

Civil Division – Engineers Ireland

Hon Secretary's Report 2013-2014

Committee Meetings

There were eight committee meetings held by the Civil division since the last AGM with an average attendance of seven.

The Committee has a membership of 12, including the officers

Civil Division Representation at Engineers Ireland Council Meetings

John McCarthy was the Council representative for the division during the year. Also on Council were past chairman Kieran Feighan, Murt Coleman and Chairman Cormac Bradley.

Evening Lectures/Presentations

Last year's "Titanic Belfast – Designing an Icon" was voted Best Paper/Presentation at the 2013 Excellence Awards. Over the reporting period, the Civil division organised a number of evening presentations including:

- Greystones Harbour Development held at Dun Laoighaire Yacht Club.
- Grangegorman Development
- Construction Product Regulations
- Eirgrid – Grid 25
- The Fate of Surplus Stone and Soil Arisings on Construction Projects

The division also co-hosted a number of other lectures with our affiliated societies and other engineering divisions:

Heritage Society

- The History of Galway Docks
- Medieval Water Mills
- George Willoughby Hemans (Bi-centenary)

Roads and Transport Society

- NRA Pavement Management Systems
- Dublin's Streets from 1000AD to 2030AD; The evolution of a city.

Geotechnical Society

- Pyrite – Achieving By-Product Status

Manufacturing and Mechanical Division

- Development of a Commercial Scale Tidal Stream Turbine

The Civil division also co-hosted with The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE):

- Cill Rónáin Harbour
- ICE Presidential Address at Engineers Ireland
- Development of a Commercial Scale Tidal Stream Turbine

Committee - Recruitment Drive

In 2013, the Chairman Cormac Bradley was involved in recruiting additional members to the Committee. Average attendance has increased from five to seven over the last two years.

State of Ireland (Infrastructure) Report

The Civil division were heavily involved in the production of the State of Ireland Report which was launched during Engineers Week 2014. The report covers the areas of communications, transport, energy, waste and water.

Inter-Professional Task Force on Property Boundaries Report on 'Towards the Registration of Defined Property Boundaries in Ireland'

Former Civil division committee members represented Engineers Ireland on the Task Force on Property Boundaries. The report, "Towards the Registration of Defined Property Boundaries in Ireland" was launched in April 2014. The six professional bodies involved include the Bar Council of Ireland, Engineers Ireland, the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland, the Irish Planning Institute, the Law Society of Ireland and the RIAI.

Future of Construction Sector

In advance of issuing the draft report on the construction sector by Forfás, meetings were held between Engineers Ireland and Forfás attended by representatives of the Civil division and the Engineers Ireland executive. At these meetings, issues raised included:

- The New Conditions of Contract and the "equitable sharing of risk",
- The lack of spend on Infrastructure as a % of GDP,
- The need for disconnect between development and infrastructure.

Information substantiating the above raised points was sent to Forfás by committee members after these meetings. The Forfás report - a major new strategy report on the construction sector entitled "Ireland's Construction Sector: Outlook and Strategic Plan to 2015" was issued on July 25th 2013.

CIC – Construction Industry Council

Engineers Ireland has taken on the Chair and Secretary functions of the CIC with effect from January 1st 2014 for a two-year period. Meetings will take place every two months and full-time staff of Engineers Ireland will fulfill the administrative role with input from volunteers. The Chairman of the Civil division has been to represent Engineers Ireland.

Building Control (Amendment) Regulations

Members of the committee represented Engineers Ireland on the consultation group and worked through various stages of the drafting and forming the implementation process of the new regulation which were signed by the Minister earlier this year.

Public Works Contracts - Reform

Members of the Committee represented Engineers Ireland on an initiative launched by Brendan Howlin TD Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. This initiative was launched to review PWCs as the consensus was that current forms of contracts were not working. Following its launch, members of the Civil division were involved in drafting Engineers Ireland's written submission to the Department.

Other Items:

STEPS & Sector Liaison

During the year James Mulligan represented the Civil division as STEPS liaison and Paul Quigley was the division's representative on the Liaison committee.

Water and Environment, Roads and Transportation, Geotechnical and Young Engineers Societies

Members representing the above societies sit on the Civil division committee, providing valuable input and support. Having these members enhances the capability of the division.

Membership of the ECCE:

The Civil division approved Murt Coleman's continued membership of the ECCE.

Bonds for Government Contracts:

Early in 2013, members of the committee along with with other professional bodies and the CIF met with the Government Contracts Committee and construction bond providers to discuss the difficulty in availability and the cost increase in acquiring bonds. Since these meetings, the bond requirements (expressed as % contract value) have decreased based on Department Circular issued to Government Agencies.

Register of Chartered and Competent Engineers and Scientists to conduct Risk Assessments at Unlicensed/Historic Landfills:

A meeting was held with the EPA regarding a Register of Chartered and Competent Engineers and Scientists to conduct Risk Assessments at Unlicensed/Historic Landfills. The chairman was requested to draft a letter from Engineers Ireland to the EPA confirming our intention to create a register of eligible and competent engineers and a draft proposal to set up a register within Clyde Road. This register is now up and running.

Michael Goss
Chartered Engineer
Secretary – Civil division

12/05/2014