

**Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Section of American Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) Board Conference Call
Friday, January 15, 2021, at 12:00 P.M. EST**



The conference call/meeting began at 12:00 p.m. The following people were in attendance on the call:

George Gerard, CSCE President

Brianna Maljanian, CSCE President-Elect

Scott Nolan, CSCE Vice President

Aaron Foster, CSCE Treasurer

Tim Ariosto, CSCE Newsletter Editor

David Chapman, CSCE Director II

Danielle Spicer, ASCE Region 1 Governor

Jodi Greene, MRLC 2022 Co-Chair

Roy Merritt, Legislative Affairs Committee Chair

Tom Loto, Water Resources Committee Chair

Alex Mora, Chair of CT Chapter of Structural Engineering Institute

Ranjit Bhawe, Chair of CT Chapter of the Transportation & Development Institute

Amy Petrone, CSCE Administrative Assistant

1. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes from CSCE Board Conference Call on December 18, 2020

The meeting attendees reviewed the meeting minutes from the CSCE Board Meeting/Conference Call on December 18, 2020. George Gerard made a motion to approve the minutes. Brianna Maljanian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. ASCE National Update - Danielle Spicer provided the following updates to the Board:

- ASCE Regional Spring Assembly is scheduled for March 26, 2021, and it will be virtual.
- ASCE is hoping to hold its Fall Assembly in Connecticut
- There has been no decision yet about holding the 2021 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) virtually or in-person.

3. CSCE Microsoft Teams License/Virtual Meetings – George Gerard provided the following information:

- CSCE's PayPal account cannot be used to pay for the purchase of the Microsoft Teams license for CSCE. Instead, he secured the license using his personal credit card. CSCE currently has a 1-month free trial with Teams and his card has not been charged yet. Once it is charged, he can submit an expense reimbursement form to the CSCE Treasurer. To avoid using a CSCE member's personal credit card for future purchases like this, CSCE would like to get a debit card.
- The type of Teams license that was purchased for CSCE is a business standard license. This type of license does not allow CSCE to host live events. It will work for CSCE's monthly meetings. CSCE may purchase a 1-month license for a live event if needed for its future professional development seminars/workshops. Other platforms to use for live events like the seminars/workshops are Cisco Webex or GotoWebinar. CSCE will discuss buying an option other than Teams for live events on its next conference call.
- Amy Petrone dropped off the CSCE projector at George Gerard's house. So, now he has the CSCE laptop, the CSCE projector, and the CSCE banner.

- Meeting registration for the January meeting has been updated to better reflect requirements for people to earn 1 New York State Professional Development Hour (NYS PDH) at this meeting.

4. Application Revisions

- Revisions to CSCE 's Student Scholarship application forms revisions are in progress. Scott Nolan, Brianna Maljanian and George Gerard met on a conference call to discuss the revisions. Scott Nolan is spearheading this effort. Currently, there are 3 different types of scholarships and applications. The revisions will streamline the application process. The plan is to have the revisions completed by February 1st and the submittal deadline be scheduled for some time in March.
- ACE Awards applications will be updated in the coming month. The updates will provide CSCE reviewers with more flexibility in determining the project awards.

5. Upcoming Meetings/Presentations

- January 26, 2021 – Virtual Meeting – A conference call with the meeting participants is scheduled to be held on January 21, 2021. Speaker biographies and learning questions still need to be finalized for this meeting.
- February 23, 2021 – Virtual Meeting – The speaker, Chris Zukowski, offered to share a 5-minute video that recaps the entire I-84 Waterbury Widening Project. The video could be used to help promote the meeting. CSCE will try to post a link to the video online and include a link to it in its Constant Contact emails. Students from the ASCE Student Chapter at the University of New Haven have offered to share information about their latest activities at this meeting. This meeting will be held during Engineers Week (February 21-27, 2021).
- March 16, 2021 – Virtual Meeting - The topic of this meeting will be how to prevent bridge collapse during construction and the speaker will be Vincent Siefert of Siefert Associates.
- April 16, 2021 (Tentative) - 10th Annual Spring Geotechnical Workshop – The contacts for this workshop are Ben Cote and Clay Patterson.
- April 20, 2021 - Monthly Meeting – George Gerard will contact Rabih Barakat about a speaker for this meeting's presentation. Student award presentation will still occur at this meeting if it is held virtually. Amy Petrone will contact the USCGA Faculty Advisor Katie Heckman and ASCE Student Chapter President Sabrina Robertson to see if there can be a student-led presentation at this meeting.
- May 15, 2021 - 2021 ACE Awards – People discussed if this event can be held in-person or virtually in May or June. COVID-19 Vaccination Phase 1b is targeted to end by March 31, 2021, with 50% of the population in Connecticut expected to be vaccinated by that time. One challenge is that companies may not allow employees to attend in-person events in May or June. Another option is to hold the event in-person in September just to be safe. CSCE will discuss this issue further on its February 2021 conference call.

- June 16, 18 and 23, 2021 – SEI-CT Chapter Workshop - Alex Mora shared the following information with the Board:
 - There are 5 confirmed speakers, and the Chapter is looking for 1 more speaker.
 - There will be 2 presentations on each of the 3 days.
 - Alex Mora will send the titles of the presentations to Amy Petrone and she will use that information to promote the workshop.
 - The Metro and Boston sections of ASCE are interested in the webinar. Promotional information will be forwarded to them and their members.
 - The focus of workshop will be wind and wind effects on infrastructure.
 - This event may be able to be run with CSCE's current Teams business license, which covers 300 attendees. CSCE will have a planning conference call for this workshop in the next few months. CSCE will coordinate the management of the distribution of NYS PDHs for the workshop as it did with the geotechnical mini-series in September 2020.

6. Younger Members Group (YMG) Update - Jodi Greene provided the following information:

- \$15,000 has been raised so far from 6 sponsors for the 2022 MRLC in Hartford.
- Board members are encouraged to promote the 2022 MRLC sponsorship opportunities to their companies.
- The Younger Members Group (YMG) will host a virtual family feud competition on January 27, 2021.
- If any update is provided about the 2021 MRLC being held in-person or virtually, Jodi Greene will let the CSCE Board know.
- The 2022 MRLC website will be unveiled on either January 27 or 28, 2021.
- The YMG Board will next meet in February.

7. Board Member Updates

President – George Gerard provided the following information:

ASCE & Section Membership Dues Information - On the last group call with the ASCE President, an option for companies to purchase a company membership was discussed. ASCE offers 2 purchase options: one option pays for only a member's National dues (like AECOM does) and one pays for a member's National and Section dues. Tom Loto, who works for AECOM, had to pay his Section dues after a phone call with ASCE and an invoice was generated by ASCE.

President-Elect – Brianna Maljanian provided the following information:

She is working with Amy Petrone to get the PDH records together for the meetings and seminars since September 2020 and is waiting for some information for the records from George Gerard. Once this process is completed, the files will be uploaded to CSCE's ASCE Collaborate account. She will review last year's ACE Awards application to identify areas of improvement.

Vice President – Scott Nolan provided the following information:

He is updating the CSCE scholarship applications this weekend and will send a draft to the Board next week. He is assisting with revisions to last year's ACE Awards applications and has spoken with Tim Ariosto about changing the format of the CSCE newsletter from Microsoft Publisher to the service on Joomag.com. He will join the conference call on next Thursday, January 21, to help prepare for the meeting on January 26, 2021.

Treasurer – Aaron Foster provided the following information:

He will look into getting a debit card for CSCE's accounts and will send an annual tax form to Amy Petrone

Newsletter Editor – Tim Ariosto provided the following information:

He is looking to transition the CSCE newsletter from Microsoft Publisher to a service from Joomag.com. There is a monthly cost for the service on Joomag.com and it ranges from \$39/month (Start plan) for up to 100 users, \$79/month (Grow plan) for up to 300 users and \$149/month (Scale plan) for up to 1,000 users. To add 1,000 users to the Scale plan, the cost would be an extra \$49/month. He will find out if the membership can be monthly or annually. Amy Petrone will check Constant Contact to see if it tracks how many people open the emails that CSCE sends via Constant Contact. The next issue of the newsletter is expected to be distributed in about 2 weeks using a trial version of the service on Joomag.com.

8. Legislative Affairs Committee – Roy Merritt provided the following information:

- The Connecticut legislative session started last week, and the Committee will start to track bills soon. Public hearings should start in a few weeks.
- Governor Lamont made a statement last week regarding appointing a special adviser to focus on transportation and toll-related issues.
- The ASCE Legislative Fly-In will be held virtually on March 3-4, 2021. While the application deadline to attend the Fly-In was on January 11, 2020, Katie Klose was considering applying to attend the Fly-In.
- The Committee will emphasize joining ASCE's Key Contacts program, which allows CSCE members to receive direct emails from ASCE about federal or state legislation with links to contact legislators. The Committee may run a raffle to encourage people to become Key Contacts and give out 2 gift cards (\$50 Amazon cards) to winners. Katie Klose reached out to ASCE Legal Counsel regarding running a raffle and the need of a gaming license. The raffle could be advertised in February and the raffle prize drawing could occur at the ACE Awards. Aaron Foster made a motion to reimburse Roy Merritt for \$100 for the purchase of gift cards for the raffle prizes. George Gerard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- The Board discussed working on a 2022 Infrastructure Report Card for Connecticut. Brianna Maljanian offered to speak with Omkar Jambotkar, who managed the last Report Card development process, to gather information about the process. She can also work with ASCE to learn more about the process and timeline. After Brianna speaks with Omkar Jambotkar, she will update the Legislative Affairs Committee. CSCE could aim to release the Report Card in October 2022.
- The Board discussed how to involve students in the development of the Infrastructure Report Card. Aaron Foster offered to contact the engineering students at Quinnipiac University and the University of Connecticut to gauge interest and learn about any requirements to set up a possible independent study or senior design project related to the Report Card.
- Roy Merritt will reach out to ASCE to find out how many local CSCE members are Key Contacts. Amy Petrone will also look at the CSCE member list to see if people are listed as Key Contacts.

9. Golf Outing – CSCE will discuss/debrief the 2020 golf outing and plan for the 2021 golf outing at a future meeting.

George Gerard made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Brianna Maljanian seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m. The next meeting/conference call is scheduled for February 19, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. Noon EST.