

CSCE Bi-Weekly Conference Call Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 10:00-11:00 AM EST



The conference call/meeting began at 10:00 a.m. The following people were in attendance on the call:

CSCE President Ben Cote	CSCE Structural Engineering Institute - CT Chapter Chair Ranjit Bhawe
CSCE President-Elect George Gerard	CSCE Legislative Affairs Committee Chair Roy Merritt
CSCE Vice President Brianna Maljanian	CSCE Fairfield County Branch President Ron Hill
CSCE Treasurer Scott Nolan	CSCE Golf Tournament Chair Jud Wible
CSCE Past President Chris Beaulieu	
CSCE Secretary Aaron Foster	CSCE Administrative Assistant Amy Petrone

The following items were discussed:

1. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes from CSCE Board Meeting on November 12, 2019

After a review of the minutes, Ben Cote made a motion to approve the minutes. Chris Beaulieu seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Financial Approvals for Vote

- \$900 check for New York State Professional Development Hours (NYS PDH) provider approval – As part of CSCE’s application to New York State to become a provider of events that can provide PDHs to attendees, a payment of \$900 is required. Ben Cote made a motion to approve this payment. Aaron Foster seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- \$45 for Lands’ End Apparel Account – CSCE would like to provide CSCE Board and Committee Members with the opportunity to purchase items from Lands’ End with CSCE’s logo on them. Ben Cote made a motion to approve this payment. Aaron Foster seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Approximately \$100 for a projector case and laptop bag – CSCE is currently using Amy Petrone’s canvas bag to store CSCE’s projector since no case was ever delivered with CSCE’s projector. Ben Cote suggested that CSCE purchase the following case and bag and return the canvas bag to Amy Petrone:
 - https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00VE3CGLI/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1
 - https://www.amazon.com/AmazonBasics-15-6-Inch-Laptop-Tablet-Bag/dp/B00DUGZFWY/ref=sr_1_4?keywords=laptop+bag&qid=1575643889&sr=8-4

After reviewing the items, Ben Cote made a motion to approve this payment. Brianna Maljanian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

For future purchases, CSCE can look into getting a debit card for use with CSCE-related purchases.

3. Upcoming Dinner Meetings & Events in 2020

January 28 - Dinner Meeting at the Yale Graduate Club, New Haven - At this dinner meeting, David Jacobs will be the presenter and Jeff Benoit is managing the meal choices. Amy Petrone will contact Jeff Benoit to see if the meal choices have been selected yet.

February 11 - Dinner Meeting at Quinnipiac University - Amy Petrone will contact Jeff Benoit to see if the meal choices for this meeting have been selected yet. At this dinner meeting, the speakers will be Jenny Drescher and Ellen Feldman Ornato of The Bolder Company. The topic of their presentation is, *Raise Your Emotional Intelligence, Lower Your Stress*. CSCE needs to approve the Letter of Agreement between The Bolder Company and CSCE, which includes a \$1,500 fee. This Letter of Agreement was emailed on December 3, 2019, with the agenda for this conference call. After reviewing the Letter of Agreement, Ben Cote made a motion to approve the Letter of Agreement and the payment. Scott Nolan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

March 10 - Dinner Meeting at Norwalk Inn – This meeting is sponsored by the Fairfield County Branch of CSCE. Following a discussion about presenters, it was decided that Roy Merritt will invite Chris Zukowski of the CT Department of Transportation (DOT) to speak about I-84 project at this meeting.

March – Stand-alone board meeting - Date/time/location: TBD

April 17 - Annual CSCE Spring Geotechnical Workshop at the University of New Haven – Ben Cote will reach out again to speakers to obtain their presentations for CSCE’s PDH application to the Practicing Institute of Engineering, Inc. (PIE).

April 21 - Dinner Meeting at the USCGA – The CT DOT Commissioner has accepted CSCE’s invitation to speak at this dinner meeting. CSCE could highlight sponsorship opportunities to companies when promoting this dinner meeting. Amy Petrone will contact Jeff Benoit to see if the meal choice (buffet vs. plated meal) has been decided yet for this meeting.

May 19 - ACE Awards - Aqua Turf Club – The CSCE Board will review the 2019 ACE Awards application for possible edits to incorporate into the 2020 ACE Awards application. The Board will plan to have a bi-weekly conference call in January to discuss only the preparations for the ACE Awards, including the possibility of hiring an event planner.

Possible Future Meeting Location: Hartford Armory – Ben Cote contacted Jerry Lukowski about parking options and availability of the Armory for a lunchtime presentation or a continuing education workshop. Parking can be hard to come by around the Armory, especially when the Legislature is in session. Attendees could park in the Legislative Office Building (LOB) visitors parking garage. The Armory is a great venue if CSCE wants to invite legislature members and their staffers since the Armory is the closest bar and restaurant to the LOB. It is a great place to network and support the investment in the state’s infrastructure for the 2030 plan. CSCE will discuss having an event at this location at its annual planning meeting in the summer of 2020.

Golf Outing – Jud Wible, who managed the 2019 outing and who has offered to manage the 2020 outing, provided the following information about those two outings:

- In 2019, the outing produced a net profit of \$2,750 that was divided in 3 ways between the sponsoring organizations.
- The 25th anniversary of the outing is in 2020.
- The advertising for the outing could be improved so that registration could increase.
- Sponsorship levels need to be reviewed.
- Planning for the 2020 outing should begin in January.
- One goal for the 2020 outing is to increase the amount raised for the scholarship funds of the sponsoring organizations.

3. Region 1 Assembly in Connecticut - March 20-22, 2020

- a. Presentation of local project for a PDH - Aaron Foster is working on identifying a presentation on a local project for 1 PDH at this Assembly. The ASCE Metropolitan Section can provide the PDH.
- b. Social Hour - Ben Cote will be coordinating this portion of the Assembly.
- c. Networking Event – ASCE Region 1 Director Tony Cioffi may also want The Bolder Company to run a networking event at the Assembly. Ben Cote will ask Jenny Drescher and Ellen Feldman Ornato about this event.

4. Treasurer/Financial - Audit/Federal Tax Filing due to ASCE Accounting Department by December 15 - Bob Gomez and Scott Nolan discussed the filing, which has been submitted to ASCE.

5. Connecticut Valley Geo-Institute

Ben Cote provided the following information about the latest activities of the Geo-Institute:

a. Fall Geotechnical Seminar

- The two speakers who have tentatively agreed to present at the seminar are Dave Murphy from Milone & MacBroom (from Joe Kidd) and Brian Maggi from USCGA (from Hudson Jackson). People should contact Ben Cote if they have ideas for speakers (contractors, consultants, etc.) for the seminar.
- CSCE is looking at possible venues in Rocky Hill, Windsor, Cromwell and Wallingford for the seminar and it is looking to increase sponsorship opportunities (notepad/pen sponsors, etc.).

b. Observations from the Mohawk Section Geotechnical Workshop on November 15, 2019 – Ben Cote shared the following information with the Board. There were 90-100 attendees at this workshop and they sat in a long narrow room with circular tables that was also used for breakfast and lunch, which were served at the back of the room. The cost for the workshop was \$100 for 7 PDHs. There was a company-sponsored 45-minute reception at the end of the day. Instead of exhibitors, there were only platinum and gold level sponsors. Sign-in sheets were completed during each presentation and individual PDH certificates were distributed at the end of each presentation. This is something that CSCE could conceivably do if the individual presentations were approved by PIE.

6. Structural Engineering Institute - Connecticut Chapter

a. Adoption of Structural Engineering license in Connecticut – On December 5, 2019, CSCE received a request from Robert Zygmunt to partner with the SE Licensure Committee of the CT Structural Engineers Coalition to support a bill that would eliminate a non-degreed path to professional engineering (PE) licensure and create a structural engineering (SE) endorsement to the professional engineering license. To provide some background on this issue, Roy Merritt shared information from past legislative efforts related to a PE/SE licensure requirement in CT, during which CSCE focused on continuing education requirements, professional engineering licensure, and a structural endorsement of the license. After a discussion of this topic, it was decided that the CSCE Legislative Affairs Committee and the Structural Engineering Institute - CT Chapter should be involved with this effort to keep up to date on the progress of this process. On behalf of CSCE, Roy Merritt will reach out to Robert Zygmunt regarding this issue.

b. Structural Engineering Institute - CT Chapter Bylaws – Ranjit Bhawe will send the updated bylaws to Ben Cote, Amy Petrone and Brianna Maljanian for inclusion in the CSCE Operations Manual and Appendices.

c. Continuing Education Seminar – Ranjit Bhawe will identify a speaker for an upcoming continuing education seminar.

7. Legislative Affairs Committee

a. Roy Merritt plans to meet with the CSCE Legislative Affairs Committee in January.

b. Legislative Fly-in to Washington, DC in March 2020 – At this time, no CSCE Board members are planning on attending this event. Roy Merritt will ask ASCE who from Connecticut is registered to attend this Fly-In.

8. CSCE Banners - Ben Cote will contact George Gerard to obtain an update on the status of this item.

9. Annual Report - Aaron Foster submitted the annual reports of CSCE and the Fairfield County Branch to ASCE. In the future, it was suggested that the leadership of the Branch review its annual activities and submit its own annual report to ASCE.

The meeting/conference call ended at 11:00 a.m. The next call/meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2020, at 12 noon and the focus of this meeting will be the 2020 ACE Awards. A call/meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 23, 2020, at 12 noon and will focus on general CSCE business.