

CSCE Board Conference Call

Friday, March 27, 2020 at 12:00 PM EST

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



ASCE Region 1 Governor Danielle Spicer
CSCE President/CT Valley Geo-Institute Chair Ben Cote
CSCE President-Elect George Gerard
CSCE Vice President Brianna Maljanian
CSCE Secretary Aaron Foster
CSCE Treasurer Scott Nolan
CSCE Past President Chris Beaulieu
CSCE Fairfield County Branch President Ron Hill
CSCE Golf Outing Chair Jud Wible
CSCE Structural Engineering Institute - CT Chapter Former Chair Ranjit Bhav
CSCE Younger Members Committee President Jodi Greene
CSCE Administrative Assistant Amy Petrone

The following items were discussed:

1. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes from CSCE Board Meeting/Conference Call on March 13, 2020

The meeting attendees reviewed the meeting minutes from the CSCE Board Meeting/Conference Call on March 13, 2020. Ben Cote made a motion to approve the minutes. Aaron Foster seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Upcoming Dinner Meetings/Events

April 17, 2020 - Annual CSCE Spring Geotechnical Workshop – This workshop was cancelled due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak and has been tentatively rescheduled to be held at the University of New Haven (UNH) on July 17, 2020. Ben Cote notified the speakers about this change of date via email. CSCE has not yet publicized this change on its website or via email, but Amy Petrone can now update the website with the new date, send an email to CSCE members via Constant Contact and post the new date on LinkedIn.

April 21, 2020 - Dinner Meeting at the USCGA – This meeting has been cancelled due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. Amy Petrone will ask Rob Barakat to notify the Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner, who was scheduled to speak at this meeting, about this cancellation.

May 19, 2020 - ACE Dinner - Aqua Turf Club – This event has been cancelled due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. The Aqua Turf Club offered the following dates in 2020 to reschedule this event: August 11, 13, 18, 25, 27, and September 15, 16, 17, 22, 24. After discussing the different options, it was determined that Amy Petrone should contact the Aqua Turf Club and request that the event be rescheduled to September 15, 2020. Ben Cote will ask Billy Cunningham to contact ASCE Representative David Odeh, who was going to attend the event, and let him know about the rescheduled date.

The Board also discussed the installation of the following list of proposed 2020-2021 CSCE Officers:

President: George Gerard	Treasurer: Aaron Foster	Director I: Ben Cote
President-Elect: Brianna Maljanian	Secretary: OPEN	Director II: Dave Chapman
Vice President: Scott Nolan	Newsletter Editor: OPEN	

Jodi Greene will reach out to the YMC Board to see if anyone is interested in serving on the CSCE Board in 2020-2021. The Board members will also think of potential volunteers for these positions. CSCE can send out an email via Constant Contact regarding this opportunity. Ben Cote will draft an email for distribution to CSCE members and send it to Amy Petrone. Scott Nolan also shared with the Board that Past CSCE President Bob Gomez is interested in helping out the next CSCE Treasurer and also may be interested in serving on the 2020-2021 Board.

Region 1 Assembly in Connecticut on June 6-7, 2020 - This date is still in flux based on a conference call with Region 1 representatives on March 18, 2020. This Assembly may be rescheduled to July or August 2020 instead. ASCE will have a call/meeting next week to plan for this rescheduled event. In addition, ASCE is still looking to set up a Region 1 webinar.

Summer 2020 - Lunch or Dinner meeting at the Hartford Armory – The Board decided that progress on planning this event should be put on hold for the moment due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak.

3. Treasurer/Financial

The Board discussed automating and streamlining the processing of CSCE-related expenses related to the upcoming CSCE-sponsored events like ERYMC in 2022. To do this, CSCE could use a service like SAP Concur. Aaron Foster has spoken with representatives from companies that provide these types of services (i.e., Spur and Zenefits), but he has not found a company yet that exactly fits what CSCE needs as a nonprofit.

Debit Card/Credit Card – Scott Nolan does not think it will be difficult to obtain a debit card linked to CSCE’s checking account at Webster Bank. It is unclear at this time if the bank would need more than 1 signatory to obtain a debit card. There are three signatories currently on the account: George Gerard, Bob Gomez and Scott Nolan.

Past CSCE President Bob Gomez and Scott Nolan just finished CSCE’s taxes this past week. One outstanding reimbursement is for ERYMC, but it will be paid soon.

4. Younger Members Committee – There are no new updates on this committee’s activities. CSCE hasn’t received official word from ASCE about becoming the 2022 ERYMC host yet. As it has done in the past, the Committee will co-host a brewery social in fall 2020.

5. Geo-Institute – Upcoming activities for the Geo-Institute include the Geotechnical Workshop at UNH on July 17, 2020 (described on page 1), and the Geotechnical Seminar at the Sheraton Hartford South in Rocky Hill, CT, on September 25, 2020. Ben Cote emailed the Sheraton about the cancellation deadline. Ben Cote and Amy Petrone finalized the new registration pricing and sponsorship structure. Speaker confirmations and presentation titles/speaker names are to be sent to CSCE by April 3, 2020, and speakers should send PDH information to CSCE by the end of July in preparation for CSCE’s submittal to the Practicing Institute of Engineering (PIE) to provide 7 PDHs (Professional Development Hours) at this seminar.

6. Structural Engineering Institute – CT Chapter - CSCE is still looking for a chair for the SEI-CT Chapter. This opportunity can be added to a Constant Contact email that Ben Cote will draft to send to CSCE members.

7. Transportation and Development Institute – CT Chapter – Ranjit Bhawe has contacted the ASCE National Transportation and Development Institute to find out how to set up a chapter in Connecticut.

8. Golf Outing – This event is scheduled for July 17, 2020, at the Timberlin Golf Club and will begin with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. A conference call is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on April 1, 2020, via Skype to discuss sponsorship level offerings, registration coordination, company outreach, and planning for the day of the event. CSCE can ask its membership if any members would like to volunteer to help with the planning of this event. Aaron Foster will contact Rabih Barakat to see if the DOT Commissioner or a representative from that office could attend the outing.

9. Student Scholarships Update – Brianna Maljanian reviewed the nominations and discussed the differences between the 3 types of applications. It was suggested that the applications could be streamlined and standardized into 1 application with choices for the different types of student awards. The Board determined that the nominations could be from students who go to school outside of Connecticut. The Board discussed hosting a happy hour or informal event celebrating the students' achievements. The Board plans to review and vote on the student award nominations at its next conference call/meeting.

10. NYS PDH Sponsor Application Update – Brianna Maljanian resubmitted CSCE's application to the New York State Education Department (NYSED). NYSED replied with more comments related to the speaker biographies. In response to the comments, CSCE needs to provide the speakers' graduation year and license numbers to NYSED. Amy Petrone offered to reach out to the speakers to obtain that information.

11. New CSCE Banners - George Gerard anticipates providing a draft graphic of the banners to the CSCE Board in the next few weeks. The new banners should include two 2' x 8' banners and 1 tabletop banner (e.g., 2' x 3').

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next meeting/conference call is scheduled for 12 p.m. (Noon) on Friday, April 17, 2020.