

**EIG Business Meeting  
Loews – Chicago, IL**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Sunday, November 6, 2016**

**3:30 – 5:00 pm**

**Attendees**

John P Simmet – Simcote	Todd Weishaupt – Harris Rebar
Danielle Kleinhans – EIG	Marshall Bonds – CMC
Paul Simmet – Simcote	Pete Fosnough – Harris Rebar
Mark Newman – CMC Rebar	Sandra Goebel – Valspar
Danny Johnson – CMC Rebar	Marcelo J. Acuña – ABC Coating
Carrie Sayers – ABC Coating	Tom Greenfield – ABC Coating
Freddie Rocha – ABC Coating	Fred Rocha – ABC Coating
Alfonso Garcia – ABC Coating	Sylvia Rocha – ABC Coating
David Acuña – ABC Coating	Fritz Herrmann – 3M
Joe Schimmel – CMC	Jeff Estep – Western Coating
Mike Barrett – Gerdau	Steve Hall – 3M
Brice Wager – Gerdau	Jeff Rogozinski – Valspar
Rick Hazekamp – Sioux City Foundry	Tony Del Percio – Valspar
Steve Drew – Titusville Fabricators	Paul McCrory – Valspar
Natalie Fox – Valspar	Todd Strohm – Lane Enterprises
Todd Stevens – Dimension Fabricators	Bob Marinella – Corrosion Control
Yidong Meng – Akzo Nobel	Scott Stevens – Dimension Fabricators
Volker Boerschel – Akzo Nobel	Rob Phillippi – Axalta
David Wasz – BL Downey	Jimi Nahashon – Axalta
Andy Stevenson – Akzo Nobel	Meghan Hodge – Axalta
Bill Maniaci – Simcote	Steven Huang - Axalta
Adam Simmet – Simcote	

**1. Anti-Trust**

Chair JP Simmet called the meeting to order at 3:30pm and made attendees aware of Anti-Trust requirements of CRSI meetings.

**2. Welcome**

**3. Introductions**

All present introduced themselves.

4. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Bill Maniaci to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Steve Hall. The agenda was approved unanimously.

5. Approval of Fall 2015 Minutes

A motion was made by Bill Maniaci to approve the minutes from our November 1, 2015 meeting, seconded by Dave Wasz. The minutes were approved unanimously.

6. Epoxy Interest Group Service Award

Danielle Kleinhans announced that the Epoxy Industry Service Award was posthumously awarded to John L. Simmet. Kleinhans shared some words that James Riemenschneider had prepared and would have expressed had he been in attendance. All present applauded the efforts of John L. Simmet in promoting epoxy-coated reinforcement.

Following the award presentation, another acknowledgement was made that Marcelo Acuña would be joining the CRSI Board of Directors, which would be officially announced at the Annual Business Meeting/Chairman's Dinner on Monday evening.

7. Steering Committee Review

A list of the current steering committee membership was reviewed. There are 9 current members. Brent Toller is no longer with Western Coating and so he no longer retains his seat on the steering committee.

8. Managing Director's Report

Kleinhans reported information related to the 2016 spending to date as well as the 2017 budget and proposed activities. Kleinhans also reported on epoxy market share which has varied with overall rebar fluctuation, since tonnage has been relatively steady over the past decade. Members requested forecast information and Kleinhans agreed to check whether the PCA data was provided to that level of detail. Methods to determine market share for our competition were also requested.

9. Approval of 2017 Budget

Kleinhans presented the 2017 budget. Research funding up to approximately \$200,000 can be undertaken by expending reserve funds (and maintaining a 6-month reserve). No dues increase is proposed for 2017 and other expenses are more or less equal to previous years with the exception of staff expenses (this is due to budgeting for less than full-time staffing in 2016 due to staff transitions). A motion was made by Pete Fosnough to accept the proposed budgets and it was seconded by Marshall Bonds. It was approved by unanimous vote.

10. Old Business

a. Research funding for 2017

Eleven potential research topics were presented by email prior to the meeting to the Steering Committee for ranking. One item can subsequently be removed from the list since a previous study established that adhesion is not necessary for the epoxy coating to provide corrosion protection. That research report can be found at this link:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/infrastructure/bridge/11060/> After that the top three topics are:

1. patch performance testing (i.e. performance of damaged and repaired versus 'perfectly' coated bars
2. NBI data analysis – ratings of bridges with epoxy-coated rebar versus other rebar
3. Scratch test development

Kleinhans proposed that a task group be established to develop an RFP for each of these three topics to be able to establish estimates of expenses and move forward with one or more projects. Volunteers were Brice Wager, Sandra Goebel, Mike Barrett, Steve Hall, and David Wasz.

b. ASTM Specifications

Kleinhans reported that the D3963 standard has transitioned from the D committees to the A01 committee. Additionally, the cathodic disbondment testing requirements may be removed from A755 and A934 very soon – this is pending resolution of negative votes received on the recent ballot to do so. The next meeting is next week in Orlando, FL and progress will be made to this end.

c. Fabrication certification

See discussion below regarding 'Concerns over CRSI Region Manager Focus.' The same concerns apply here. EIG will also focus on promoting the program and members participating in the program are asked to do the same.

11. New business

a. NTPEP proposed additions to coating standard

Discussion will take place with NTPEP staff at the Epoxy Coating meeting tomorrow. Concerns of the proposal from NTPEP were expressed and questions were raised whether the additional (even optional ones) requirements were needed. Members were encouraged to speak up tomorrow and let NTPEP know what the EIG/CRSI concerns are.

b. Concerns over CRSI Region Manager Focus

Significant concern was raised over the lack of CRSI Region Manager focus on transportation and DOTs. The group expressed the possibility that funds from certification could be allocated to EIG for one more person to focus on transportation. Members that believe this would be recommended were encouraged to communicate this idea to CRSI leadership and Board Members. Additionally, at the steering committee meeting the topic of focus DOT states should be addressed to assist in focusing the efforts of EIG and CRSI as well. RMs could be made aware of transportation events in their region with encouragement to attend.

c. AMM Article

A recent article in American Metals Market (AMM) highlighting the potential growth in the galvanized reinforcement market and disparaging epoxy-coated reinforcement.

Members expressed concern over the article and a plan to contact the author was presented. Kleinhans will contact the author with facts about the service life of epoxy-coated reinforcement, ask for a retraction/correction, and ask for them to publish the PennState research (see below). It was agreed to refrain from negative attacks and state the facts about epoxy and highlight actual research.

d. PennState Research

A recent study was highlighted on PaintSquare.com that outlines research at PennState to investigate cracking in Pennsylvania bridges for the DOT.

[http://www.paintsquare.com/news/?fuseaction=view&id=15760&nl\\_versionid=2066](http://www.paintsquare.com/news/?fuseaction=view&id=15760&nl_versionid=2066)

<http://news.psu.edu/story/433952/2016/10/31/research/researchers-look-ways-improve-pennsylvania-bridges>

e. Website update

Kleinhans reported that Leader Graphics is under contract to redesign the EIG website. It is completed and ready for review except for the “members only” section. Based on the use statistics of that portion of the website, Kleinhans asked Leader Graphics to work on that section last and posed the group whether they would like to see that section updated as well. The majority admitted that they do not reference the website, but they would like to see it updated none the less. A task group was formed to review the website and provide feedback, consisting of Brice Wager, Andy Stevenson, Dave Wasz, Adam Simmet, Carrie Sayers, and Todd Stevens. Within the task group, discussions can be held around potential content for members specifically. Review and comments will be requested in the following weeks.

f. Social Media

EIG is experimenting on social media with a Facebook (Epoxy Interest Group of CRSI) and Twitter (@Epoxyinterest) account. Kleinhans has requested a report from Leader Graphics who is managing the posts for both to assess the “value” of the contacts that we are making on each platform. Kleinhans will also let the CRSI Region Managers know so that they can communicate this information as they are meeting with contacts. Follow-up discussions will take place at the Steering Committee meeting.

g. Length and date/time of meeting

There were some requests that the EIG meeting be held not on Sunday (perhaps Tuesday). Everyone agreed that we would like to request a 2-hour meeting next time.

12. Adjourn

Kleinhans thanked the group for their attendance and active engagement.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm by Chair JP Simmet.

Respectfully submitted,  
Danielle Kleinhans  
November 29, 2016