

ASCE Strategic Planning Meeting-June 22, 2019

In attendance: See introduction below

Meeting was called to order at 12:50 PM

Ben Stuart made introductory remarks and asked everyone to introduce themselves, tell their affiliation with ASCE, and where they are working and something about what they are doing if they would like.

Ben Stuart, ODU, Interim Civil & Environmental Dean

Amit Tilak, president Bull Run Ranch, Chair for VA Report Card, looking for volunteers and should have kick off in the next month.

Brenda Villarreal, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, graduate of VT, WSP USA

John Vadnal, Lynchburg Branch, Liberty will be starting engineering in the fall and will have a student branch. University of FL

Liz St Angelo Jones, Lynchburg Pres, Wiley-Wilson, VT-Land development engineering

John Harman, Lifetime ASCE Member, Norfolk Branch, VDOT Design Manager, VT

Matt Ammonette, Richmond Branch, VP Chair, Geotechnical ECS

Alysa Baird, Richmond Branch, Inaugural younger member Region IV rep, Kimley-Horn -Transportation

Nancy Lehr, outgoing Richmond Pres, University of Florida, first Strategic Planning meeting, JMT

JWS, Secretary for Branch, inactive Blue Ridge President, Penn State, JWS Engineering Team, Owners rep and site civil

Paolo Scardinia, VT Facility Advisor, Environmental

Paul Wilson, Norfolk Branch History Chair, Centennial Committee, VT and Hazen & Sawyer, collection systems, modeling.

Chaz Weaver, National Committee Leadership, VDOT Material Manager, VT and ODU (Masters)

Emmet Heltzel, Veteran, ASCE 40 year member, past president of Richmond and Section,

Christina Ammens, Region IV Governor, ODU, Student member, Practicing advisor, committee of Student Members, Pennoni

Ben would like to look for opportunities for using some of the excess budget funds. He would like to implement some programs. The centennial will be costly, 50-100K. We will still have some \$\$ left over.

If you would like to do an event, let the Section know and Ben would like to see more people interested.

Branch allotments \$1500-\$3000. If Branches need \$\$, don't be afraid to ask. Student chapter could potentially get \$\$ for events if needed.

Ben clarified which ODU student died in the shooting. He was not a Civil Engineering grad or ASCE member.

Christina talked about her connection with the Norfolk shooting victims. Christina said there was a member of Norfolk Branch who was injured and is now going to rehab. Christina touched several of the staff in the City.

Norfolk Branch is meeting Monday for a collection of funds. They talked about branches providing gifts to first responders.

Alumni Group ODU will provide a plaque for all 12 victims. Norfolk Branch also gave gift baskets to the Police.

Committee for Student Members, just graded the Outstanding Student, Partitioning and Teaching advisor. Considered giving Rich M. (a post humous award).

Ben said several people mentioned a scholarship in the name or memory of the victims. He says open for debate and discussion. What is the requirement, essay for remembering the people or on what it is to be civil servant? Just some of the thoughts. Paolo asked how that is different from the existing 4 scholarships that are available. Christina indicated the Section should contribute. Maybe give a donation to the Branch and have them decide the best use. Alysa thought it might be uncomfortable receiving a scholarship in memory.

The group felt a donation from the Section to the Branch would be the best way to honor and let the Branch decide on how to spend.

Branch Report:

**Blue Ridge:** Vision and Mission would be to get the Branch active again. Need interest from the members. Over the year Julia Skare has spoken to 8-10 engineers trying to get some interest. A matter of getting the right person who has the time and energy to reactivate the Chapter as was done by Vic Crawford and his group in Bull Run. Maybe getting some new UVA ASCE Student Chapter members that are still in the area interested would be a start.

Try to get a connection with the student branch. Christina talked to Jose Gomez told Christina with combination of the departments, maybe try to revitalize. AWWA & WTS.

Chaz asked for a list of current members of the Blue Ridge Branch.

**Bull Run-**Amit discussed success in activities. For the Branch, is doing activity in different counties. He is happy with the participation. Members took initiative and organized field trip. Joint dinner with the Western Branch. They have limited some activities as it was government access. They are getting closer to 25 members interested. Having a champion who is wanting to revitalize has helped.

You can look at the list and find where more of your members are located. There is a website that can help with that. The Fredericksburg meeting had more than double of other meetings.

Lynchburg: Liz, Lexington west, Farmville Appomattox, Halifax and Danville, most work in Lynchburg, Lexington and Danville. Most events Lynchburg and Lexington. They continue annual event with VMI. Has been very successful. They discussed what they could be expecting in the Civil Engineer field.

Their new outreach is to Liberty University (LU). Recruitment activity to get the engineering firms, municipal engineers in the area interested.

Various lunch activities. Fairly good turnout, maybe 15/80 which all feel is a good %.

Next week, the City of Lynchburg is pouring a post concrete tank that the branch will participate in.

John asked about an ASCE table at events. Ben suggested joint activities with other groups.

**Norfolk:** John, government relations chair. Monthly lunch meetings, associated with other organizations. Big event is Sprint Technical Seminar. SCI chapter is very active-social, field trips. ODU Board member and active with student chapter. Their planning meeting is in August. Paul added the younger member chair active and planning events. Ian K. is the fund raising chair. He's been active with sponsorships for seminars and workshops. Paul is doing the History and Heritage, the online map incorporating into Norfolk Branch website. [Norfolkasce.org](http://Norfolkasce.org) No history and heritage activities but focusing on the Centennial. Paul did a history and heritage spotlight on Ches Bay-Bridge Tunnel. Ben mentioned the history of Civil Engineering might be considered by Gary ??.

John with LU was interested in that presentation for the new engineering students.

The section did a 50 year 1972 History of Civil Engineering.

Norfolk-Norfolk, Suffolk, VA Beach and other southern counties

**Peninsula Branch:** no report

Richmond: Hard hat tour of Top Golf. Goals for next year, more community outreach, river clean up. Outreach for Dream Big to the High Schools and Middle Schools. They do not have a student college chapter in their area as no Civil at VCU. How can they reach out to other student chapter and get involved with the Richmond Branch if they are working in the area. Alysa is working to get connected with the National Younger member group officially.

Educational chairs popsicle bridge (middle and high school) and they have a golf committee for tournament.

Brenda Villarreal asked for contact and newsletter and website to Richmond as there are several people in her Richmond office that could participate. Richmond 300 Master Plan coming up and Squirrels game this Thursday. In August, the have a meeting scheduled.

**Roanoke-**Paolo stated the Branch has been active, advertised Lynchburg events. Healthy collaboration with Student Chapter. They did fund raising for Dream Big. Also, they have big area and the SW cover of VA is not covered as well as it could be. Liz works with the Roanoke Branch President.

Looking to do Newsletter in the fall again.

Liz asked how often do the boards meet? Lynchburg meets quarterly. Richmond & Norfolk meets monthly. Paul said that their agenda includes a two month look ahead which holds people accountable and acts as a reminder. Nancy said JMT sponsors the lunch for their board meetings. Christina is interested in spending down (in a good way) the funds. She mentioned that ASCE National was looking to change the allotment. It has been tabled but should be on our minds.

## **Student Chapters:**

ODU: Has talked about changing their leadership elections but having problems so they may do it calendar year. Christina is going to work with them on that, going fairly strong.

VMI: Won several awards for Region IV.

VT: Paolo-Steady year. Most of the officers graduated. The undergrads stayed and moved up in their leadership. They have Daren Williams scheduled for the fall. They have planning.

VT got an honorable mention.

They have had efforts to collaborate with Roanoke Branch. They are doing an interview/resume workshop.

One of special outreach-concrete for kids. Elementary and middle school. Two part, students make a small concrete beam. Go back a week later and break it and talk about materials and concrete strength. With the Roanoke Branch their were some engineers who did a satellite branch with collaboration in the a school in the Salem District. It was successful and it will be continued.

Approximate cost is \$500. He would like to see this added to the Roanoke Branch as well as VT student chapter budget. The students would come to you if you are interested. They strengthened the relationship with the school system.

VT National Steel Bridge competition 2020

Regional VA conference 2021. He knows no funds for Steel Bridge, but need for VA's conference. VMI-2022, UVA coming again soon. Christina said all schools get \$1000. Paolo concern is two big events back to back is challenging. Ben said we could help with VA's conference.

They submitted a reimbursement 2 months ago they have not received. Ben suggested he remind Bill.

Discussed briefly the rotation of VA's conference and issues that have come up. Companies are contacted for sponsorship. Christina said WVa and VA schools no issues. Capitol section had a couple schools with issues.

Discussed the judges for concrete canoe and encourage good previous judges.

Somerville WVA next concrete canoe, spring of 2020?

It would be good if the Section helped with getting the head judge. Cover expenses and honorarium.

UVA; no one here. Last time Christina spoke to Jose, maybe a mini leadership course with them. Talk about how to do an agenda, business meeting. MRLC leadership competition would be good for them UVA Chapter per Christina. Gives good encouragement.

Christina gave John with LU some info on contacts for setting up ASCE student group.

Chaz asked if there was any interest in JMU student chapter

Break 2:45-3:15

Ben showed some of the budget, just overall categories

Virginia Report Card, Kick Off-Amit Talik is Chair; Needs volunteers. Has been going to other section meetings asking for volunteers, limiting emails but push will be on in the next month. Approx 8-9 months to get report card out. Approx 6-8 weeks for ASCE National to review. Kick off is critical and volunteers need to be in place. Due April 2020.

Paolo asked if students could be involved. Could professor lead with students collecting data? If this is allowed, Paolo would want to come to the kick-off. Amit also indicated they need outside reviewers.

Amit discussed the different levels and areas being covered.

Send info to the Richmond Branch. If Amit wants to attend Richmond meeting he could have

Kickoff is last week of July, first couple weeks of August.

Pre-College Outreach-Next Step Quality Assurance; Dream Big

Christina said Vic has reached out to a couple people but it has been a while per Paolo. Discussed outreach. What can be done on the Branch level.

Planning for 2019-2020 Leadership-HOLD for now

Civil Soiree, October, Christina and Nancy will coordinate. Jefferson probably-do inductions

Ask about room blocks? Start with 10 rooms Second week after the National Convention. Nat Convention is in Miami Oct 10-13. Target October 18, Friday night. Approx budget as last time.

Need speakers, discussed some options. Maybe invite new ASCE president.

VA Section Centennial in 2022

Brief discussion of book vs pamphlet vs web-based interest.

Vic provided a meeting brief in hard copy.

Paul said go to History and Heritage link on Section website. Would like more information.

WSP has website of a map of world and all of their projects, Brenda will check into that.

Crozet Tunnel plaque. Should we have a dedication and support funding plaque. Do we want a centennial logo?

Discussed a new logo. How much would National need to be involved. VA Section is using the old logo. Paul would like a partner in getting info for this. Jim T. is helping but a younger member would be great.

Ben mentioned maybe an on line competition or student competition with \$\$ for prize

Could we use the centennial logo as section logo. Our region IV logo is not the most up to date one.

Seemed more interested in a dinner Soiree as opposed to full day symposium. Start with \$25K for now. May need to adjust as year goes by.

Do they have a kickoff event first of the year and then culmination at end of the year.

Any projects in the Valley, SW VA, Bristol area. Give Chaz or Paul ideas. Don't filter. Cool or interesting projects. Alysa mentioned VT smart road and/or research facility.

Paul mentioned a 4 arc story line past to future.

ASCE National & Region 4 Election Results-Wait for Daren? NC Governor passed away on June 13, not sure who will fill his spot.

VA needs to know by end of year what they are doing for Governor.

Advocacy Captain Update-?? Daren HOLD

Younger Member Council-

VEC-Ben talked to Nancy Isreal and attended web session. The question was asked if ASCE will participate.

Should be March 2020. Discussed how much we made. Could be as low as 1500 and as high as 8 or 10K. We have limited risk. They are talking about including other groups. Thinking of AIA and AGC participating. Does that dilute engineering representation?

Ben would like to have a liaison. Interacting and organizing the 4 sessions.

Younger Members-Alysa Byrd -started having conference calls with reps from sections. Alysa is Vice Chair. Had quite a few at Region IV meeting. Sponsorship helped attendance. Discussed purpose of the group and talked about how to get younger members involved. Nothing needed right now, distance is an issue for some of the other branches to attend in Richmond (for example).

Discussed how to promote Terrell paper interest? Could get interest if talked up more and make sure the younger members know about it.

Paolo suggested working to retain student members, targeting the seniors. Pizza part is paid for by National.

Discussed ideas on how to get younger engineers on board and why.

Meet and Greet-Good turn out, not many legislators showed up. Nancy wants it to be a better, bigger event next year. Session went over and that was why they didn't show up. It would be good to know, maybe have someone monitor where they are that evening. Next event January 2020.

Adjourned at 5:02PM

Called back to order June 23, 2019 at 8:35 AM. Daren Williams was in attendance.

Awards Announcement or Upcoming Competitions:

Daren said the election results are on the website.

Advocacy Captain Update Region IV-I-81 legislation passed per Daren. Government relations opening.

Daren had been a Public Utilities employee at VA Beach previously. He saw several of his past co-workers. He lives in VA Beach. There have been no official answers on why the shooting happened. His

suggestion is to focus on the future. As civil engineers, focus on the infrastructure. He said the paper is saying civil engineer for the shooter as opposed to a Public Utilities employee.

Awards Announcement:

ASCE 2019 Miami-Scheduled for October 10-13, 2019. John with LU is planning to go, Ben is planning to go, Nancy may attend.

ASCE-MRLC, Jan 30, 31 and Feb 1, 2020. Fri, Sat. Ben and Christina would encourage people to participate. To be held in Philadelphia, PA. Budget line item will be included. Daren said it was a great opportunity to meet engineers from other regions and compare how things are done.

ASCE Region IV, open to younger members. No VA section member has competed in the past two years. Paper and presentation involved. Winner gets plaque and \$500. Topic has not been chosen. Alysa said the topic can make a big difference. Need to advertise once topic is chosen.

Newsletter and Website. Ben indicated they are related and all about communication. The newsletter went out earlier this year. Ashley took this on and hope to get another one out in fall with additional content. Goal is to get a quarterly release of newsletter. Website needs to be kept up.

Ben asked what is the relationship between the individual Chapter websites and need Section website. Consensus is it is a lot of work. Amit said website has an important role in keeping members informed. Bull Run has considered hiring someone if there isn't sufficient volunteers as they would like to add to their website. One item they would i.e. to add would be to allow for online payment of their meetings as opposed to collecting cash. Norfolk Branch has an active website. Constant Contact can be used. Richmond Branch is using that to send out meeting information.

Alysa says you can use square reader. Similar to Pay Pal, both can be sued for credit card transactions. Discussed options for paying.

Reviewed the Section websites. <http://sections.asce.org/virginia> or ASCEvirginia.org

Christina suggested Daren move the old website to the new website. Nancy said they have a webmaster volunteer who does the updates. They pay less than \$100 per year for a host service who sets up a template.

Ben said Daren is authorized to investigate. Nancy has a contact name to reach out to. The direction would be to hire someone and get the websites organized for the Section and the branches. Consider addition twitter and facebook as we go forward.

Region IV Update: Christina updated about Region IV Spring Assembly.

Elections for officers for WVA, SC and IN were held. NC, TN and VA is 2020. Intent forms due Dec 1. 2021 is AR and Director, 2022 the remaining. Christina encourage any future presidents to attend September 22, 23 in Reston, President and Governors Forum. Highly recommended by Christina. You would get a lot of good face time and meet others in similar positions. Amit said the same and it was very helpful and can't say enough about how it helped.

Funding and support of Younger Member was discussed at the Regional level and is important to continue support.

Talked about divorce of steel bridge and ASCE.

Talked about student voting.

Next Regional meeting in Cool Springs, TN, Sept 15. The Governors are having monthly conference calls.

Region IV Governors election: Christina has been at large as two years. She been there 5 years. She said that Nancy has expressed interest. Discussed if a branch president should participate on the Section level before moving on to Governor. Christina still has another term she could serve. Governor term is 3 years. She is on Committee Student Member (CSM) and it is a very busy committee, so choose your committee wisely.

Discussed if there are others interested. Paolo mentioned Stephen Stewart might be interested. Christina said maybe Glenn Bottomley or Don Rissmeyer. There was strong support for Christina to continue and maybe mentor the next Governor. Ben said he would not be interested in the future to be Governor. Christina wants to make sure the Governor has financial support for the travel and lodging.

Continued discussion of younger members being interested in roles, especially from the Branch level.

Directors is two year position. Other officers one year term. Ben would like to have the slate out to the membership by Sept 1. He will be reaching out.

Taxes:

Asked if submitted, Daren unsure pending response from Bill Henry.

Asked if Chapters, including Student Chapters have received their allotment.

Budget:

Webinars funding was discussed.

Website funding was not included, but \$\$ could be available in future.

Plaque's will be needed for Past President.

Discussed Engineer of the Year award, going to pursue applicants for the year.

Nancy suggested giving out Life Time Member awards at Soiree or during Engineers Week.

Daren did not think there was any \$\$ needed for Dream Big office supplies.

Added cost for telephone conferences.

Student chapter meetings if the President wanted to host a meeting at the school, there would be funds for travel or providing food to the meeting. *Daren went to the Gentlemen's Restroom during this discussion so this motion is for the 2019 - 2020 budget year.*

National competition. Concrete canoe. Additional Funds for use for ASCE business. VT used it for VA's conference.

Chaz suggested restoring landmarks, pamphlet and interactive map could all use funding this year as a start toward Centennial-added expense to History and Heritage and Centennial.

Added line items for 2020 Report Card Committee.

Discussed Judge travel expense budget

Civil Engineering Body of Knowledge -Daren recognized the VA members who participated in the book. He was one of the Section Engineers who participated.

Daren mentioned the Constitution and By-Laws. He isn't sure if the tracked changes were accepted. His objective would be to correct the spelling errors and formalize them. Discussed what needs to be done to clean this up. Christina and Julia thought it may have been approved by the Section. Daren will check into status at National.

Discussed how to engage new and younger members to leadership positions.

Several members shared the benefit of participating and why they felt it was important.

Adjourned 11:41 AM.

DRAFT