

Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Section of American Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) Board Virtual Meeting via Teams
Monday, February 19, 2024 - Meeting Minutes



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

Aaron Foster, CSCE President	Landon Barlow, Chair of the CT Valley Chapter of the ASCE Geotechnical Institute
Rich Cohen, CSCE President-Elect	
Eric Hoyt, CSCE Treasurer	Tom Wamser, YMG President
Sam Turek, CSCE Secretary	Sanjeev Mohan, YMG Vice President
Danielle Morin, Newsletter Editor	George Gerard, Past CSCE President
Scott Nolan, CSCE Director I	Geoffrey Schwartz, ASCE Region 1
	Amy Petrone, CSCE Administrative Assistant

1. Report from ASCE Region 1 Governor – Geoffrey Schwartz

- February 28 – March 1 - 2024 Legislative Fly-In - Washington, D.C.- Landon Barlow and another CSCE member are planning on attending this event.
- March 15-16 - Spring Assembly in Portland, ME – Aaron Foster and another CSCE Board member may attend this event.
- April 19-21 - 2024 Northeast Student Symposium (including Steel Bridge competition and Concrete Canoe competition) at UNH
 - CSCE members could volunteer as a judge to support the event.
 - Geoffrey Schwartz received an email related to student chapter’s administrative activities. CCSU submitted its last annual report late. So, it can compete in these competitions, but not advance. To improve communications between CSCE, ASCE and Student Chapters, CSCE requested that it get a reminder about 2 weeks before the annual report deadline so CSCE can know and contact the student chapters. CSCE wouldn’t want the students to be penalized if the report was submitted late for reasons beyond their control.
- May 15 - CSCE would like to have Geoffrey Schwartz attend the ACE Awards on May 15th.

2. Review/Approve CSCE Board Conference Call Minutes from January 23, 2024

Sam Turek made a motion to accept these meeting minutes. Aaron Foster seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Recent CSCE Events

- January 30 – The dinner meeting at the University of Hartford was well attended by about 100 people.
- February 6 – The YMG Resume Review at UNH was well organized by the student chapter and 70 students and 10 YMG volunteers attended it.
- February 9 – The Structural Engineering Student Conference at UNH went smoothly and the people were happy. Ninety-six (96) students registered and about 70 showed up. Employees from 12 companies and 1 university volunteered at the event. CSCE sent out post event surveys to companies and attendees.

4. Upcoming CSCE Events

In-Person Events

February 21 – Dinner Meeting at CCSU – Scott Nolan and Rich Cohen will plan on arriving early to this meeting to help set things up.

February 22 – Rich Cohen is going to a STEM Fair in Rocky Hill with fellow CSCE member Kim Fletcher. Amy Petrone will give ASCE swag and the CSCE laptop to Rich Cohen after the February 21 dinner meeting.

February 29 – YMG Resume Review at UConn – Volunteers are needed for this event. CSCE needs to make sure that this event is not promoted as being online.

March 1 – YMG Trip to Quinnipiac Hockey Game – 20 tickets are available for this event. The ticket prices are \$20 for Younger Members and \$25 for non-CSCE Younger Members.

March 4 at 12:30 p.m. – Scott Nolan and Byungik Chang will be visiting students at Henry Abbott Technical High School in Danbury. There is a movie embedded in the slides for the presentation.

March 4 – YMG Resume Review at University of Hartford (UHA) – Volunteers are needed for this event.

March 19 - Dinner Meeting in Fairfield County - Rich Cohen will ask Branch President Carolyn Foston to attend this meeting. She plans on attending the meeting on February 21. CSCE can set up a slide for her in the meeting slides. Rich Cohen will share her bio with Danielle Morin to include in the CSCE newsletter and an e-blast to Branch members. He will also ask other Branch members to be Branch Board members.

March 26 – Industry 101 Event at UNH – The presenters for this event include engineers from private industry (Tom Wamser of Tighe & Bond and Scott Nolan of SLR Consulting) and public agencies (Mike Ciacciarella from the Town of Guilford). CSCE is looking for a state employee to join this event.

Younger Member Event Refreshments – Tom Wamser estimates that it will cost about \$250 for food and refreshments at each of the upcoming 4 YMG events. As such, Scott Nolan made a motion for CSCE to spend up to \$1000 for refreshments at the YMG Resume Review at UHA on March 4, the YMG Resume Review at Quinnipiac on March 20, the Industry 101 at UNH on March 26, and the YMG Resume Review at CCSU on April 11. Rich Cohen seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Civil Engineering Movies - It would help promote civil engineering if CSCE could get schools to show the Dream Big movie and the Future World movie to their students. The Dream Big movie is playing at CT Science Center between February 18-24. Amy Petrone will call the CT Science Center to set up a face-to-face meeting to help plan future events.

Future Joint Events – Tom Wamser recently met with representatives from Professional Women in Construction - CT Chapter (PWC). PWC will reach out to the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) to host events together once per quarter. CSCE could possibly partner with SWE on an event in October. In order to partner with affiliated organizations, Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), SWE, PWC and CSCE could each host an event per quarter and then members of all 4 organizations would be encouraged to attend them. CSCE could also see if the CT Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) would be interested in being included in the rotation.

Online Webinars

February 29 - Wild & Scenic Rivers: Federal Designations with Local Application - Aaron Foster will manage this on behalf of the CSCE Board.

March 5 - ASCE Mosaic Committee Presentation - Aaron Foster will manage this on behalf of the CSCE Board.

April 11 – Electric Vehicle Presentation by Rahmane Camara, Project Manager, Bureau of Public Transportation, CTDOT and COMTO Member - Aaron Foster will manage this on behalf of the CSCE Board. He and Amy Petrone met with COMTO representatives about this webinar and co-hosting future events.

5. CSCE Executive Board Activities

5.1 Report from Treasurer – Eric Hoyt - Thanks to CHA for becoming first Annual Sponsor.

5.2 Report from Secretary - Sam Turek - Thanks to CHA for being first Annual Sponsor. CSCE should send Annual Sponsor flyer to Board members and Past CSCE President George Gerard to help promote the sponsorship.

5.3 Report from Newsletter Editor – Danielle Morin – CSCE is putting a page in the CSCE newsletters for each of CSCE’s most active groups in CSCE (SEI-CT, CT Valley Chapter of G-I, Career Guidance Committee, and the Younger Member Group).

5.4 Report from Director I – Scott Nolan – In addition to the school visits and YMG events discussed earlier, he will connect with Sanjeev Mohan to talk about coordinating a YMG bowling night.

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

6.1 ASCE Geo-Institute - Connecticut Valley Chapter - Chair – Landon Barlow shared the following information:

- Planning the 2024 Spring Geotechnical Seminar on April 19 in Cromwell.
- The program is almost filled out. If someone on the call knows of a presenter related to the seminar topic (coastal geotechnics and resilience), please let Landon Barlow know. Speakers/Topics include Kevin O’Brien at UConn, Blue Plan at CTDOT, the State Pier in New London, and the CT River Bridge replacement in Old Saybrook, CT. Tom Wamser’s co-worker would be interested in doing a presentation on underground tank storage. He will send his co-worker’s contact information to Landon Barlow.
- Future Idea - Hold a CSCE dinner meeting the night before a future GEO-CT Conference at the Sheraton, Rocky Hill, CT. Since it might be a challenge to hold a dinner meeting that night because of a dinner that is held that same night with the conference presenters, sponsors and committee members, it may be better to hold a dinner meeting the night before a future Spring Geotechnical Seminar in Cromwell, CT.

6.2 ASCE Structural Engineering Institute - CT Chapter - Chair – Byungik Chang

- 2/9/24 SEI-CT Student Conference Follow-Up:
 - The SEI-CT and SEI-UNH graduate student chapter co-hosted a structural engineering conference at the University of New Haven for college students in Connecticut interested in pursuing a career in structural engineering. The 4-hour event kicked off with an overview of the ASCE Structural

Engineering Institute (SEI), SEI's presence in Connecticut, an introduction into the format of the event and providing an overview of the diverse areas of specialization within the field of structural engineering. Following the welcome and conference introduction, students broke out into breakout sessions of their choice. Each breakout room had company volunteers representing various subdisciplines. Breakout room sessions included company highlights, a panel discussion followed by a career fair session where students had an opportunity to learn the role of structural engineers within each subdiscipline, ask questions and meet with company representatives.

- There were 4 breakout rooms with industry and university representatives who specialized in infrastructure, buildings, water, and academia. Students gained insights into the role of structural engineers in each sub-discipline as designers, load rating engineers, inspectors, non-destructive testing engineers, forensics investigators and researchers. The event was attended by a total of 69 students (vs. 92 registered), 12 private companies and 1 academic institution.
- Companies & Schools in Attendance: University of New Haven, BL Companies, Consor Engineers, GM2 Associates, Conlon Engineering, Siefert Associates, WJE, The Foth Companies, GEI Consultants, GeoEngineers, University of Connecticut, HNTB, Barton & Loguidice, and Stantec
- SEI-CT volunteers who helped with the conference: Byungik Chang, Sangyul Cho, Alexandra Hain, Alex Mora, Sanjeev Mohan, and Hannah Rakowski.

6.3 Younger Member Group - President – Tom Wamser shared the following information:

- YMG Instagram Account - Amy Petrone and Mike Ciacciarella will lead the effort to set up this account. CSCE may need to send a form to ASCE for it.
- He met with Scott Nolan and Eric Hoyt about an annual budget for the YMG. Without grants or sponsors, YMG estimates that it will need \$12,200 per year to support its events. It will provide this information to CSCE at its Annual Planning Meeting in June so it can be reviewed for incorporation into CSCE's annual budget.

7. Other Topics

Company Tables at Dinner Meetings - George Gerard asked if CSCE could consider offering full tables for purchase at dinner meetings. This may be possible if full tables were purchased by a certain date and meal choices were submitted by the due date set by the venue. CSCE would need to determine the price of the table since registration prices for dinner meetings are based on people's CSCE membership status and preferences about earning PDHs.

With no more business to discuss, Rich Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:04 p.m. Scott Nolan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next CSCE Board meeting is scheduled for 12 p.m. Noon via Teams on Friday, March 15, 2024.