

Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Section of American Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) Board Planning Meeting Conference Call via Teams Monday, December 3, 2021, 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:

Brianna Ritacco, CSCE President
Clay Patterson, CSCE Treasurer
George Gerard, CSCE Director I
Danielle Spicer, ASCE Region 1 Governor
Amy Petrone, CSCE Administrative Assistant

Ron Hill, Fairfield County Branch President
Tom Loto, CSCE Water Resources Committee Chair
Alex Mora, Chair of CT Chapter of the ASCE
Structural Engineering Institute
Ranjit Bhawe, Chair of CT Chapter of the ASCE
Transportation & Development Institute

1. Review/Approve Minutes from CSCE Board Conference Call on November 8, 2021

Since there was no quorum, this will be done at the next meeting/call.

2. Report from ASCE Region 1 Governor – Danielle Spicer

- ASCE Region 1 is planning the next Region 1 Assembly
- The Northeast Student Symposium is scheduled to be held from April 9-10, 2022, virtually and will be hosted by representatives from the University of Vermont.
- The steel bridge competition will be managed by representatives from the University of Connecticut on Saturday, April 23, 2022, and the concrete canoe competition will be managed by representatives from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on Sunday, April 24, 2022. Both competitions will be held in-person
- ASCE Management of Proof of Covid-19 Vaccine at Section Events – Brianna Ritacco contacted Tara Hoke of ASCE to see if ASCE's management protocol related to the Covid-19 vaccine status of attendees at events could be extended to sections of ASCE. No feedback has been received yet.

3. Recent Events

Monthly Virtual Lunch Meeting on November 17, 2021 – This meeting was co-sponsored by the CT Chapter of the ASCE Construction Institute & ASCE Student Chapter at the University of Connecticut. It offered a presentation on the Walk Bridge Program in Norwalk, CT, and was well received.

4. Upcoming Events

4.1 Monthly Meetings

- Virtual Lunch Meeting on December 15, 2021 – This meeting will offer a presentation on Benjamin Wright and is planned to be co-sponsored by the CT Valley Chapter of the ASCE Geo-Institute and Three Rivers Community College (TRCC). If representatives from TRCC are unable to attend and co-sponsor this meeting, CSCE will determine if TRCC students are available in the fall of 2022 to give a presentation at another meeting.
- Virtual Lunch Meeting on January 26, 2022 – This meeting will offer a presentation by GM2 Associates, Inc., on the UHPC bridge.
- In-Person Dinner Meeting on February 16, 2022 – This meeting will offer a presentation coordinated by the CSCE Legislative Affairs Committee and will be held at Quinnipiac University. The Committee will meet on December 6th to

discuss the topic & speaker for the meeting presentation. Masks are required to be worn at this Quinnipiac University event.

- In-Person Dinner Meeting on March 22, 2022 – This meeting will offer a presentation coordinated by the Fairfield County Branch of CSCE. The topic of the presentation at this meeting will be the Reconstruction of Upper & Lower Toll Plazas and Southbound Approach at the Henry Hudson Bridge by Siefert Associates. Branch President Ron Hill will move forward with this topic/speaker for this meeting. CSCE will decide about a month before the meeting if the meeting will be held in-person or virtually.
- Meeting on April 13, 2022, at the USCGA – This meeting topic is TBD and will be coordinated by the CSCE Government Engineers Committee. Brianna Ritacco will contact Committee Chair Rabih Barakat about a speaker/topic for this meeting.
- Virtual Lunch Meeting on May 10, 2022 – Topic: Applications of iTwin – This meeting will be sponsored by the Connecticut Section of the ASCE Transportation and Development Institute.

4.2 ACE Awards

- 2021 ACE Awards – The winners have been chosen. CSCE will send emails to the firms that won with information about the event in 2022. Then, CSCE will send a Constant Contact email and include information about the projects in the December 2021 newsletter.
- 2022 ACE Awards – This in-person event is scheduled for May 26, 2022.

4.3 Professional Development Events

- 2022 Geotechnical Spring Workshop – Date/Topic/Location: TBD
- 2022 SEI Structures Seminar – Date: June 2022 - Location: TBD – The topic will be most likely related to structural issues, challenges, and failures.

5. CSCE Executive Board Activities

5.1 Report from President

- 2022 In-Person Meeting Locations have been finalized for February/Quinnipiac University, March/Norwalk, CT, and April/USCGA. The meeting in May will be virtual.
- The proposed CSCE Board Happy Hour will be postponed since Covid cases are rising in Connecticut and there is a new variant. CSCE may revisit holding this event in January 2022.
- CSCE Laptop Check in/Check out System – Brianna Ritacco will work with Amy Petrone on this system.
- Presentation Recording Access – CSCE would like to provide people with access to recordings of its past presentations. Options discussed for this access include sending a link with an expiration date to people; posting the videos on the CSCE website; and setting up a YouTube account for uploading videos. Amy Petrone will ask ASCE if it has YouTube accounts for its sections.
- Welcome Letters for Upgraded Membership – ASCE recently upgraded some people's membership based on criteria. ASCE recommended that each Section President send out welcome letters to those people. Brianna Ritacco will look into this task over the next couple of weeks.
- Progress on 2021-2022 Goal related to CT DOT Involvement - Katie Klose and Brianna Ritacco are giving a presentation highlighting the benefits of a CSCE membership at the CT DOT Lunch and Learn on December 7, 2021. She also sent information about the DOT partner program to the CT DOT Deputy Commissioner for his consideration.
- Progress on 2021-2022 Goal related to WTS Joint Event – Brianna Ritacco will work on a potential webinar in coordination with Katie Klose.
- Past Presidents Committee – The establishment and tasks of this Committee will be examined in early 2022.

5.2 Report from Vice President

- Treasurer Transition - Aaron Foster will meet with Clay Patterson during the week of December 13th to review the transfer the Treasurer files and responsibilities.
- ASCE Distinguished Members - Related to gathering information about ASCE Distinguished Members, Amy Petrone sent a list of previous winners of the Benjamin Wright Award to Aaron Foster.
- Connecticut Trolley Museum - More information is forthcoming on this topic. The museum is looking for engineering services and is holding a fundraiser event on June 25, 2022.
- Outstanding Section Nomination – Aaron Foster reviewed a list of initiatives that CSCE could take on over the next year to strengthen its nomination.

5.3 Report from Treasurer

- Issues with PayPal – To resolve some issues related to the PayPal account, Amy Petrone will check with ASCE about other online payment services used by ASCE or other sections. To update the address on the account, Brianna Ritacco offered that CSCE could use her address on the account for now.

5.4 Report from Newsletter Editor

- December Newsletter - Brianna Ritacco will send information about Jim Sime to Amy Petrone for an article about him for a member spotlight article. Roy Merritt will provide an update on the new infrastructure bill that can be included in the newsletter. The newsletter will be released before Christmas.

5.5 Report from Director I

- Scholarship Committee – Aaron Foster and George Gerard met with Jim Sime to discuss possible changes to the scholarships. For many years, CSCE hadn't added money to the scholarship fund. Recently, deposits have been made into the fund account. If the annual CSCE budget can allow for payment of the annual scholarships, then CSCE does not have to take money out of the fund to provide scholarships and the fund can grow. CSCE may decide to give out a \$10,000-15,000 scholarship every couple of years.
- Purchases – George Gerard will look at options to buy a vertical banner and a new bag for the CSCE laptop.
- 2021-2022 Goals - The goals for the Director I involve scholarships and a review of CSCE's spending and operating budget.

6. Reports from Institute/Committee Chairs

- Water Resources Committee – Past CSCE President/Past Chair of the CT Valley Chapter of the ASCE Geo-Institute Gary Fuerstenberg offered to help with transitioning the Committee to become a State Chapter of the ASCE Environmental and Water Resources Institute.
- Connecticut Chapter of the Transportation & Development Institute – There is a need to increase the Chapter Board membership.

7. CSCE Laptop & File Backup

Amy Petrone will add CSCE files to the laptop and ask ASCE what type of file backup storage is recommended for sections.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. The next CSCE Board meeting will be on Friday, January 7, 2022, at 12 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.