Summary Minutes Of The

AASHTO Bridge Rating and Design Products Meeting
August 8, 2013   Virginia Beach, VA

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Date: Thursday, August 8, 2013

Participants:

AASHTO	Judy Skeen	Project Manager	Bridge
SCOJD	Bruce Johnson	Oregon DOT	SCOJD Liaison
BrDR Task Force	Tim Armbrecht	Illinois DOT	Chair
	Jeff Olsen	Montana DOT	Bridge Design (BrD)
	Dean Teal	Kansas DOT	Bridge Design (BrD)
	Todd Thompson	South Dakota DOT	Bridge Rating (BrR)
	Amjad Waheed	Ohio DOT	Bridge Rating (BrR)
	Tom Saad	FHWA Resource Center	FHWA Liaison
BrDR Contractor	Jim Duray	Baker	
	Herman Lee	Baker	
	Krisha Kennelly	Baker	
	Geoffrey Trees	Baker	
Visitors	Brian Goodrich	BridgeTech	Third Party Developer
	Ron Love (by phone)	Bentley	Third Party Developer

Notes Taker: Judy Skeen

Agenda Item 0: Review Agenda/Assign Minute Recorder

Tim Armbrecht opened the meeting at 8:05.

Item 5e, 'Ignore positive moment over support for AASHTO engine' was added to the agenda.

Agenda Item 1: Third-Party Development

1a.   Introduction of Attendees (for phone participants)

Todd Thompson conveyed that the intent of this session is to get up to speed on the issues associated with third party development and to prioritize action the Task Force can take to assist third party developers.

Bentley and BridgeTech providided input of the third party developers including:

- The desire to have a 'heads-up' on any major changes in the API.
- Interest in importing BRASS culvert data into Bridge Design .

1b.   Third Party Expansion in AASHTOWare Bridge

Big Picture - Expanding the third-party environment in AASHTOWare Bridge would be a win for every entity involved including the bridge owner, trucking companies, AASHTO, and third-party developers.

1c.   Third Party Presentation from 2012 User Group Meeting

There was a discussion on the The Third Party presentation to the Task Force from the 2012 User Group meeting.

1d. Overview of the AASHTOWare BrDR Process Launcher (BridgeTech)

BridgeTech presented an overview of their request is for providing a method within BrD/R for launching a third-party process from any item in the BridgeWorkspace tree.

1e. Third Party Developer Interactions - Moving Forward

A follow-up meeting via conference call may be scheduled for later this year. A webinar or two may be needed to evaluate potential third-party products to be considered for inclusion in the AASHTOWare catalog.

Agenda Item 2:Prior Business
2a. Review June Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the June 2013 Task Force meeting in Seattle, WA were tentatively approved. Todd Thompson has not had an opportunity to review the minutes; therefore, he will review and provide any comments he might have to Judy Skeen. If changes are recommended, Judy will circulate the comments to the Task Force for approval prior to posting the final minutes on SharePoint.

Baker will develop the summary minutes for the June meeting and post on SharePoint for Task Force review and approval.

Agenda Item 3: User Group
3a. Discussion

The new User Group name is RADBUG – Rating and Design Bridge User Group

Brad Wagner (Michigan DOT) is the new User Group President. Brenda Crudele (New York DOT) is the new Vice President for Bridge Design. Phillip Litchfield (Illinois DOT) is the new Vice President for Bridge Rating.

Based on feedback from users there is a need for enhancements in the area of timber bridges

(LRFR). States could work together to use their service units to add the functionality which would likely require 13 to 15 service units to fund. Madero seems to be meeting a majority of user needs. Baker would need to re-evaluate their previous estimate for an AASHTO LFD engine and included the desired functionality for LRFD/LRFR.

Several users expressed the need for basic training in LRFD and LRFR. Tom Saad mentioned that there might be an opportunity to offer an NHI training course in conjunction with future RADBUG User Group meetings.
Users also expressed the desire to have separate days during the annual user group meeting designated for training to allow those attending training to not miss out on any of the other User Group meeting presentations. The User Group might consider offering the fundamental training sessions on Monday afternoon prior to the User Group meeting.

Generally, it did not appear that the user group members had too much to say to Task Force members about the current state of the products. However, as the users begin to exercise the 3-D and curved girder functionality there will likely be more discussion regarding the software speed.

Computer memory and processor speed vs. performance was discussed. Users have expressed an interest in obtaining results from a parametric study to measure the speed and performance of the software based on computer processor, configuration and memory.
Users have expressed some difficulty in using Bridge Rating with LARS.

Brad Wagner advised that he plans to establish a listserver to support communication between members in the user community. User Group member access to Bridge Task Force members

was also discussed to some degree. Jeff proposed posting additional Task Force member background and contact information on the User Group website.

It is apparent that the Bridge Design contingent is shrinking in comparison to the Bridge Rating contingent. The Task Force discussed the need to step up marketing efforts to get more states on board with using Bridge Design. The possibility of developing a YouTube video on the Bridge Design software was discussed. The Task Force also discussed investigating the possibility of implementing license discount arrangements for states who license both products.

Based on the lack of user support calls on substructure, it appears the substructure component of Bridge Design is not being used by a majority of the licensees. A YouTube video on the use of the substructure design component might be a good idea.

Agenda Item 4: 6.5.1 Release

4a.   Release schedule
Beta testing will begin in early October. Delivery of the final product should be accomplished before the end of the calendar year.

The availablity of a combined user interface for non-unlimited users who license both Bridge Design and Bridge Rating was brought up by users during the User Group meeting. The Task Force discussed the request and the fact that a combined product interface currently exists only for the software delivered to customers using an unlimited license for both products. A combined BrDR user interface currently does not exist for the non-unlimited versions of the software.

The Task Force made the decision to approve the development of a combined user interface for the non-unlimited software. Baker was directed move forward with the development of the combined user interface for the non-unlimited version of BrDR with the caveat that they inform the Task Force if it is determined that the associated work effort will require more than a couple of days to complete. The work effort was approved under Task Force directed work.

Once complete, the non-unlimited version of the BrDR product with the combined user interface will be deployed to end users who order/specify they are licensing non-umlimited versions of both products AND they wish to have the software delivered with the combined interface. The option to support this request will need to be added to the software ordering verbiage in future versions of the catalog. Users wishing to take delivery of the combined user interface for the non-unlimited versions of the software prior to the delivery of the FY15 AASHTOWare Catalog must specifically ask for the combined user interface via Baker support channels.

4b.   Service Pack
The Task Force would like to see which TAG members would be interested in intensive testing at Baker's office which could be scheduled mid to late October for the beta testing of 6.5.1. Baker would send the beta software to the testing TAG a couple of weeks prior to the proposed in-office testing..

Agenda Item 5: Miscellaneous

5a.   Planning Estimates Flowchart
Dean presented a flow chart detailing the directory structure for storing planning estimate files on SharePoint.

5b.   Concrete multi-cell box enhancements
Enhancement features were reviewed by the TAG and direction was taken from consultants performing work in this area for Caltrans to ensure the functionality they need is included in the enhancement. Baker reviewed the features identified and their recommendations on when each individual feature should be incorporated into

the product. All feature requirements have already been incorporated into the database.

The Task Force needs to make a decision on the 6.5 tasks very soon to determine what will be included in 6.5.1.

5c.   JIRA status update
Baker sent emails to all end users on the changes to the new support website and the direction on setting up JIRA accounts for the end users.

Users are concerned about how open incidents will be transitioned from IssueNet to JIRA. Baker explained that all open incidents in IssueNet will be entered as new incidents in JIRA (with a reference to the previous incident in IssueNet). Approximately 20-30 incidents are currently open in IssueNet

Incidents in IssueNet will be read only to the user. Developers will still have write capabilities in IssueNet and can be responsible for updating incident status going forward. When JIRA is rolled out, an email will be sent to the end users to make them aware of how existing and new incidents will be handled in IssueNet/JIRA.

The support website will need to continue to have links to both IssueNet and JIRA incidents.

5d.   Website status update
The rebranded website is complete and ready for production. The requirement for a password to access online tutorials was discussed. The Task Force made the decision to make the tutorials accessible without requiring a password. The status of the existing tutorials will be discussed during the Task Force meeting in November.

5e.   Ignore positive moment over support for AASHTO engine
The AASHTO engine currently does not use this function (i.e., to ignore positive moment over

support). This is a bug in the program. The error can be fixed in less than a week. The Task Force directed Baker to correct the problem under Task Force directed work.

5f.   Splice design for steel girder (LRFD)
New York is interested in incorporating splice design in LRFD and is considering using their service units to fund the enhancement.