

**Section Meeting Minutes**  
**ASCE ND Section Annual Spring Meeting**  
**April 17, 2014**  
**Prepared by: Brandon Oye**

Four presentations were held from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, which included the following speakers and topics.

Title: Hydroelectric Plant Rehabilitation

Speaker: Christopher Rousseau, PE – Lead Senior Engineer, Hydro Engineering Group;  
ASCE Region 3 Governor

Title: BlueToad – Provides real time data to public regarding travel speeds in work zones

Speaker: Kevin Gorder, PE – Assistant District Engineer, NDDOT – Fargo District

Title: Environmental Issues associated with the Minot Train Derailment Incident (2002)

Speaker: Jim Semerad – Manager, Permitting and Compliance, NDDOH – Air Quality

Title: 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North Flood Control Project

Speaker: April Walker, PE – City Engineer, City of Fargo

**The Business Meeting was opened at 6:17 PM after the dinner.**

The President opened the meeting with introduction of all guests.

**1) Previous Minutes**

- a. The minutes from the 2013 Fall Meeting held on September 26, 2013 were reviewed. Motion by Walsvik to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawrence. Motion passed.

**2) President's Report**

- a. Don was gone a lot since September, but the Board has been doing a good job keeping things going.

**3) Treasurer's Report**

- a. The treasurer's report and Section budget were reviewed. The Section's balance is \$9,576.92. The budget proposed to increase the Section dues to \$25 to cover additional expenses of sending members to the Legislative Fly-In, Multi-Region Leadership Workshop, and Region 3 Workshop. Motion by Oye to approve the treasurer's report and budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> Padmanabhan. Motion passed. The new rate will go into effect for 2015.

**4) Committee Reports**

**a. Continuing Education Committee Report**

1. Tom Klabunde reported that they would like to hold 4 Lunch & Learn webinars per year. He is working with members in Minot to host a webinar. Our Section would pay for the webinar, attendees would pay for food. They could possibly hold it a BWW, but would work better to hold at an office for no charge. Anyone that can host a site is encouraged to contact Tom.
2. It was discussed that a Lunch & Learn in Fargo could be held at NDSU. Need to contact Dinesh or Jerry ahead of time to schedule.
3. John Fraunhoffer stated he would be willing at any time to do a presentation to offer 1 PDH.

**b. Membership Committee Report**

1. Matt Walsvik report that he is getting more emails from engineers in Williston and Bismarck.

**c. Volunteer Events Committee Report**

1. Jerod Klabunde reported on the Firm Crawl planning. They will be holding this event again in the in September or October. Previously had 2 private consultants and one County Highway Department host sites. Jerod is looking for other businesses willing to host a site.
2. Jerod explained that it is important to volunteer our time to our communities.

**d. Webmaster**

1. Brandon Oye reported that the new ND Section website is up and running. The address is [sections.asce.org/north-dakota/](http://sections.asce.org/north-dakota/)
2. Tony Eukel volunteered to be the new Webmaster.

**5) Old Business**

**a. Bylaw Updates**

1. Brandon Oye presented the final draft of the revised Bylaws. The dues will also be changed in the Bylaws from \$15 to \$25. Motion by Walsvik to approve the revised Bylaws, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vegi. Motion passed. Brandon will send John Frauenhoffer a final copy of the Bylaws for approval.

**6) New Business**

**a. Officer Elections**

1. The elections for Secretary-Treasurer and Vice-President will be held at the Annual Spring meeting in 2015.

**b. UND & NDSU Student Chapter Outstanding Student Awards**

1. It was discussed that the Section will need recommendations on students to receive this award for both UND and NDSU. This award will be voted on at the Fall 2014 meeting.

**c. ASCE Multi-Region Leadership Conference**

1. Tom Klabunde and Matt Walsvik reported on the conference they attended in St. Louis on January 10-11. They said it was a great experience to see what other Sections are doing. The conference discussed how to retain and gain members. ASCE National Officers also presented at the conference. They also gained PDHs at the seminars held.
2. The Section had discussion on how to decide who gets to go to these Multi-Region Leadership Conferences. It was discussed that Board members would get the first opportunity, then open it to non-Board members.
3. It was stated that no Student Chapter members from ND attended. It was discussed how to get them to attend, possibly sponsor a student. We would need to get reimbursement info from John Frauenhoffer. John stated that they are many resources available to us.

**d. ASCE Legislative Fly-In**

1. Brad Shaffer and Matt Walsvik reported on the Fly-In that they attended in Washington, D.C. on March 18-20. They said overall it was a great experience to see how things work in D.C. and provided them an opportunity to do some sightseeing.
2. They stated that there were at least two ASCE members from each state in attendance. California had 30 members.
3. Anthony Fox, the DOT Secretary, spoke at the event. He was pro-infrastructure. He stated the Highway Funding bill expires soon. WRDA is being pushed. Mr. Fox will be in Fargo/Casselton a week from today to discuss the Casselton train derailment.
4. The ASCE Report Card rated national infrastructure a D+.
5. They were able to meet with Staff to discuss bills and find out what their position was on the bills. They said everyone was for infrastructure, but no one wants to pay for it. The Fuel Tax

has not been increased in a long time. They are trying to find a more stable funding stream for the Highway Fund.

6. The Section should see an email in December for the 2015 Fly-In.

**e. ASCE National Officer Report – John Fraunhoffer, ASCE Region 3 Director**

1. John reported that ASCE National released the Report Card on Infrastructure this year. It is an outstanding public relations tool. Gerry Gwost explained that you can download an App of the Report Card where you can read articles and watch videos.
2. John discussed the three initiatives to be voted on at the Region 3 Workshop in Chicago on August 15. The initiatives include Transportation, Water and Parks & Rec. He will email the documents to the officers to get comments. He asked that we send someone to the Workshop for debate. It will be discussed and recommended by the Board of Governors for approval. He stressed that we need a strategy on infrastructure funding.
3. John stated that ASCE now offers 5 PDHs by webinars each year for paying members. They are available on the ASCE website. They can be viewed as a group or individually. Some webinars are archived and some are live. If anyone needs help, contact an officer and they will help you get the webinars.
4. The members at the meeting commended John Fraunhoffer on his presence at the Section meetings.

**f. ASCE National Civil Engineering Department Heads Conference**

1. Dinesh Katti reported that he attended this conference in Norman, OK on April 6-8.
2. The conferenced talked about education to remain competent in our profession.
3. There were two things that Region 3 and 4 discussed:
  1. Perception of Civil Engineering to young kids
    - a) We are not working with high tech items so we are not first choice for profession. Other professions are attracting young kids. We need to make civil engineering more exciting. Companies need to think how to integrate new ideas. The Student Chapter holds 2 competitions that are old technologies (concrete canoe and steel bridge).
    - b) Need to keep smarter students and get them more excited with challenging items.
  2. The growth in numbers of women engineers is stagnant
    - a) Class rooms are not growing with number of women.
    - b) Need to change the perception (only 13% women)
4. Dinesh asked if a committee in our Section can think about some interesting items to help with this issue. We could bring those new ideas to middle schools to get kids excited.

**g. NDSU Student Chapter Report**

1. The Chapter participated in the Concrete Canoe competition.
2. The Chapter participated in the Steel Bridge competition. The bridge collapsed during load testing and they were unable to have time to rebuild it. They noted that NDSU is a 6 time National Champion. No other teams have won more than twice.

Don Anderson requested motion to close the business meeting at 7:31 PM. Walsvik so moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oye. Motion passed.