

Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Section of American Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) Board Virtual Meeting via Teams
12 p.m. EST, Friday, March 28, 2025 - 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	Ranjit Bhawe, Chair of the CT Chapter of the ASCE Transportation & Development Institute
Tyler Parker, CSCE President-Elect	Cassi Champagne, Chair of the CT Valley Chapter of the ASCE Geo-Institute
Eric Hoyt, CSCE Vice President	Sangyul Cho, Chair of the CT Chapter of the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute
Jodi Constant, CSCE Secretary	Tom Wamser, YMG President
Danielle Morin, CSCE Newsletter Editor	Amy Petrone, CSCE Administrative Assistant
Scott Nolan, CSCE Director II	
Aaron Foster, CSCE Director I	
Geoffrey Schwartz, ASCE Region 1 Governor	

1. Reports from ASCE

1.1 Region 1 Governor – Geoffrey Schwartz shared the following information:

- Recap of 2025 ASCE Region 1 Spring Assembly was March 21-22, 2025, in Burlington, VT. Rich Cohen brought back a lot of notes from the Assembly to share in the next CSCE newsletter. CSCE will ask the ASCE Committee on Technical Advancement (CTA) for presentation topics/speakers for upcoming CSCE events in 2025-26.
- 2025 Northeast ASCE Student Symposium is April 17-18, 2025, at UMass-Amherst in Amherst, MA - Student competitions are run during this event. Volunteers are needed to help with this symposium and people should let him know if they are planning on attending.
- He installed Danielle Morin as CSCE Newsletter Editor for 2024-25.
- Since CSCE hasn't received a response yet from ASCE about the showing of ASCE's IMAX movie, Cities of the Future, at the Connecticut Science Center, we should forward the email that was sent to ASCE to him so he can follow up on it.
- ASCE released its 2025 Infrastructure report card on March 25, 2025. CSCE's last Infrastructure Report Card was prepared in 2022 and released in 2023. CSCE plans to prepare its next Report Card in 2026 and release it in 2027.
- ASCE's Election will run from May 1 – June 1, 2025. At the Region 1 Assembly, attendees heard from two ASCE President-Elect nominees. People can read bios / vision statements of the two ASCE president-elect candidates on <https://www.asce.org/about-asce/elections>. Rich Cohen will send a memo to CSCE members related to the voting and proposed change in ASCE membership grades.

1.2 ASCE Treasurer & Past CSCE President - Mario Ricozzi shared the following information:

- 2025 ASCE Infrastructure Report Card – About 150 people attended the release of the Report Card. It was well-received and ASCE representatives attended a training related to it with several members of the U.S. House of Representatives on March 26, 2025. He attended meetings highlighting the Report Card with the staffs of U.S. Senators Murphy and Blumenthal, U.S. Representative Courtney and U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro.
- Tax exemption for government bonds – In this difficult budget year, this issue has been raised because about 75% of infrastructure projects are paid for with tax exempt bonds. This type of tax exemption is proposed to be removed. Removal of this exemption may be used to cover the cost of proposed tax cuts.
- Changes are being proposed to the qualifications of nominees for ASCE President-Elect so that nominees are ASCE members who are a Fellow or have a P.E. designation.
- This will be a difficult budget year for ASCE. ASCE Region 1 Director Brad Kubiak is leading an effort to examine the structure of the ASCE Board.
- He will send recording links to the Report Card and the Unveiling (Solutions Summit) to Amy Petrone to share with the CSCE Board.

2. Review/Approve CSCE Board Conference Call Minutes from February 21, 2025 – Rich Cohen made a motion to accept the minutes and Jodi Constant seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
3. CSCE Events
 - 3.1 Past Events:
 - March 12 Dinner Meeting at CCSU – Presentation by CTDOT Commissioner – This meeting went well and had just under 100 attendees.
 - March 15 Deadline for CSCE Scholarships – CSCE received 8 ACE Award project nominations and 37 student award nominations. Rich Cohen will send an email to the Board about the project and individual award nominations. Board members can send comments to him.
 - March 25 Dinner Meeting at Fairfield County Branch – Presentation by Michael Rosenblatt, Project Engineer in District 3 of CTDOT, on the I-95 Fairfield Avenue Bridge Project in Norwalk, CT – This meeting went well and had 40 attendees.
 - 3.2 Upcoming Events
 - April 16 Dinner Meeting at USCGA - Reihaneh Samsami, Ph.D., P.E., CAPM, Tagliatela Family Assistant Professor, Program Coordinator, MS in Construction Engineering and Management at UNH, will give a presentation on Artificial Intelligence in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) Industry.
 - April 24 SEI-CT Student Career Forum – UConn – 4:00-7:30 p.m.
 - April 25 Geotechnical Seminar at TPC River Highlands, Cromwell, CT – Topic: Advanced Computing Tools and AI for Geotechnical Applications
 - May 14 - 18th Annual ACE Awards - Aqua Turf Club, Glass Room
 - June 5 - 30th Annual CSCE-CT ITE Golf Outing at Timberlin Golf Club, Berlin, CT
 - 3.3 Webinars
 - 3.3.1 Ethics – An Ethics webinar will be scheduled in August.
 - 3.3.2 May 6 - History & Heritage Committee is sponsoring a webinar on Covered Bridges in Connecticut by Bill Caswell, President, National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges.
 - 3.3.3 Potential Topics: MS4 Unit/CTDOT, Sustainability, Multi-modal Transportation, Construction - United Precast / National Precast Concrete Association of America, and Utility Infrastructure
 - 3.4 Possible Dinner Meeting Topics & Site Tours: I-91/I-691/Rt-15 Interchange project and I-95 Old Lyme
4. Reports from CSCE Executive Board Members
 - 4.1 President Rich Cohen attended the Region 1 Assembly and wrote up his notes from it for the CSCE Newsletter.
 - 4.2 President-Elect Tyler Parker shared the following information:
 - He attended a career fair visit at Avon High School on March 26, 2025, and it went well. He spoke with a lot of kids. There was a lot of interest in getting unpaid 60-hour internships for high school students in the summer.
 - He is lining up a webinar on CTDOT's Automated Work Zone Speed Control Program and needs to pick some possible dates.
 - 4.3 Vice President Eric Hoyt shared the following information:
 - He attended the Region 1 Assembly and liked the technical tour of the reconstruction of the high school site in Burlington, VT. They will have no high school building for 4 years and relocated the students to a former Macy's department store building.
 - He visited some schools to talk about careers in civil engineering. The visit to Eli Whitney Technical High School in Hamden, CT, on March 14, 2025, went well and the students were engaged. At the visit to Henry Abbott Technical High School in Danbury, CT, on February 18, 2025, the students were asking about internships for high school students. Some students go to a company site during the school day for a few hours. In response to the

topic of internships for high school students, Tom Wamser shared that Tighe and Bond offers internships for high school students and the students job shadow engineers and help with activities like traffic volume counts.

- He will review the scholarship applications by early next week and then the Board can vote via email.

4.4 Secretary Jodi Constant spoke with George Gerard about the visit to Eli Whitney Technical High School in Hamden, CT, and learned that there were a lot of students who planned to major in mechanical engineering at the school visit. This feedback could inform how CSCE volunteers prepare for their future school visits.

4.5 Newsletter Editor Danielle Morin will try to finish the March CSCE Newsletter this weekend.

4.6 Director I Aaron Foster shared the following information:

- He attended half of the Region 1 Assembly. Eric Hoyt and Rich Cohen did a great job on their presentation.
- He attended the Annual Legislative Meeting hosted by Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) at CTDOT on February 25, 2025, with Rich Cohen and Jodi Constant. They shared information related to CSCE's Infrastructure Report Card and received good comments from the audience.
- He is setting up some time to review 2025 award nominations.

4.7 Director II Scott Nolan shared the following information:

- He volunteered at the YMG Resume Review at UConn on March 24, 2025. He would like more students to attend this event in the future.
- The dinner meeting at Two Roads Brewing went well. The staff accommodated his food requests well and the food was great.
- He will submit nomination information for Educator of the Year to Amy Petrone.

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

5.1 ASCE Geo-Institute - Connecticut Valley Chapter - Chair – Cassi Champagne shared the following information:

- The seminar is coming up on April 25, 2025. Ten presenters are lined up for it and early registration ends on April 4th. Please share the registration link with colleagues to spread the word about the seminar. The seminar will feature a hands-on AI-related workshop as well as a putting competition at lunchtime.
- She will be attending the Northeast ASCE Student Symposium at UMass that was mentioned earlier as the Faculty Advisor to the ASCE Student Chapter at the University of New Haven. If anybody else plans to attend, please reach out to her and you all can connect while you are there. She will primarily be at the concrete canoe events.

5.2 ASCE Structural Engineering Institute - CT Chapter - Chair – Sangyul Cho shared the following information:

- The Student Symposium at UConn is on April 24, 2025, and 6-7 employers have signed up to attend.
- He will be attending the April Structural Congress in Phoenix, AZ, to receive the SEI-CT Chapter's award in-person on April 11, 2025.
- The CSCE Board discussed the SEI-CT budget request for \$4,000 to support the upcoming SEI-CT Students Poster Competition, as shown in the following table:

Category	Subcategory	Amount
SEI Graduate Student Chapter (GSC) Supports	SEI GSC University of Connecticut	\$500
	SEI GSC University of New Haven	\$500
SEI-CT Students Poster Competition in Structural Engineering	Graduate Students (Individual or Team)	\$1000
	1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Places	\$650
		\$350
	Undergraduate Students (Individual or Team)	\$1000
	1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Places	\$650
		\$350
Total Budget		\$5000

This competition aims to provide students with a platform to showcase their research and design projects to real-world engineering problems through visual posters and will foster academic engagement, improve presentation skills, and encourage students to share their work with the wider structural engineering community. The competition will be open to undergraduate and graduate students from colleges across Connecticut in separate subcategories, focusing on the structural engineering discipline, and will culminate in an awards ceremony during the 2025 SEI-CT Structural Engineering Seminar, where the best posters will be recognized. Jodi Constant made a motion to approve this \$4,000 proposal and Rich Cohen seconded it. Aaron Foster, Rich Cohen, Tyler Parker, Jodi Constant, Danielle Morin, Eric Hoyt and Scott Nolan voted in favor of this motion.

- It was suggested that CSCE could submit a grant application for a Region 1 grant for \$500 to help cover the costs of this poster competition.

6. Career Guidance Committee – The following topics were discussed.

- April 4 – 8-10 a.m. - Career Day for Sophomores at Amity High School, Woodbridge, CT - CSCE Past President Rob Barakat, CSCE Treasurer Byungik Chang and Life Member Bob Kulacz are going to attend this event.
- April 23, Wednesday - 6-8 p.m. - Bethel Public School's STEAM Expo at Bethel High School – Rich Cohen and Cassi Champagne are going to attend this event.
- April 24 - West Haven High School is interested in having CSCE volunteers visit with a morning class - Cassi Champagne and Bob Kulacz will visit this school.
- ASCE Swag to give away – Does CSCE want to buy ASCE Hard Hat Squeezies (\$5 for 10) to give away at career fairs? They would cost CSCE about \$1.50-2 each if it ordered them as a promotional item. CSCE could also give away Building Block Stress Relievers (Item #118048 on 4imprint.com) that were given out at a past ERYMC. It appears that a set of 4 blocks would be about \$7, which would be quite a bit higher than the \$2 per hard hat squeeze.

7. Younger Member Group - President Tom Wamser shared the following information:

- The YMG held mock interviews with students at the University of Hartford on February 24, 2025, an Industry 101 at Quinnipiac University on February 26, 2025, and a resume review at CCSU on March 5, 2025.
- The YMG held a Bowling Night on March 13, 2025, and has 2 trips to baseball games scheduled for April 15, and April 27, 2025.
- The YMG would like to schedule a PE Tell-All event. So, if anyone knows some colleagues who recently passed the PE exam, please let Tom Wamser know.

8. New Business – With no new business to discuss, Rich Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:06 p.m. Scott Nolan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.