

# **Meeting Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Pooled-Fund Study TPF-5(039) Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) Calibration Centers and Operational Improvements**

April 13, 2009

Adobe Connect Web Based Meeting

## **Participants/Attendees:**

### **FHWA & Contractors**

FHWA

Jane Jiang, [jane.jiang@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jane.jiang@fhwa.dot.gov)

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### **TAC and Other Participants**

California DOT, Albert Vasquez, [albert\\_vasquez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:albert_vasquez@dot.ca.gov)

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Washington State DOT, Charles Kinne, [kinnec@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:kinnec@wsdot.wa.gov)

Washington State DOT, Tom Baker

This meeting was held on the FHWA Web Conference Website

<http://fhwa.na3.acrobat.com/tpf5039/>

The web host was David Orr, Cornell University

Pooled-fund website: <http://www.pooledfund.org/projectdetails.asp?id=28&status=6>

## **Welcome**

Opened at 1:35 pm by Jane Jiang

There was a quick review of the agenda by Jane and short introductions.

## **Study Progress and Products**

- Lynne Irwin gave a presentation on the study progress to date. A copy of the presentation is available at the pooled-fund website. There were a couple of clarification questions asked during the presentation.
- After the presentation, there was a short discussion.
  - Chuck Kinne asked for a list of contacts for the calibration centers. They will be updated and provided to the TAC.
  - Al Vasquez wanted to know who will get the new software? JILS has a new software that may need to be reviewed. All of the calibration centers and the members of the TAC will be invited to web based training on the next release of the *WinFWDCal* software. This should take place in June. Anyone who would like a copy of the installation package should send a note to Lynne or David. A CD with the software will be prepared and sent. The software will run on any Windows based computer even without the DAQ board. In this case, the software will run in review mode
  - Tom Bold was concerned that some of the centers are not currently open. David Orr discussed the history of the noise at Minnesota that has shut down that center at times. All of the other centers are open except for a short window in early spring when ground movements are too large. Lynne then finished the history of the Minnesota facility and discussed our belief that the problems are associated with the building and not radio interference. Cornell is currently working with the Minnesota center to solve this problem permanently. Calibrations can be done at the Maplewood or St Cloud facilities. Jason Omunson is also interested in the resolution of the noise issue. Cornell will update the TAC with the resolution.

## **Work Planned in Year 5 (Task Order #2)**

### **Funding Status & Invitation to Participate in the Final Year**

- Jane Jiang gave a presentation on the work planned in the next year and discussed the funding of the remainder of the project. There were some clarification questions, but most of the discussion took place after Jane was done.
  - Training will need to be included with the *WinFWDCal* update in the task order.
  - Under Task 3, Bob Lutz discussed AMRL and the history of training of the AMRL staff. This includes training in Pennsylvania in March that included Cornell, AMRL, and the folks with the Pennsylvania FWD Calibration Center. Also, the two AMRL staff attended two days of training at Cornell in March. They are scheduled to accompany Dan Atkins, Cornell, on his QA visit to the Colorado Center on April 16. The two gentlemen from AMRL are Danny Stegmaier, Laboratory Assessment Assistant Supervisor and Jeremy Jablonski, AASHTO Accreditation Program Quality Analyst. Lynne commented on the AMRL folks and that he was very impressed with their skills and attitude. This was followed by discussion about the AMRL take over of the QA process. Bob mentioned that the AMRL support group has given their blessing, but the AASHTO Subcommittee on Materials does have the final say. This should be done over the summer. AMRL is committed to this process and intends to move forward.
  - \$55,000 was contributed so far in FY09. There was some discussion about getting the paperwork sooner rather than later to meet the end of many states' fiscal year.

- Tom Bold asked if there will be an accounting of the funding and a budget. Tom will need some justification of why we are asking for additional funds. Jane will look into this and get back to the TAC.
- The discussion then returned to the take over of the QA visits by AMRL.
  - Will there be a fee from AMRL or is this part of their overall lab investigations. For State run centers, this will be via the current AMRL contribution. There will be an increase recommended, but all states will be paying, rather than just the states with centers. For the private centers, they will be charged directly.
  - Al Vasquez asked about hardware replacement and load cell calibration. How will this be done in the future? Reference load cell calibration has been discussed, but FHWA, AMRL, and Cornell have not really discussed the hardware issues. Jane agreed that this needs more discussion into the future. Currently, the reference load cell, DAQ, and signal conditioner are sent to Cornell for review and calibration annually. The hardware is very robust and we do not anticipate a large amount of problems over time. Tom Baker asked if AMRL going to take over the load cell calibration? Lynne thought AMRL would take that over, but Bob was not sure.
  - There are two issues. One is the annual review and calibration of the equipment. The other is the costs of replacement of the equipment. Eric Prieve felt that the states would be responsible for the replacement of the equipment as the states will own the equipment after the pooled-fund is complete.
  - Eric asked is the load calibration doable by the states? Lynne noted that this was the original intent in the older SHRP protocol. We ran into QA issues, turf problems within the various states, and the lack of higher quality calibration of the testing frames (0.3% or better versus the 1 % which is typical). Bob Lutz raised a couple of issues dealing with the annual load cell calibration. Al was concerned about having the states do the load cell calibration. May not be practical for many states. Many states have to send out the load cells for calibration. Would Cornell be willing to continue this service? Lynne explained the problems at a University. We need to have alternatives. There was a good bit of discussion on the load cell issue.
  - A quick poll had the following results:

**1. Which of the following would you prefer for annual Reference Load Cell Calibration?**

<b>Answer Key</b>	0. Cornell	1
	1. AMRL	11
	2. Each center individually	1
	3. Not sure	3

- At the end of the discussion, all but one of the votes was changed to AMRL. The remaining vote was for Cornell.
- A short discussion centered around the funding status when Eric Weaver joined the meeting.
- A short poll and discussion at the end did concur that the web based meeting is good for groups this size.

- Randy Beck asked about what was on the calibration video. Lynne replied that the 12 minute video hit the highlights but is not focused on doing the calibration..

### **Adjourn**

Meeting was closed at 3:20 pm.

### **SHORT TERM ACTION ITEMS**

- Place presentations from meeting on the Pooled-fund web site. – Jane Jiang
- Provide the current list of contacts of the calibration centers to TAC. – Cornell
- Invite all of the calibration centers and the members of the TAC to web based training on the next release of the *WinFWDCal* software. – Cornell
- Anyone who would like a copy of the installation package of the *WinFWDCal* should send a note to Lynne or David. A CD with the software will be prepared and sent. – TAC
- Update the TAC with the resolution of the noise issues at the Minnesota FWD Calibration facility in Maplewood. – Cornell
- Send out request for additional fund, along with the work statement. – Jane Jiang