

# ASCE

## WISCONSIN SECTION



## President's Message

By: Ken Mika, P.E.

Greetings,

As I said in our last newsletter, this still stands true, I hope every one of our members and their families are staying safe and healthy during these challenging times. I had a wish that life would be back to normal (pre-March 2020), but unfortunately we are living in a new normal.



While we are trying to navigate this new normal, there is a lot of excitement coming in September. On September 15 at 10 am, the Section will be having our virtual release of the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card. I am extremely excited to see everyone's efforts come to a reality. Since the effort started in 2019, our members have put in countless hours for approximately 18 months. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, we are almost there!

I am also excited that the Southeast Branch is showing how resilient engineers can be during the pandemic! They have worked tirelessly to modify the 2020 Annual Meeting to

be a virtual event. The event is on Friday, September 18, and will have the general session as well as technical sessions. This is the first time, to my knowledge, that the Wisconsin Section has hosted a virtual Annual Meeting or Spring Technical Conference. I applaud the Southeast Branch's additional efforts from taking an event following typical best practices from an in-person event and doing the extra leg work to turn the event virtual. In addition to the general and technical sessions, the Section will still be awarding the Distinguished Service, Individual Merit, and Project Awards.

The Annual Meeting will also bring the changing of leadership. I know Larry Buechel will be a great President as he already has experience as a Past-President of the Southeast Branch. Larry is very much a hands-on person, does whatever needs to be done to meet a goal, and has no problem getting his hands dirty. Larry is ushering in new opportunities for the Section of which I am excited to see! Coming in as President-Elect is Jennifer Schaff. I have known Jennifer for years and can attest that she is a great leader. She has been passionate about ASCE and leadership in ASCE for years and that reflects on her ASCE resume. I would also like to welcome back Matt Dahlem as Secretary and Andy Walters and Danny Xiao as Directors at Large. All three have been passionate about ASCE and continue to provide great value to our membership

As I close out my last President's Message, I hope everyone and their families continue to stay safe and healthy during these challenging times. Hopefully we will all get to see each other face to face at the 2021 Spring Technical Conference in Sheboygan, WI.

Sincerely,

Ken Mika, P.E.  
ASCE WI Section President

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WISCONSIN SECTION

*Congratulations!*

## 2020 ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Individual Award Winners:

Distinguished Service Award - Clark A. Wantoch, P.E., M.ASCE

Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Consulting Practice - Christopher A. Robb, P.E.

Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Education - Dean John F. Katers, Ph.D., A.M.ASCE

Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Government Service - William S. Mohr, P.E., M.ASCE

Wisconsin Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award - Jordan Adler, P.E., A.M.ASCE

### Project Award Winner:

#### Engineering Achievement Award - Category B - Ephraim WIS 42 Streetscape

Nominated by Kenneth E. Nelson, F.ASCE, P.E., Trustee, Village of Ephraim

Design Engineer: AECOM Technical Services, Inc.

Consultants: Baudhuin Surveying & Engineering and Subsurface Exploration Services, LLC

Contractor: Peters Concrete



### GET TO KNOW

### Get to Know

Gary M. Amel, P.E., M.ASCE

Gary was born and raised in Green Bay, the third of four children. His father was a Civil Engineer, which may have affected Gary's career choice.

Gary attended college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduating in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering. He worked summer jobs for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation through a program designed for civil engineering students. After three summers working on survey crews, construction observation, and highway design, he learned many things. One of the things he learned is that he didn't want a career as a highway engineer. Following graduation, Gary started his career as a consulting structural engineer in Urbana, Illinois. His employer offered tuition reimbursement to pursue his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois, which he acquired in 1980. Gary returned to Wisconsin following graduation, and returned to Green Bay a few years later. As a consulting engineer, Gary was able to work on a wide variety of projects during his career, including water/wastewater treatment and storage facilities, bridges, commercial, office, retail, medical, and educational buildings, and heavy industrial structures. He began easing into retirement in 2017 after 42 years as a structural engineer, his last 35 years at Foth. He held licenses in 17 states during his career, and still maintains his licenses in Wisconsin and California.





Gary married his high school sweetheart, Jill, during the semester break of his senior year at UW-Madison. They raised two children, Jonathan and Jennifer, and have one grandchild, Zoey; they all reside in the Green Bay area.

Gary was first approached to join ASCE shortly after receiving his undergraduate degree. Gary is a Life Member of ASCE. He previously served as President of the Fox River Valley Branch, and has served in several positions on the Wisconsin Section Board of Directors, including Wisconsin Section President in 2009 and currently as Director At Large.

Gary's hobbies include refinishing old furniture, attending live theater, and listening to live music (not country or rap). Gary has made numerous canoe camping trips to the Canadian Boundary Waters, the Sylvania Wilderness, and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. In his ample spare time since retirement, Gary enjoys his 160 acres of wooded land in northern Wisconsin, where he has designed and built several small structures and bridges. Due to the remote nature of the site, few people witness his very limited carpentry skills. He has also laid out several ATV trails through his property; now that his career has ended, he's started to practice highway engineering.



The ASCE Wisconsin Section

**2020 Virtual Annual Meeting**

***September 18, 2020***

Presented by the Wisconsin Section Southeast Branch

**Registration Now Open!**



### **ASCE UW-Platteville Chapter's 27th Annual Golf Tournament will be on Friday, September 11, 2020**

ASCE UW-Platteville Chapter would like to cordially invite alumni and friends to join our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, September 11, 2020. The Chapter is making an event plan to ensure the safety of all attendees. The Plan includes health and safety guidelines which must be adhered to including maintaining 6-feet of physical distancing, wearing face coverings indoors and outdoors when physical distancing isn't easily maintained, and meeting in small





# Congratulations!

*Newly Elected Officers*

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**President Elect**

Jennifer Schaff

**Secretary**

Matt Dahlem

**Director at Large**

Andy Walters

Danny X. Xiao, Ph.D.



## Directors Report

Board Sets Society Course for Long-Term Success

By: Carl Sutter

It's hard to believe how much has changed about the way we live and work since the last time the Board of Direction met in March. If we ever needed a reminder about the importance of being ready for change and the ability to adjust on the fly, 2020 has certainly provided it. We saw our industry adapt remarkably well this spring, with the immediate installment of remote work models and virtual meetings. I also believe our Board took important steps at our July 2020 meeting to make ASCE a more nimble and adaptable organization amid these changing times.

We addressed several issues critical to the Society's long-term success, including the fiscal year 2021 budget, potential committee realignment, new membership models, investments in our students and younger member and an updated ASCE Code of Ethics. You can read about these decisions in more detail in [ASCE News](#).

### Other highlights from the Board meeting:

- The Task Committee on Credentialing updated the Board on a potential new certification concept. The committee has worked with a consulting group during the last year to conduct market research on the concept. Directors were asked to

complete a survey about the proposal, and the Board will revisit the discussion at the October meeting.

- In keeping with the theme of streamlining and improving, the Board approved the creation of a new task committee to review and, if needed, recommend revisions to the Institute Operating Procedures document, last revised in September 2016.
- The Board approved one new policy, a new resolution, and updates to 50 existing policy statements. The new statements include a resolution that focuses on the National Environmental Policy Act and a new policy statement on the Historic American Engineering Record.
- The Board received updates on the ongoing digital strategy project; the work of MOSAIC (Members of Society Advancing an Inclusive Culture); and the Committee on Education's recent accreditation activities. Additionally, the Board voted in support of the objectives and recommendations developed at ASCE's 2019 Civil Engineering Education Summit.
- The Board received for second consideration and voted to approve amendments to the Society's bylaws as presented by the Governing Documents Committee. The amendments include several items that the Board previously voted to remove from the ASCE constitution and move into the bylaws. The Board also voted to approve amendments to the Society's Rules of Policy and Procedure that incorporate language from the bylaws, clarify current language, and streamline the document. The Board also received for consideration and accepted for first reading an amendment to the constitution to allow student members the right to vote. This issue will be reviewed for a second reading at a future Board meeting. If accepted, this issue would be included in a full membership vote in May 2021. All amendments can be reviewed on the ASCE website.

**The next Board meeting is scheduled for October.**

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CONGRATULATIONS

# YAHARA WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT NETWORK

on receiving the  
**ASCE Infrastructure Gamechangers  
Award!**



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## **2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section Infrastructure Report Card Committee**

By: Jennifer Schaff and Ken Mika

The Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card is drafted! We are almost to the first finish line aka the release event!

The Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card will be released virtually on September 15 at 10 am! More information will be provided in the near future.

Once the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card is released we are not done, we will be starting the second phase of the Report Card. We will need volunteers to help us contact local officials to inform them about our infrastructure needs. If you are interested in helping inform local officials, please attend the Annual Meeting on September 18. The General Session will be about the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card as well as an information session on how to provide the Report Card information to your local officials.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Jennifer ([Jennifer.Schaff@countymaterials.com](mailto:Jennifer.Schaff@countymaterials.com)) or Ken ([KMika@Geosyntec.com](mailto:KMika@Geosyntec.com)).

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**Section Proceeding with Plans for Formation of Architectural**

# Engineering Technical Committee or Institute Chapter

By: Larry Buechel

The Wisconsin Section is continuing the process to formally establish an Architectural Engineering Technical Committee or Institute Chapter for the benefit of its membership. The Section has received a strong expression of interest from the membership in the formation of such a committee/chapter and is proceeding with plans to create that new sub-organization. In that process, the Section has identified some changes to its Constitution and Bylaws that are necessary to allow ASCE Institute-only members to join the Section's technical committees/institute chapters. Those changes to the Constitution and Bylaws will be presented to the membership in the coming weeks with the intent of formally establishing the Architectural Engineering Technical Committee or Institute Chapter by the end of 2020.

If you have interest in joining an Architectural Engineering Technical Committee or Institute Chapter, please email the Section at [wi.sec.asce@gmail.com](mailto:wi.sec.asce@gmail.com).

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ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION INVITES YOU

# **2020 WISCONSIN INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD RELEASE**

■ **SAVE THE DATE** ■

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020  
10 a.m.**

*Presented Virtually*



**DETAILS FORTHCOMING**

Questions? email [wi.sec.asce@gmail.com](mailto:wi.sec.asce@gmail.com)

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**Masks and Infrastructure**

Opinion by Public Affairs Chairman, Gregory Schroeder, P.E., M.ASCE

I think I can tie two seemingly unrelated topics together. The first is wearing masks, and the second is writing to your representatives in Washington. The tie that binds them is civic responsibility.

There has to be a balance between civic responsibility and personal freedom. But the evidence is in, and it is overwhelmingly in favor of wearing a mask. When compared to countries where masks are the social norm, the United States has failed to control the virus by any measure.

If we don't know anyone who has become seriously ill or died from covid19, we might enjoy a selfish comfort. The stories of personal tragic loss on the news are important for us to hear because they reveal the pain behind the numbers.

We will all be impacted by this crisis for years to come. Higher health care costs could result in increased insurance costs, for example.

So, wear a mask. I can't say it more simply than that. This is a public health issue, and public health is a huge portion of civil engineering. (I learned that in my first college classes on water and wastewater.)

Wear a mask, and wear the correct mask. N95 is best. Surgical masks and multilayer cotton and paper masks are great too. Make sure it does not have a vent! Vented masks are to protect you from dust, paint, and pesticides. Vented masks do NOT prevent the spread of disease. I still see vented masks advertised on the internet for covid prevention. If you have a breathing difficulty, then a face shield is appropriate.

A recent study at Duke University found that gaiters and bandanas can be worse than no mask at all because instead of filtering they break droplets into smaller particles that disperse farther. Don't wear them and stay away from people who do.

You can still write to your local, state, and national representatives to request a mask mandate with the details that I've outlined above. And, while you are writing, your society requests that you continue to write to your representatives about the need for infrastructure spending.

The push is very strong to spend money to boost employment and the economy. The need for infrastructure spending is urgent. Boost employment. Boost the economy. Fix our infrastructure. If we are racking up debt for our children and grandchildren to pay for us, then at least let's build some things that will last and provide a benefit to them.

Wear a mask. Write a letter. I hope you will thoughtfully consider your civic responsibility today and in the days to come.

Below, I am providing the suggested letter format from ASCE Washington for you to send to your senators and representatives in Congress. Please click on the links to view the excellent resources that are being provided.

*Dear Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_:*

*I'm writing to you to share the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) new "Construction-Ready Infrastructure Project" map.*

*While this is by no means an exhaustive list, this map reflects a snapshot of construction-ready infrastructure projects covering the categories of dams, inland*



*waterways, clean and drinking water, and multimodal freight. There are a number of projects that are ready to go to construction right here in our state. Coupled with ASCE's COVID-19 Status Report you can see the additional need that the pandemic has placed on our infrastructure sectors.*

*I hope that you will find these tools helpful as you work with the Representative/Senator on the next pandemic relief package.*

*Please let me know how I can be of assistance to the office as you review these items.*

We would like to hear from you. Please log in to ASCE Collaborate and share your thoughts. Comment and reply to this article here: [ASCE Collaborate, Pandemic](#)

*The opinions expressed here are those of the author only, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Wisconsin Section or ASCE.*

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## **WICCI Infrastructure Working Group Update Report to Wisconsin Section ASCE**

By: Thomas R. Walther, P.E., F.ASCE

This is an update report to members of the Wisconsin Section, ASCE on actions being taken by the Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) of the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI). The WICCI website can be found [here](#). Information specifically related to the IWG can be found at the IWG sub-page using [this link](#). The information in this article was submitted by IWG Chairperson and long time Wisconsin Section member Rob Montgomery, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE.

As noted in the May newsletter the IWG planned to move forward on parallel tracks with a number of activities primarily related to climate change impacts and greenhouse gasses as these elements relate to infrastructure.

First, as noted in the May newsletter, WICCI and the IWG have been asked by the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change to tabulate climate related infrastructure design, operation and management issues and potential solutions, and then a follow-up "top three" set of issues and potential solutions which would be most valuable for the state to implement. The IWG developed and submitted their response in June, 2021. The top 3 activities, generically, are:

1. Create a comprehensive present and Future climate database for Wisconsin, including extreme value statistics for temperature rainfall and other important climate variables.
2. Develop a coordinated strategy for promoting climate resilient infrastructure including guidance on sustainability and vulnerability analyses, funding mechanisms, training, and pilot project examples of climate vulnerability management.
3. A research proposal to develop a rating system to define the carbon content of construction materials used in Wisconsin, starting with the materials with highest embedded carbon content such as Portland cement.

Over the next several weeks the state will assign these issues to various subcommittees of the Governor's Task Force and a short list of recommendations will be recommended to the governor in several months.

Second, again as mentioned in the May newsletter, the IWG has been working on the Wisconsin Rainfall Project. Funding has now been obtained to conduct this project. The project will be headed up by Daniel Wright of the UW Madison civil engineering department. This work will begin with updated (latest) data on rainfall for Wisconsin and then develop a system to project future rainfall conditions which may occur as climate change continues.

Third, the IWG has now developed a proposal for research in characterizing the carbon content of construction materials as a way to facilitate thinking about lower carbon materials for buildings and civil engineering construction.

Finally, the IWG has developed a survey for infrastructure owners and managers to provide an understanding of their current priorities and to help direct future IWG activities. This survey should be going out fairly soon.

With all this information in mind Wisconsin Section members are encouraged to follow the activities of the Infrastructure Working Group and WICCI and look for ways all members can handle the expected climate change issues in their day to day work.



## **Southeast Branch Update**

### **July Virtual Meeting**

Our virtual member meetings have proven to be quite popular. Our latest installment on July 23<sup>rd</sup> had over 70 registrants! John McCarthy, from GRAEF gave an overview of the design and construction of the Milwaukee County Zoo's new Adventure Africa elephant exhibit. Thank you, John for the interesting presentation!



Member meetings will continue to follow the virtual format for the time being. Please contact a Branch board member if you have ideas for future meeting topics.

### **Branch and Younger Member Group elections**

Elections for the Branch and YMG boards of directors concluded on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to the current and incoming board members for your dedication and service to ASCE!



### *Southeast Branch election results*

President Elect – Jake Brunoehler

Secretary – Wade Carter

Director at Large, Scholarship – Aaron Bubb

Director at Large, Education – Neal Styka

Director at Large, Student Affairs – Collin Smith (appointed for remainder of term)

### *Southeast Branch YMG election results*

President – Jordan Adler

Vice President – Zach Sadowski

Secretary – Alyssa Walker

Treasurer – Colin Henderson

Co-Outreach Chairs – Carly Buschman & Cole McCraw

Co-Social Chairs – Luke Royal & Matt Ayvazzadeh

Student Chapter Liaison – Ela Lodzinski

### **STEM Expo**

Historically held each fall, the next installment of the STEM Expo is tentatively planned for Spring 2021. Stay tuned for more information!

### **Southeast Branch scholarships**

Though our Scholarship Golf Outing fundraiser was cancelled this year, reserves from past successful events will allow us to continue to award scholarships to Civil Engineering students from UW-Milwaukee, Marquette, and MSOE. Details and applications will be released in the coming months.

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## **Milwaukee Leaders Release Water Equity Roadmap**

Report Outlines Strategies for Building Equity in Milwaukee's Water Workforce

**August 12, 2020 – Milwaukee, WI**– Today, the US Water Alliance and Milwaukee leaders representing local utilities, nonprofits, and philanthropy released *An Equitable Water Future: Milwaukee*. This is the first-ever report on strategies to build water workforce equity in Milwaukee and will guide the water community to better reflect the diversity of its citizens. The report is available online [here](#).

*An Equitable Water Future: Milwaukee* was collaboratively developed by the Milwaukee Water Equity Taskforce, including leaders from Milwaukee Water Commons; Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; Milwaukee Water Works; Cream City Conservation Corps; Century City Triangle Neighborhood Association; Employ Milwaukee; Greater Milwaukee Foundation; Groundwork Milwaukee; Milwaukee Area Technical College; Milwaukee County Register of Deeds; and Milwaukee Jobs Work.

Though Milwaukee positions itself as a water-centric city, its water workforce does not reflect the diversity of its population. Building a more equitable water workforce requires understanding and addressing the barriers to entry, particularly for people living in historically underserved communities. Segregation, rising income inequality, workplace culture challenges, and inadequate access to transportation, education, and training are among the factors that limit many Milwaukee residents' ability to participate in the water workforce.

To address these barriers, the report recommends specific actions in three categories: strengthening collaboration within the local water sector; building awareness of water careers; and changing workforce and procurement policies and practices to make them more equitable. These recommendations are informed by two Milwaukee Water Equity Taskforce efforts. The first was a series of community focus groups to explore workforce challenges experienced by people in Milwaukee's historically underserved neighborhoods. The second was an in-depth study, "[Water Needs Assessment: Pathways to Employment in a Water-Centric City](#)," which Milwaukee Water Commons contracted with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Economic Development to produce.

"In this time of great change, we see a unique opportunity to take action to expand local employment in Milwaukee's water sector. Collaboration is key, and we're grateful for the dedication of our Taskforce team members over the past two years on this project," said Brenda Coley, Co-Executive Director of Milwaukee Water Commons. Co-Director Kirsten Shead stated "We now have a clearer picture of how we can work together toward an equitable water workforce. It won't be easy, but we're energized about the possibilities."

"This has been a great learning process for us," said Kevin Shafer, Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. "We know that as a utility, we're in a unique position to advance water workforce equity. And we're already partnering to push some of the recommendations forward, like launching a Fresh Coast Ambassador program to get more young adults ready to enter the water workforce. There is more we can do, and we're committed to keep moving the needle."

Karen Dettmer, Superintendent of Milwaukee Water Works, added "We all now have a deeper understanding of the challenges to workforce diversity and a shared vision for how to overcome them. At Water Works, we are deepening our relationships with community and workforce partners, expanding our youth apprenticeship and internship programs, and strengthening outreach to future potential employees—from grade school through colleges and universities."

"While the challenges that Milwaukee's communities face are significant, we believe the Taskforce has set forth important steps toward building a more diverse water workforce," said Radhika Fox, CEO of the US Water Alliance. "Working for greater social equity has widespread benefits beyond water systems—it also helps to grow local economies. I applaud the Milwaukee Water Equity Taskforce for their leadership in working to make Milwaukee a true water-centric city in a way that has meaning for its residents."

This report is part of the Water Equity Taskforce, a network of cities convened by the US Water Alliance that work together to develop more equitable water policies and practices. The Taskforce includes cross-sector teams in the cities of Atlanta, Buffalo, Camden, Cleveland, Louisville, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh.

Click [here](#) for more information on the Water Equity Taskforce project.

*US Water Alliance advances policies and programs to secure a sustainable water future for all. Established in 2008, the Alliance is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that educates the nation on the true value of water, accelerates the adoption of one water policies and programs, and celebrates innovation in water management. The Alliance brings together diverse interests to identify and advance common-ground, achievable solutions to our nation's most pressing water challenges. Our membership includes water providers, public*



officials, business leaders, environmental organizations, community leaders, policy organizations, and more. Follow the US Water Alliance on Twitter and on LinkedIn.

Media Contact: Abigail Gardner, [agardner@thevalueofwater.org](mailto:agardner@thevalueofwater.org), 412-977-3051



## Membership At A Glance

**Total WI section members: 1,864**

**Affiliate: 58**

**Assoc: 325**

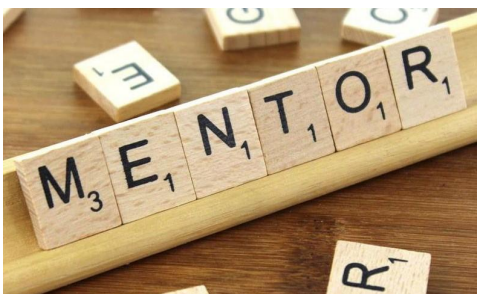
**Distinguished: 5**

**Fellow: 57**

**Member: 1,074**

**Student: 345**

**New Members (since last newsletter): 16**



Consider mentoring in this new year! ASCE Mentor Match connects ASCE members based on topics of interest and experience level.

<https://collaborate.asce.org/mentoring/home>

### ASCE Leader Resources

Check out the Society's many resources – from webinars to publications to talking points and handbooks – [here](#).



## ASCE Wisconsin Section 2019-2020 Board of Directors

### President

Ken Mika, P.E.

Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

[KMika@geosyntec.com](mailto:KMika@geosyntec.com)

### President Elect

Larry Buechel, P.E.

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### Past President

Jared Wendt, P.E.

Toole Design

### Director at Large

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UW Platteville

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### Director at Large

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### Director at Large

Thomas Walther, P.E.

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### Branch Director, Southeast

#### Branch

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### Branch Director, Northwest Branch

Corona Woychik

ISG

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### Branch Director, Southwest Branch

Ann Thielmann, P.E.

[jwendt@tooledesign.com](mailto:jwendt@tooledesign.com)

**Secretary**

Jennifer Schaff, P.E.  
County Materials Corporation  
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**Director at Large**

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DAAR Engineering, Inc.

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**Branch Director, Fox River Valley Branch**

Ryan Trzinski, P.E.  
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**Treasurer**

Marty Hanson, P.E., F.ASCE  
Starboard Tack Consulting  
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ASCE Collaborate is a place to get advice about a project, talk shop, and discuss topics relating to our profession. You may know there are five forums for ASCE members, but did you know the Wisconsin Section has its own online community for you to connect with other engineers in the Section? I encourage you to visit the community and introduce yourself by clicking the “add” button in the discussion header.

ASCE Collaborate also allows you to

Find other ASCE Members using the exclusive ASCE Member Directory.

Find or become amentor to accelerate your career development or guide others from your experience.

Have questions? Visit the New User page.

ASCE Wisconsin Section | [www.ASCEWI.org](http://www.ASCEWI.org)

