

**Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Section of American Society of Civil Engineers
(CSCE) Board Virtual Meeting via Teams
Friday, January 17, 2025 - 12 p.m. Noon - Meeting Minutes**



The conference call/meeting began at 12:00 p.m. The following people were in attendance on the call:

Rich Cohen, CSCE President	Cassi Champagne, Chair of the CT Valley Chapter of the ASCE Geo-Institute
Tyler Parker, CSCE President-Elect	
Byungik Chang, CSCE Treasurer	Sangyul Cho, Chair of the CT Chapter of the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute
Scott Nolan, CSCE Director II	
Aaron Foster, CSCE Director I	Carolyn Foston, Fairfield County Branch President
Geoffrey Schwartz, ASCE Region 1 Governor	Kim Fletcher, Chair of the Student Chapters Committee
Amy Petrone, CSCE Administrative Assistant	Sanjeev Mohan, CT Chapter of the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute
	Tom Wamser, YMG President

1. Report from ASCE Region 1 Governor – Geoffrey Schwartz

- January 31-February 1, 2025 - ASCE Regions 1, 2, 4, & 5 Workshop for Section, Branch, and Institute Leaders (WSBIL), at the Hilton Memphis, TN – He will catch up with CSCE members there.
- 2025 ASCE Region 1 Spring Assembly is from March 21-22, 2025, in Burlington, VT – CSCE representatives can join this event in person or remotely to provide CSCE’s activity reports/updates.
- 2025 Northeast ASCE Student Symposium (<https://studentsymposium.asce.org/northeast/>) is from April 17-18, 2025, at UMass-Amherst in Amherst, MA, and includes the Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge competitions. Volunteers are needed to help as judges, speakers, and event support. In particular, judges are needed for the Mead Paper competition, the Student Poster competition and the Sustainable Solutions competition.
- He swore in Tyler Parker as 2024-25 CSCE President-Elect.
- IMAX movie Cities of the Future – Rich Cohen sent an email to Jane Howell and other representatives at ASCE about showing this film in Connecticut. He should include Geoff Schwartz on similar emails in the future.
- Impoundment and its Potential Impact on Infrastructure Funding – Rich Cohen was on a Zoom call today with representatives from the Connecticut Construction Industries Association (CCIA) about impoundment. He can forward information from the call to Geoff Schwartz and it will be forwarded to representatives at ASCE National.

2. Review/Approve CSCE Board Conference Call Minutes from October 18, 2024, November 15, 2024, and December 20, 2024 - Rich Cohen made a motion to approve the CSCE Board Conference Call Minutes from October 18, 2024, November 15, 2024, and December 20, 2024. Scott Nolan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. CSCE Events

3.1 Past Event: COMTO-CT/CSCE Joint Winter Brewery Social on January 15, 2024 – This event was successful and about 25 people attended it. CSCE looks forward to co-hosting events with COMTO-CT in the future.

3.2 Upcoming Events Discussion – The Board reviewed the list of events and discussed the following topics:

- May 14 - 18th Annual ACE Awards
 - Mailing Flyers - Based on the feedback from last year’s event, it was suggested that CSCE mail flyers via USPS in January to civil engineering firms to promote applications for the ACE Awards. Amy Petrone will

assemble a list of the civil engineering firms in CT for this mailing and mail them once the sponsorship rates/registration rates are finalized.

- CSCE needs to finalize the prices & meal choices by February so registration can be opened up. Rich Cohen will send an email to the Board members to see if prices should change from 2024. Amy Petrone will send a financial overview of the 2024 event to the Board to help with this decision.

3.3 Webinars

3.3.1 Ethics – The Board will review the list of speakers and choose one.

3.3.2 History & Heritage Committee - Covered Bridges in CT and RI by Bill Caswell, President, National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges – Cost: \$100 - Rich Cohen made a motion to pay \$100 to the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges for this webinar. Tyler Parker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3.3.3 Potential Topics: The Board discussed the following topics:

- MS4 Unit/CTDOT's Stormwater Quality Management Program - Rich Cohen is identifying a speaker for this webinar.
- A couple of people have asked Scott Nolan if CSCE could offer a presentation by CTDOT on storm damage & impacts in Oxford, CT.

3.4 Possible Dinner Meeting Topics & Site Tours:

- I-91/I-691/Rt-15 Interchange project – Brian Mercure and Steve McDonald of CTDOT are interested in speaking on this topic.
- I-95/Old Lyme – Rich Cohen got a verbal commitment from CTDOT to give a presentation on this topic.

4. Reports from CSCE Executive Board Members

President – Rich Cohen shared that CSCE Member Katie Klose is the latest president of WTS CT and is setting up a joint event with the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT) that will highlight issues related to public transportation in Connecticut at CTDOT on February 25, 2025. She asked if CSCE would be interested in joining this event. Rich Cohen will try to attend this event and other Board members will check their schedules to see if they can attend as well.

President-Elect - Tyler Parker is interested in attending the career expo at Avon High School.

Treasurer - Byungik Chang emailed the latest Treasurer's report to Rich Cohen and Amy Petrone. CSCE's accounts look healthy and he has been getting requests for travel reimbursements. To help plan for those requests in the future, CSCE will request annual budgets from committees & institute chapters in April/May. He will provide some guidelines to committees/institute chapters about developing a budget. This month, he will work on the 1099 form for Amy Petrone and then he will work on CSCE's tax filing. Tyler Parker offered to help him work on CSCE's tax filing.

Director I - Aaron Foster and Eric Hoyt attended a Career Development Day at CTDOT on January 15, 2025. They talked with about 20 people who were interested in joining CSCE.

Director II – At last night's YMG meeting, they discussed using CSCE's tax-exempt form for its events to save money. Amy Petrone will ask ASCE if CSCE members can use a tax-exempt certificate on future expenditures, like tickets for a trip to a Hartford Yard Goats game or travel-related purchases for trips to ASCE events on behalf of CSCE.

5. Reports from /Institute/Committee Chairs/Fairfield County Branch

- ASCE Geo-Institute - Connecticut Valley Chapter - Chair – Cassi Champagne shared the following information:
 - The Chapter received the 2025 Chapter Achievement Award from ASCE. Members of the Chapter plan on attending the Geotechnical Frontiers and Geo-Congress 2025 awards night in Louisville, KY, in March to accept the award in person.
 - The spring geotechnical seminar is scheduled for April 25, 2025. Abstracts for seminar presentation topics should be emailed to her and Randy States by February 7.
 - The GEO-CT Scholarship nominations are due in March.

- ASCE Structural Engineering Institute - CT Chapter – The following items were discussed:
 - Amy Petrone will provide certificates of appreciation to Sangyul Cho after he sends recipient information to her via email.
 - January 29 Meeting Promotion – Amy Petrone will promote this meeting on LinkedIn again.

- Career Guidance Committee - Contact person is CSCE Vice President Eric Hoyt
 - January 31 – Information session for a group of students at Daniel Hand High School, Madison, CT – Byungik Chang and Jodi Constant are going to this school.
 - A weekday between February 5-20 - Visit to Henry Abbott Technical High School, Danbury, CT – Song Wang and Eric Hoyt are interested in this visit. Amy Petrone will email them to pick some dates/times to send to the school for potential visits.
 - February 7 – 8-9:40 a.m. Career Fair at Daniel Hand High School, Madison, CT (snow date is 2/14) – Rich Cohen is interested in attending this event.
 - February 20 – NEW DATE– 5-8 p.m. - STEM Night at Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill, CT – Rich Cohen is interested in attending this event on behalf of CSCE. Song Wang is interested in representing UHA & civil engineering at a table separate from CSCE.
 - March 26 – 9-11 a.m. - Career Expo at Avon High School – Tyler Parker is interested in attending this event.
 - April 4 – 8-10 a.m. - Career Day for Sophomores at Amity High School, Woodbridge, CT – Amy Petrone will check with other CSCE members to see if they are interested in attending this event.
 - Date: TBD – Simsbury High School

- Fairfield County Branch - President – Carolyn Foston shared that the Branch is getting ready for its annual dinner meeting at Two Roads Brewery. The Branch is also trying to plan a social in May and schedule more events to increase participation in the Branch.

- Collaborations with Affiliated Organizations – Motion via email re: COMTO-CT/CSCE Joint Winter Brewery Social on January 15, 2024 – Over email, CSCE Board approved the following motion: On January 7, 2025, Eric Hoyt made a motion for CSCE to cover an additional \$60 for this event that would be used to purchase (5)-\$20 gift cards for game prizes. COMTO-CT is providing a Plinko board, and gift cards will be given to winners. CSCE had previously approved a motion to spend \$200 on the rental of a private space for the brewery social. Of that \$200, only about \$160 was necessary to rent the space. So, this request is an additional \$60 over the amount that was already approved. Jodi Constant seconded the motion. Those voting in favor were Jodi Constant, Aaron Foster, Scott Nolan, Byungik Chang, Rich Cohen, Eric Hoyt, Danielle Morin, and Tyler Parker. The motion passed unanimously.

- Scholarship Committee – The following items were discussed:
 - The Board is going to identify a person to work with him on this committee and identify what his long-range plans are for this committee.

- Over email, CSCE Board approved the following motion: On January 10, 2025, Jodi Constant made the following motion: Approve \$1,000 for SEI Graduate Student Chapter activities. Scott Nolan seconded the motion. Those voting in favor were Scott Nolan, Byungik Chang, Aaron Foster, Rich Cohen, and Tyler Parker. Amy Petrone will send out a reminder email about the vote.
- Student Chapters Committee – The following items were discussed:
 - Kim Fletcher shared that the Committee had a really productive call last week and she will be sending out meeting minutes from that meeting today connecting new Practitioner Advisors with their schools. If anyone has questions about this Committee, feel free to reach out to her.
 - Request from Ashok Gyawali, President SEI Grad chapter, University of New Haven: The Chapter is designing a banner that includes the UNH logo and it is considering incorporating the ASCE-CSCE logo on the banner as well. The Chapter shared a mockup of the proposed banner with the Board and requested confirmation regarding the use of the ASCE-CSCE logo on its banner. The Student Chapter will use this banner for its activities, and it will serve as a display of support from various organizations. The Chapter could include a footnote reflecting approval from different organizations for their logo use. The Board was generally supportive of the inclusion of its logo on the banner.
- Younger Member Group - President – Tom Wamser shared the following information:
 - The YMG would like to hold a PE Tell All event in the future. If anyone has colleagues who have taken the newest version of the PE exam, please let the YMG know.
 - The YMG will host its next Industry 101 event at Quinnipiac University on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.
 - 4 Younger Members are attending the 2025 Eastern Multi-Region Leadership Conference in Memphis, TN, from January 30 to February 1, 2025.
 - WTS CT Chapter is looking for judges at an engineering exposition that it is coordinating for schools in Bridgeport, CT, in the morning on February 12, 2025. He will send information related to this event to Rich Cohen.
 - He registered to be a key contact for the 2025 ASCE Legislative Fly-In in Washington, D.C. on March 26–28, 2025. He asked Tyler Parker for information about this event.

6. New Business

Byungik Chang asked about the length of the term for the Chair of the Connecticut Valley Chapter of the ASCE Geo-Institute. It was suggested that he check CSCE's Operations Manual and Appendices to find that information.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.