

Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Section of American Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) Board Planning Meeting Conference Call via Teams

Friday, June 2, 2023, at 12:00 P.M. EST



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

Scott Nolan, CSCE President	Ariana Antonucci, YMG Secretary
Aaron Foster, CSCE President-Elect	Landon Barlow, Chair of the CT Valley Chapter of the ASCE Geo-Institute
Rich Cohen, CSCE Vice President	Byungik Chang, Chair of the CT Chapter of the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute
Eric Hoyt, CSCE Secretary	
Sam Turek, CSCE Newsletter Editor	Katie Hedberg-Klose, ASCE Committee on Younger Members - Eastern Geographic Member
Brianna Ritacco, CSCE Director I	
George Gerard, CSCE Director II	Alex Klose, Former YMG President
Danielle Spicer, ASCE Region 1	Tom Loto, Chair of the CT Chapter of the ASCE Environmental & Water Resources Institute
Amy Petrone, CSCE Administrative Assistant	Sanjeev Mohan, YMG Vice President
	Tom Wamsler, YMG President

The following items were discussed:

1. Report from ASCE Region 1 Governor – Danielle Spicer:

1.1 She can be on the call for the CSCE Planning Meeting to induct the 2023-24 Executive Board officers. Scott Nolan will ask her for her availability in June. Brianna Ritacco and Scott Nolan will work on setting up a When2Meet availability survey for the CSCE Planning Meeting.

1.2 Save the Date - September 29-30, 2023 - ASCE Region 1 Fall Assembly in Montreal

2. Review/Approve Minutes from CSCE Meetings on April 7, 2023, and April 28, 2023

Scott Nolan made a motion to accept the minutes from the CSCE Meetings on April 7, 2023, and April 28, 2023. Brianna Ritacco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Monthly Dinner Meetings

3.1 April 18 - In-Person Dinner Meeting at the USCGA – This meeting was a success.

3.2 May 17 - Virtual Lunch Meeting on Bicycle Lanes – This was a good presentation and the speaker offered to run a follow-up presentation. CSCE may reach out to her again to give a future presentation.

4. Annual Events / Critical Discussion Items

4.1 Event Management Platforms – ASCE is not going to be using Constant Contact after July 2023. So, sections of ASCE must soon determine their new event management platforms, which could include Thrive/Informz via ASCE, Eventbrite, and Constant Contact. Landon Barlow looked into using Eventbrite to manage the registration for the 2023 GEO-CT Conference scheduled for September 22, 2023. Fees charged by Eventbrite are 6.6% plus \$1.79 per ticket and its email marketing costs are separate.

4.2 Card Readers – Since people continue to experience challenges when trying to pay for an online event registration with a card and no PayPal account, CSCE is looking into buying a card reader that could be both used for online registration payments and in-person event payments. Scott Nolan will follow up with Tyler Parker regarding his research into card readers. This is an important issue for CSCE. Tom Loto shared that companies increasingly want employees to use company cards to pay for events.

4.3 Younger Member Group (YMG) Update:

4.3.1 Alex Klose introduced Tom Wamser officially as the next YMG President. The YMG just held elections. Tom Wamser was elected President, Sanjeev Mohan was elected Vice President and Ariana Antonucci was elected Secretary. Congratulations to all! The YMG also had new general members join recently.

4.3.2 In May, the YMG coordinated a site tour of the United Concrete Plant on the 11th and 26 people attended the tour. United Concrete is interested in hosting another site tour in the future. This summer, the YMG could host a trip to a Hartford Yard Goats game at the end of August/beginning of September. Scott Nolan will look into sponsorships and support for this trip. The New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) and the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) are also planning trips to see Yard Goats games this summer. The YMG may be able to coordinate a trip with them. At past joint CSCE-ACEC trips to Yard Goats games, people paid full price for their tickets and CSCE had had to pay a downpayment to the Yard Goats ahead of the game.

4.3.3 The YMG is constantly looking for STEM outreach opportunities, i.e., it plans to hold a resume review in the fall.

4.3.4 The YMG has a \$250 grant to support student retention that needs to be used by August 2023.

4.3.5 The YMG is interested in planning a trail clearing/clean-up event.

4.3.6 The YMG is finalizing its bylaws. Tom Wamser would like to edit them before sending them to the CSCE Board and ASCE for their review and approval.

4.4 ACE Awards Re-cap

4.4.1 6 project awards and 5 individual awards.

4.4.2 From responses to the event evaluation survey, the timeline worked well, and a couple of people requested more appetizers.

4.4.3 Katie Hedberg-Klose talked about the contents of an email she sent to the CSCE Board and ASCE representatives on June 1st about the event’s ASCE presentation that included an incorrect statement that women decide to leave the field of engineering because men aren’t teaching women civil engineering in a way to make them stay. The Board discussed how it would address this incorrect statement. CSCE could put together an action plan to increase the number of Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI)-related events it hosts and how to address JEDI issues in the future. While CSCE is encouraged that 43% of the CSCE scholarships went to female students this year, not many events related to JEDI have been hosted by CSCE recently. This topic could be part of the agenda for the Planning Meeting. In the meantime, CSCE will ask ASCE to meet early next week to discuss this issue and get a recommendation from ASCE as to how to communicate with the CSCE membership about the issues raised in the ASCE presentation. CSCE could send an email to the attendees of the ACE Awards related to the ASCE presentation to address the issues raised in it. CSCE should work with ASCE to move forward with this effort.

5. CSCE Executive Board Activities

5.1 President’s Report – Scott Nolan

5.1.1 Recruitment of new Board members / Committee chair – A colleague may be interested in serving on the CT Chapter of the EWRI and as Newsletter Editor.

5.1.2 YMG – He is interested in being more involved with the YMG once his term as CSCE President ends.

- 5.1.3 StarChapter - He will reach out to them.
 - 5.1.4 Region 1 Assembly Expense Report – He will send this report to Tyler Parker.
 - 5.1.5 Future Speaker Possibility: He will follow-up with Crystal Joseph of Marino Engineering Associates, Inc., about inviting Executive Director, Dr. Reza Osouli, to present on one of the following tentative topics: Assessing Risk of Structure Damage Over Abandoned Coal Mines, Construction Along Slopes and Over Subsidence-prone Karst Terrain, or What Structural Engineers Should Know about Building above Underground Mines.
- 5.2 President-Elect’s Report – Aaron Foster - His colleague cannot serve as Newsletter Editor. Amy Petrone will send an email about vacant Newsletter Editor position.
- 5.3 Report from Vice President – Rich Cohen – He will ask new hires in his office about becoming Newsletter Editor and/or joining the YMG.
- 5.4 Report from Secretary – Eric Hoyt – He is looking forward to next year as Treasurer.
- 5.5 Report from Newsletter Editor – Sam Turek – He is looking forward to taking on Secretary role.
- 5.6 Report from Director I – Brianna Ritacco
- 5.6.1 She emailed the CSCE Board about continuing as the Past Presidents Council Chair.
 - 5.6.2 Regarding having the DOT Commissioner speak at a meeting in the fall, she hasn’t reached out to him yet. If the Board confirms that it would like him to speak at the September CSCE meeting, she will contact him.
- 5.7 Report from Director II – George Gerard
- 5.7.1 He is interested in continuing as the Finance Committee chair.
 - 5.7.2 The Committee Chairs and Institute Chapter Chairs should have their budgets prepared for the Planning Meeting.
6. Reports from /Institute/Committee Chairs/Fairfield County Branch
- 6.1 CT Chapter of the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute - Chair: Byungik Chang – He sent the following information to Scott Nolan and Amy Petrone this morning:
- 6.1.1 SEI Structures Seminar on October 20, 2023
 - 6.1.1.1 A formal invitation letter was sent to all 6 speakers, and they have confirmed their presentations.
 - 6.1.1.2 The Chapter is updating its seminar survey, which will be sent to all participants after the seminar.
 - 6.1.1.3 The same lunch package that was used last year will be used this year.
 - 6.1.1.4 The estimated number of participants is about 40.
 - 6.1.1.5 Seminar Registration Costs:
 - \$225/250 (after Sept. 20) for ASCE Members
 - \$250/275 (after Sept. 20) for Non ASCE Members
 - \$100/125 (after Sept. 20) for Gov. Employees or Retired Employees
 - \$25 for Students
 - 6.1.1.6 Registration will be open from July 20 until October 13 and early registration will end on September 20, 2023.
 - 6.1.1.7 To help support the seminar, the Chapter and CSCE will look for sponsors and promote the seminar on the CSCE website and via emails.
 - 6.1.1.8 The Chapter would like to reimburse the mileage expense when a speaker requests. One of the speakers asked about this.

6.1.1.9 The Chapter Board Members would like ask CSCE if there will be any returned portion of the revenue from the Seminar to the Chapter so it can be used for other activities in the future.

6.1.2 SEI Student Seminar on September 15, 2023

6.1.2.1 The purpose of this seminar is to promote the field of structural engineering and provide students with opportunities for professional development and growth.

6.1.2.2 This in-person seminar will be held at the University of New Haven from 2:30-6:00 p.m. and snacks & drinks will be provided.

6.1.2.3 The expected participants will be from the SEI Student Chapter and graduate & undergraduate students who are interested in a structural engineering career.

6.1.2.4 The draft agenda for the seminar is as follows:

2:30-3:00: Opening: Info Session or Career Talk in Structural Engineering

3:00-4:00 Breakout Room 1: Infrastructure + Facility

4:00-5:00 Breakout Room 2: Vertical Structures + Commercial

5:00-6:00 Breakout Room 3: Inspection/Rehab

6.1.2.5 Can CSCE sponsor this seminar financially (about \$300-500)? Scott Nolan will assemble an email vote to move forward with these expenditures. Region 1 also has some funds available that CSCE and the Chapter can apply for those funds to cover some of the costs of this seminar.

6.2 CT Valley Chapter of the ASCE Geo-Institute - Chair - Landon Barlow – The Chapter would like to open registration for GEO-CT Conference in the next few weeks. Will CSCE be using Constant Contact until the end of the year? CSCE needs to figure this out soon to open up the registration.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.