

Section Meeting Minutes
ASCE ND Fall Meeting
October 19, 2017
Prepared by: Nick Kalenze

One topic entitled “Minnesota Power’s Deep Roots in Hydro Operations...*the Golden Age to the Renaissance of Hydro*” was held from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, which was presented from our guest speaker: Christopher Rosseau, P.E., M.ASCE, Manager of Hydro Operations at Minnesota Power, ASCE Region 3 Governor.

The President called the business meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

The President opened the meeting with introduction of all guests. He stated it was great to see all of our guests.

1) Previous Minutes

- a. The minutes from the 2017 Spring Meeting held on April 11, 2017 were reviewed. Motion by Murali Vegi to approve the minutes, 2nd Don Anderson. Motion passed.

2) President’s Report

- a. Murali discussed how the Board operates, including setting up monthly teleconference calls. Our Section participates in ASCE meetings throughout the year such as the Region 3 Assembly, Legislative Fly-In, etc. Murali mentioned that the Board members work hard to make and help this Section successful.
- b. Murali discussed the two meetings that our Section hosts: a fall meeting for 1 pdh and a spring meeting for 4 pdhs. The continuing education committee members for Grand Forks and Fargo also host opportunities to the Section for additional pdhs. Members are encouraged to join from Western, ND and we are fortunate to have Shannon Fisher help with continuing education in Bismarck.

3) Treasurer’s Report

- a. Leelan presented the Treasurer’s Report. Current account balance as of October 19, 2017, is \$7,877.66, including \$4,704.83 in total withdrawals for the year including the NDSU steel bridge registration (\$750), Region 3 Assembly expenses (\$737.42), ASCE t-shirts (\$485.90), spring meeting room and meal expenses (\$1,337.74), ASCE Fly-In and social events among others.
- b. More recent updates to the planned 2018 budget include budgeting just one person to attend the ASCE Multi-Region Conference (\$600) instead of two people. Our Section still plans on funding the Region 3 workshop, PGA meeting, and UND and NDSU student chapter awards, ASCE social events, and lunch-and-learn opportunities. The total 2018 budget is \$7,700 and we have spent an actual \$4,404 from our 2016 Section allotment.
- c. Daba Gedafa mentioned the \$5/month bank charge, but Leelan is now switching to an online banking system which will negate that charge in the future.
- d. Murali motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report; Alexa moved the motion and 2nd Daba. Motion passed.

4) Committee Reports

a. Report Card Chair Report

1. Jerod Klabunde presented on behalf of Brandon Oye (not present). Jerod mentioned that Brandon is chairing the report card for North Dakota. There are various infrastructure categories to assess but our plan is to choose a few of them (rather than all) to tackle. ASCE National pushes other states to put together report cards.

2. Brandon is working on an agenda for the November 7 kickoff meeting and he is looking for volunteers. An e-mail will be forthcoming in the near future to see who is interested in volunteering.
3. Murali discussed the report card logistics and that having our state do one is helpful to have D.C. allocate more funds to build infrastructure. North Dakota has not done a report card before.
4. Chris Rosseau mentioned that our Section is taking the right approach by choosing a few categories to investigate rather than all. Minnesota has not done a report card either, but Duluth has started to investigate four categories and Chris can put our Section in touch with those resources.

b. Continuing Education Committee Report

1. Tom Klabunde reported that they hold Lunch & Learn webinars in both Fargo and Grand Forks to reach out and recruit new members. Shannon has agreed to host one in Bismarck. We typically go through the ASCE website to set it up and members can earn pdhs for attending. Tom will work on an event next month.
2. Tom and Daba discussed that the spring and fall meetings are 4 and 1 pdhs, respectively. By becoming a member, you can also earn an additional 5 pdhs annually through online webinars.
3. I-Hsuan Ho has been in communication with a geotechnical representative and would like to set up a Lunch & Learn webinar for Grand Forks and Fargo.

c. Volunteer Events Committee Report

1. Vicki Schneider was not present. Alexa reported that volunteer activities typically ramp up during the spring, especially with K-12 outreach.

d. Membership Committee Report

1. Taylor Braaten provided member counts for the Section. Last year there were 84 members, 55 Section members, and 20 life members who paid dues. This year, 71 members, 54 Section members, and 21 life members have paid dues. Taylor mentioned that this number will increase since due payments are still ongoing until the end of year.
2. Murali mentioned that Taylor did a survey to see what Section members were interested in with regards to meetings. Only 21 people responded to that survey. Some key responses from the survey were 1) people would be willing to travel to Bismarck and 2) lunch meetings are preferred over dinner.
3. Iraj H P Mamaghani did not have any updates.

e. Social Committee Report

1. Jerod noted that the Section has networked this year including joining forces with FM-Engineers Club at the annual Red Hawks game. Jerod mentioned that the Section is looking for volunteers to organize a few activities.

f. Webmaster

1. Alexa will update the webpage with the new Board members' information. She will post all of our meetings on Facebook. Our Section is looking for someone with social media/webmaster experience to take over this position, which can be scheduled fairly easily.

5) Old Business

a. ASCE Region 3 Assembly Report

1. The Section sent Leelan to attend the event this year in Detroit. He met with Region 3 members, state level report card members, and mentioned it was a good meeting where a lot of information was discussed regarding the Region 3 sections and branches.

b. **Newly Elected Officers**

1. There are two new officers joining our Section this year: Shannon and Leelan

c. **Student Chapter Updates/Awards**

1. Stephanie Ness and Tyler Madsen at UND, provided brief updates on the steel bridge competition, including working with underclassmen and freshmen with the design components.
2. Max Schumacher at NDSU noted that so far the NDSU student chapter is doing well with planning the steel bridge and concrete canoe competition. They are coming along well with fundraising.
3. Don Anderson present the \$500 checks to Max Schumacher at NDSU (Student Chapter Secretary) and to Stephanie Ness at UND (Student Chapter President) for ASCE Student Chapter support.
4. Outstanding student awards were presented by Murali to Tyler Madsen at UND (Student Chapter Secretary) and Max Schumacher at NDSU who is also captain of the steel bridge. They each received a \$400 check.

6) **New Business**

a. **Volunteers Needed**

1. It was noted that a few volunteer positions are still needed, in particular a Social Chair and a Volunteer Chair in Grand Forks and a Webmaster/Social Media person.

b. **STAY Grant 2017**

1. Murali noted that the STAY grant was denied but improvements will be in order to enhance the Section's chances of getting next time.

c. **ASCE Constitution & Bylaws**

1. Alexa mentioned the changes of officer terms to 1-year instead of 2-years as well as splitting the Secretary and Treasurer positions. These changes need to be approved by the ASCE National Governing Documents Committee (GDC). Our Section has until Feb 6th to vote on these changes and send for approval to GDC. They will have 30 days to send back to our Section with which case our Section will have time to review again prior to the spring meeting for new elections to take place.

d. **ASCE Steel Bridge Competition at University of Iowa**

1. See section 5c above. No additional updates, but Josiah Rostad (UND) provided a brief update on the meeting time and location: March 2, 2018 at Iowa City, IA.
2. Leelan noted that ASCE National can also provide some financial assistance with the steel bridge competition.

e. **ASCE Legislative Fly-In**

1. Murali discussed the ASCE Legislative Fly-In process with the Section. Bills with increased funding can be set up to fund different types of infrastructure projects. Now, Board and Committee members can attend the Fly-In. This also presents a good opportunity for networking.
2. Chris noted that by attending, Section members can be super effective at changing policy at the congressional level and to try and take advantage of said opportunity.

Murali requested motion to close the business meeting at 8:18 PM, 2nd Nick. Motion passed.