

**ACEC – INDOT  
BRIDGE INSPECTION COMMITTEE**

**MEETING NO. 12 MINUTES**

November 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Mike Cox. Those in attendance were:

Jim Mickler	INDOT, Greenfield District
Bill Dittrich	INDOT, Planning and Production Division
Brian Harvey	INDOT, Planning and Production Division
Ron McCaslin	INDOT, Central Office
Bill Williams	Monroe County/IACHES
Keith Hoernschemeyer	Federal Highway Administration
Michael Cox	Beam, Longest and Neff, L.L.C.
Adam Post	United Consultants
Mike Obergfell	USI Consultants, Inc.
Mary Anne O'Toole	Collins Engineers, Inc.
John Ashton	Collins Engineers, Inc.
Tony Marino	RW Armstrong
Drew Storey	InspectTech
Jon Sera	Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc.

A meeting agenda had been previously distributed and the following items were discussed:

1. Mike Cox started off the meeting with a brief overview of the agenda.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed. The minutes were approved with no comments. Bill Dittrich informed Jon Sera that he should contact Susan Hines of INDOT to determine how to transfer previous meeting minutes over to the Bridge Inspection portion of INDOT's website.
3. The group started off the meeting discussing the 2011 NBIS Review. Mike Cox reviewed the latest effort to document which consultants are in charge of which counties. The group discussed distributing the list out to all team leaders for their review. This is an important step in the QC/QA process. Keith Hoernschemeyer explained that the FHWA has been working on a new process to inspect each state consistently. This is to be based on 23 performance standards. Each regulation is a performance standard. In the week following this meeting, the FHWA will meet with 15 states to discuss the new review process. Keith will plan on reviewing the new process at the county bridge conference. The InspectTech software will be used to review the data. This topic may also be discussed at the Midwest Bridge Working Group Conference coming up in Indianapolis. Bill reminded everyone to sign up soon for the conference. Keith will go over important items from the field reviews at the County Bridge Conference.
4. The group then discussed the staffing situation in the Bridge Inspection Department at INDOT. Gerald and Debbie are no longer in the Bridge Inspection Department. Brian Harvey will be handling the report reviews. Brian has been very busy with providing permissions to team leaders for the database. He is also trying to determine which inventory books are final and which are drafts. Ron McCaslin is

planning on submitting the proper documents to hire an employee to fill Gerald's previous position. Bill stated that they will be counting on the InspectTech Software to perform error checks. Brian will be handling all of the review processes for now.

5. Bill Dittrich discussed unknown foundations. He recommended that inspectors review chapter 7.5 of the Inspection Manual. Mary Anne discussed high, intermediate, and low risk bases for scour at unknown foundations. Bill displayed a query that displayed results of plans-of-actions for bridges coded as unknown foundations. Looking at the monitoring data, there appears to be many bridges with unknown foundations that don't have plans-of-action. Bill also noted that a recent query revealed more than 5600 bridges were inspected more than 2 years ago. This could be due to lag time in data entry of inspections that have already been done. Group recommended that a letter be sent to all the counties recommending a prompt resolution to unknown foundations and past due inspections.
6. Bill Dittrich asked Mary Anne if she had received any comments concerning the pocket guide. Group discussed some recent failures. A box beam in Lake County recently failed prompting closure. The bridge was constructed of adjacent boxes with an asphalt overlay protected by a membrane. Bill noted that state bridges must be rehabilitated or replaced within 3 years once an asphalt overlay has been installed. Bill also discussed some concerns with concrete I-beams. INDOT has been noticing distress in bottom strands of beams located near open joints. The group recommended that pictures of the Lake County Beam failure be sent out to all inspectors with a reminder to rate adjacent box beams properly. Bill also discussed the progress of the coding guide. Drew Storey noted that there have been several updates to data fields since John Ashton began working on the coding guide. The group also discussed changes in decimals between counties. Drew explained that this occurred due to the changing of decimals to integers before the migration to version 5.2. The group discussed the need for those involved with the data to document any changes to coding format.
7. Jim Mickler questioned how to select bridges to QC. The Greenfield District is behind on approving reports. Jim did not feel that the QC query was performing correctly. He felt that the query displayed all bridges. Drew will check the logic on the state query report. Bill Dittrich emphasized the need to properly clean fracture critical bridges. Mike Cox recommended that inspectors start reading the Inspection Manual Chapters one at a time to get up to date. His QA reviews have shown that inspectors are not up to date.
8. InspectTech found out that the new contract did not make it through DOA. They will need to start over with the contract approval process. Bill believed this was due to the migration of data from other departments. Drew recommended that future changes to the data or software be brought to this committee before being brought to Bill for final approval. Drew also noted that many of the comments concerning version 5.2 were addressed in the release notes which are accessible from the inbridges web page. The group recommended that a list of upcoming changes be developed and then released all at one time. This would keep the inspection manual and coding guide production staff on the same page.
9. Mike Cox questioned how INDOT plans to get as-built load ratings updated to actual conditions. Bill Dittrich stated that inspectors need to send a letter to George Snyder so that Danny Wampler can update the load rating if needed. Mike Cox questioned

how the load capacity would be rated if the deficiency does not fit within Virtis's capacity to load rate. He cited specific examples of traffic damage and substructure deterioration. Bill felt that this would require an engineer to perform a site visit and possibly make an engineering judgment.

10. The group discussed possible topics for the County Bridge Conference.
11. Bill mentioned that he would like to be able to focus more on problem bridges by implementing criteria to require lower inspection intervals for certain bridges. He would like the subcommittee of this group, which is planning on meeting after this group is finished, to discuss this criteria. The subcommittee will also need to look at allowing inspection intervals to go over 24 months for certain bridges that are in better condition. Mary Anne will forward Illinois' criteria to the group for review. Mike Obergfell asked that the group respond to him with comments before Christmas.

The next meeting for the ACEC - INDOT Bridge Inspection Committee is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Indianapolis Sub-district .

Individuals are invited to comment on items presented in these minutes and/or submit additional topics for discussion at the next meeting. Please E-mail comments to Jon Sera at [jsera@bfsengr.com](mailto:jsera@bfsengr.com).

This meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Prepared by,

Butler, Fairman, and Seufert, Inc.