

CSCE Board Conference Call
Friday, December 18, 2020, 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:

George Gerard, CSCE President

Brianna Maljanian, CSCE President-Elect

Scott Nolan, CSCE Vice President

Clayton Patterson, CSCE Secretary

Aaron Foster, CSCE Treasurer

Tim Ariosto, CSCE Newsletter Editor

Danielle Spicer, ASCE Region 1 Governor

Katie Klose, Younger Members Group President

Jodi Greene, MRLC 2022 Co-Chair

Tom Loto, Water Resources Committee Chair

Jud Wible, Golf Outing Committee Chair

Amy Petrone, CSCE Administrative Assistant

1. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes from CSCE Board Conference Call on November 20, 2020

The meeting attendees reviewed the meeting minutes from the CSCE Board Meeting/Conference Call on November 20, 2020. George Gerard made a motion to approve the minutes. Brianna Maljanian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. ASCE National Update

Danielle Spicer told the group that the Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) is still scheduled to be held in June 2021. There is no discussion about it being held virtually at this time.

3. Recent Events

December 3, 2020 – Virtual Meeting - CSCE held a virtual meeting on December 3, 2020. At this meeting, the speakers provided an overview of the Accelerated Superstructure Replacement of U.S. Route 1 over I-95 (Br 00037) in Stamford, CT. George Gerard, one of the speakers at this meeting, presented a more technical version of the virtual presentation for ABC-UTC on a different date and 850 people were on the call.

On December 4, 2020, George Gerard made a motion via email to purchase an annual CSCE Microsoft Teams license for use on monthly presentations and seminars, mini-series, etc. which may take place throughout the year. Brianna Maljanian seconded the motion and the motion passed. George Gerard will coordinate with Amy Petrone and Aaron Foster to purchase the license. CSCE will plan to use its PayPal account to make the purchase. On December 15, 2020, Amy Petrone dropped off the CSCE laptop at George Gerard's house to install the CSCE Microsoft Teams License.

At the Board meeting/conference call held on December 4, 2020, the Board decided to establish a subset of the CSCE Board, consisting of the President, President-Elect, and Vice President, to manage the virtual monthly meetings. The three Board members will get assistance from Amy Petrone at this time and then from Jeff Benoit when meetings return to being held in-person. The Vice President will be in charge of the Professional Development House (PDH) record keeping.

Regarding PDHs in CSCE's first virtual meetings, there were no questions/code sent to Amy Petrone by attendees who wanted to earn PDHs. At the meeting on December 3, 2020, the attendees were asked to send answers to 3 questions to Amy Petrone, but no specifics were provided to attendees and 2 people did not answer all 3 questions correctly. CSCE will clarify the requirements for PDH credit prior to the meeting in January 2021. Other organizations manage provision of PDHs differently. For instance, ASCE Buffalo polls attendees during its events and considers this portion of the events to be participation questions (vs. learning questions).

4. Future Events

January 26, 2021 – Virtual Lunch Meeting: The registration can be opened for this meeting. George Gerard will send a meeting link to Amy Petrone once one has been assigned to this meeting. Amy Petrone will send out the link to the presentation either the day before the presentation or the day of the presentation as other organizations do.

Meeting Recordings - If CSCE records future meetings, CSCE will need to let attendees know at registration.

February 23, 2021 – Virtual Lunch Meeting – The topic of this meeting will be managed by the Legislative Affairs Committee. The co-sponsor of the meeting is the ASCE Student Chapter at the University of New Haven. The Committee is having a meeting soon to determine the speaker. This meeting will be held virtually at lunchtime and Amy Petrone will ask Jeff Benoit to cancel CSCE's dinner reservation at Amarantes.

March 16, 2021 – Monthly Meeting – The topic of this meeting will be how to prevent bridge collapse during construction and the speaker will be Vincent Siefert of Siefert Associates. For now, the meeting is scheduled to be held in-person at dinnertime at the Norwalk Inn, Norwalk, CT.

April 20, 2021 – Monthly Meeting – This meeting may be held virtually.

5. 2022 ASCE Multi Region Leadership Conference (MRLC)

2022 MRLC – The Conference Committee is looking for sponsors. A sponsorship letter was distributed and the 2022 MRLC website went live last week. There are 2 sponsors so far (WSP and BL Companies). Meeting attendees were asked to circulate the letter at their companies, especially to younger staff who could be interested in the conference. People should contact Katie Klose or Jodi Greene with any questions about the sponsorships. The sponsorships at higher levels will have their company logos extensively promoted to students and throughout the East Coast of the United States and Canada.

An estimated budget for the event is \$50,000-70,000. The more money that gets raised for the conference reduces the cost for people to attend the conference. Each Platinum sponsor will be promoted each evening of the event. The Younger Members Group Financial Committee, which consists of George Gerard, Katie Klose, and Jodi Greene, will meet with CSCE Treasurer Aaron Foster soon to finalize the budget. Katie Klose will send out a sponsorship booklet that can be sent to employers.

This could be the first ASCE event since the pandemic started and this is the first time that Connecticut has hosted the MRLC. So, this could be an important event on more than one level. On the MRLC planning call earlier this week, parts of the event were divided up for people to call about for pricing. Sponsors can be contacted and

upgraded over the next 3 years. The more funding that can be raised by companies decreases the amount for which CSCE will be responsible.

6. 2021 MRLC Attendance

CSCE is looking to support approximately 10 attendees (YM and Board members) to attend this conference. Katie Klose offered the following rough cost estimates: \$930/per person for costs associated with the flights, the conference, and a hotel for 2 nights vs. \$1,300/per person for costs associated with driving 4 people in car, the conference, and a hotel for 2 nights. Last year, the cost was approximately \$600/per person to attend the conference. Aaron Foster will see how these estimates fit into CSCE's budget and report back to the Board at the January 2021 meeting. Katie Klose and Jodi Greene will get more information about registration and report back to the Board at the February 2021 meeting. There is a rail option to and from the conference, but it is a 17- or 23-hour trip. Anything for attendees to offset the conference costs would be good for CSCE and would defer CSCE's costs.

7. Gift Giving and Plaque/Award Giving Summary

When people give presentations at CSCE meetings, CSCE gives pen & pencil sets to the speaker. A gift was sent to the speaker at the virtual meeting on December 3, 2020, who was an employee of the CT Department of Transportation (DOT). Because of ethical issues, the speaker needed to either buy or return the pen & pencil set. Under the CT Code of Ethics for Public Officials, state employees may not accept gifts valued at \$10 or more from anyone doing business with or seeking business with the Department where the employee works. These entities are referred to as, "restricted donors," which means that the most restrictive rules about gifts apply to them. CSCE was determined to be a restricted donor because 5 of the 7 CSCE Board members are employed by firms that are considered to be restricted donors. Once CSCE was made aware of this situation, it arranged to pick up the pen & pencil set from the speaker.

In a follow-up email to the DOT's Office of Legal Services, CSCE asked for clarification about other items CSCE hands out which could or could not be considering gifts, such as the personal and project award plaques that are given out at CSCE's annual awards event to industry professionals, who can be government employees. These awards/plaques exceed \$10 and it was unclear if those would be considered gifts that fall within the gift giving restrictions or into a different category. The Office of Legal Services could not give advice on the Code of Ethics, but did note that there are many exceptions to the definition of "gift" in the Code of Ethics and one of them is for a "certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than one hundred dollars." Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(5)(F). The exceptions are all spelled out in Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(5)(A-S). The Office of Legal Services suggested that CSCE take some of the free, online training that the Office of State Ethics offers for state employees. To show an interest in compliance, it would be a good idea for CSCE to participate in such training. It could also help increase the participation of DOT employees at CSCE events.

8. Board/Committee Updates

President-Elect – Brianna Maljanian will compile the PDH information for the virtual meeting on December 3, 2020 and will coordinate with Scott Nolan about PDH record keeping. She will also work to update the 2021 ACE Awards application by early February.

Vice President – Scott Nolan will work with Brianna Maljanian on the PDH record keeping for recent events. He will also work on updating the scholarship applications by mid-January. The applications have been due by March 1st in the past.

Treasurer/Financial – Aaron Foster will manage action items related to future MRLC and student awards. He would also like to work with Jim Sime, Scholarship Fund Committee Chair, to develop an ongoing plan for the scholarship fund to meet certain targets.

CSCE may need to develop general motions for the YM Planning Committee to take actions related to the 2022 MRLC event. Aaron Foster made a motion to reimburse Katie Klose for \$65 spent at a recent Younger Members event. George Gerard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Newsletter Editor – Tim Ariosto is putting the final touches on newsletter today and plans to send it to Amy Petrone for review. George Gerard will update his President’s message for it. Tim would like to connect with Scott Nolan about a different newsletter format/program.

Secretary – Clay Patterson has established the CSCE Facebook page. It is live and people should like it and follow it to help promote CSCE events.

Younger Members Group – Katie Klose shared that the Group’s upcoming event will be held on either January 27 or 28, 2021 and will involve the unveiling of the 2022 MRLC website.

Legislative Affairs Committee – The Committee will next meet on December 22, 2020.

Geo-Institute – CT Valley Chapter - The April 2021 workshop will be virtual, and Clay Patterson will be the Chair of this Chapter in 2021.

Structural Institute – CT Chapter – The details are being finalized for the June 2021 seminar and 5 of 6 speakers are lined up for the event.

9. Lands’ End clothing

It was clarified that people can buy more than one item with the \$75 allowance.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

The next meeting/call is scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. Noon.