Project and the Depreciated Highway Structures Project.

Action: *Rod Howe to send details of the Parapet Research Project and Stephen Pottle to send details of the Depreciated Highway Structures Research Project to JW for circulation to Board members*

b) Stephen Pottle mentioned the funding shortfall for the bridge inspector training research and the Board supported the action for Paul Foskett to investigate a funding contribution from UKRLG towards this research.

Action: *Paul Foskett to review the possibility for UKRLG to provide the funding shortfall for the bridge inspector training project*

8. Research – Future Programme

Greg noted that the position re “future programmes” is unclear while the UK Roads Liaison Group considers its role with regards to research.

9. Bridge Owners’ Forum Annual Report

a) Dr Campbell Middleton, chairman of Bridge Owners Forum (BOF) presented his paper outlining the work of BOF during 2008/09. The paper will be distributed with UKBB email e03/09.

b) Greg thanked Cam for his presentation and the work undertaken by BOF during the last year. Greg congratulated Cam and his organising committee on the success of the International Bridge Forum held at King’s College on 13 to 16 September 2009.

c) The Board unanimously expressed support for the Forum’s application to DfT for funding for the year 2010/11. The application should be submitted direct to DfT but copied to UKBB secretary.

Action: *Cam Middleton to send his proposal letter to the Department for Transport and copy in Greg Perks/Justin Ward to ensure receipt of proposal by UK Bridges Board*

Action: *Funding of the BOF to be raised at the UK Roads Liaison Group meeting on November 11th 2009*

10. AOB

a) Bill Valentine raised the issue of the risk of suicides at bridges following the recent incident at Erskine Bridge.

Action: *All – pass information to Bill Valentine on design measures (such as CCTV, phones to the Samaritans and higher fences) to reduce incidents of suicides on bridges to form a consolidated note of guidance for the profession*

b) Mike Winter raised the issue of the various websites available for disseminating information on bridges; noting that the Transport Advice Portal (TAP) could be an excellent source to disseminate information to the profession.

Action: *Justin Ward to investigate adding information on bridges to the TAP website and report back to the UKBB*

c) The UKBB agreed that they would like to add the minutes of the Board meetings to the UKRLG website.

Action: *Justin Ward to add the minutes of the UKBB meetings to the UKRLG website*

11. Items to note

The Board noted the content of these papers – received by the secretary after completion of the agenda :-

- a) “Transport Asset Management Guidance to UKRLG and Boards”.
- b) “Review and Oversight of the UKRLG Codes of Practice and Other Guidance Documents”.

12. Conferences and Courses

Greg noted that the Surveyor Annual Conference – “Bridges 2010” was to be held on the 25th March at Nottingham Belfry and a conference on Eurocodes that will take place in Autumn 2010. Greg also noted that there were a number of training courses on Eurocodes taking place at the moment.

13. Vulnerable Bridges

Neil Loudon agreed to update the UKBB on Vulnerable Bridges at a future meeting.

Action: *Neil Loudon to give a presentation at a future Board meeting*

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of UK Bridges Board will be on Wednesday 17 February 2010 at the Institution of Highways & Transportation.