

**Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Section of American Society of Civil Engineers  
(CSCE) Board Virtual Meeting via Teams  
Friday, December 20, 2024 - 12 p.m. Noon - Meeting Minutes**



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

Tyler Parker, President-Elect	Geoff Schwartz, ASCE Region 1 Governor
Eric Hoyt, Vice President	Sangyul Cho, Chair of the CT Chapter of the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute
Jodi Constant, CSCE Secretary	Kim Fletcher, Chair of the Student Chapters Committee
Amy Petrone, CSCE Administrative Assistant	Tom Wamser, YMG President

1. Report from ASCE Region 1 Governor – Geoffrey Schwartz

- Need to induct the following 2024-25 CSCE Executive Board Officers - Tyler Parker (President-Elect) and Danielle Morin (Newsletter Editor) – This will happen at a future meeting when both people are in attendance.
- CSCE Student Chapters Committee - Every 2 months, the CSCE Student Chapters Committee holds a meeting at 12 p.m. via Zoom. This month, the meeting will be on 12/27. Kim Fletcher reached out to regional ASCE Student Chapter leadership to see if they would like to join the meeting. Geoff Schwartz would be interested in attending this meeting. Kim Fletcher will send the log-in information to him.
- Civil engineering students from Quinnipiac University are entering the steel bridge competition this year and the ASCE Student Chapter is looking for volunteers, especially those with experience competing in similar competitions in the past, to help the students prepare for the competition. To help identify potential volunteers, Geoff Schwartz will request a list of past competitors and volunteers from ASCE Region 1.
- It is imperative for Student Chapters to submit their annual reports to ASCE on time in January. If the reports aren't submitted before the due date, the Student Chapters can't participate in competitions. Kim Fletcher and Geoff Schwartz will meet to discuss this topic next week.
- Grants –ASCE Region 1 offers up to \$500/application in grants to sections and student chapters. Grants could be used for member recruitment activities and there is a rolling deadline. See if it would cover student attendance at CSCE dinner meetings.
- 2025 ASCE Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) is January 31 – Feb 1, 2025, in Memphis, TN - Several Younger Members will be attending this conference and Geoff Schwartz will be there too.
- 2025 ASCE Region 1 Spring Assembly is March 21-22, 2025, in Burlington, VT - Each section will give an update on its events. People could join this event in-person or remotely.
- 2025 Northeast ASCE Student Symposium is April 17-18, 2025, at UMass-Amherst in Amherst, MA – Volunteers are needed to be a sustainable solutions judge and to judge the Mead Paper competition and the Student Poster presentation. The Paper competition requires the judges to read the papers ahead of time and then be onsite to judge the 5-minute presentations. The Student Poster competition would require them to view and ask questions to the student chapters during a 1–2-hour poster presentation where all of the posters would be set up in an open area for display. The Concrete Canoe competition will also be at this symposium. Volunteers are needed

to help with this competition. People should contact Geoff Schwartz or send an email to [csceinfo@gmail.com](mailto:csceinfo@gmail.com) if they want to know more about this volunteer opportunity.

- Showing Cities of the Future Film – CSCE should let Jane Howell of ASCE or Geoff Schwartz know if they can be of help with showing the movie in CT. Geoff Schwartz is going to contact CSCE President Rich Cohen and Jane Howell to coordinate a showing of the movie in CT.

2. Review/Approve CSCE Board Conference Call Minutes from October 18, 2024, and November 15, 2024 – Since there wasn't a quorum at today's meeting, no vote was taken on this item.

### 3. CSCE Events

3.1 Past Events – CSCE Dinner Meeting on November 19, 2024, at Quinnipiac University and the webinar on December 10, 2024. Both events went well. In the webinar, the speaker used data that was different from what engineers usually use for street design and active transportation. Amy Petrone will ask the speaker for a copy of his presentation to share with the CSCE Board.

### 3.2 Upcoming Events

- January 29 Dinner Meeting at UHA – David Jacobs, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, will give a presentation on Live Load Impact on Railroad Bridges
- February 11 Dinner Meeting at UNH - Pamela Westgate, P.E., of Kleinfelder, will give a presentation on the Pittsfield, MA, Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade to Ballasted Flocculation Process for Phosphorus Removal – Estimated buffet cost is for 45 guests is ~\$3,640.72.
- March 12 Dinner Meeting at CCSU - Presenter: CTDOT Commissioner
- March 15 Deadline for CSCE Scholarships
- March 25 Dinner Meeting at Fairfield County Branch - Two Roads Brewing Co. - Michael Rosenblatt, Project Engineer in District 3 of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, will give a presentation on the I-95 Fairfield Avenue Bridge Project in Norwalk, CT
- 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 25 Geotechnical Seminar at TPC River Highlands, Cromwell, CT
- May 14 - 18th Annual ACE Awards - Aqua Turf Club (The Glass Room has been reserved for this event)
- June 5 (Thursday) 30<sup>th</sup> Annual CSCE-CT ITE Golf Outing at Timberlin Golf Club, Berlin, CT

#### 3.2.1 Questions about Dinner Meeting Registrations

- To increase attendance at CSCE Dinner Meetings, should CSCE provide 1 free drink ticket to dinner meeting registrants? Decrease cost of or pay for/reimburse students' registrations?

Some schools are reimbursing student registration fees and CSCE could look into paying a portion of the students' registration fees. Resume reviews and events like the concrete canoe competitions are good places to emphasize the importance of CSCE dinner meetings to students, which may increase their attendance at the dinner meetings. CSCE should also emphasize that students are welcome at CSCE dinner meetings as it promotes the meetings.

- Since a lot of people in CSCE's membership list don't currently pay their CT Section dues, could CSCE clarify its CSCE Member registration level to require that a person be current on their CSCE Section dues to be considered for the CSCE member registration option?

To increase the number of CSCE members who pay CT Section dues, CSCE will make an announcement in January 2025 about requiring people to be current on CT Section dues to be considered for the CSCE member registration.

### 3.3 Webinars

- 3.3.1 Ethics – Amy Petrone asked people from the ASCE Speakers Bureau who speak on ethical issues if they would be interested in giving a webinar on the topic. She will send the abstracts & fee proposals she received to the Board by next week.
  - 3.3.2 History & Heritage Committee - Covered Bridges in CT and RI by Bill Caswell, President, National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges – The cost for this webinar is \$100. There is a possibility that this fee could be reduced by the speaker, but CSCE could reach out to companies to find a sponsor for this webinar.
  - 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

President (Rich Cohen):

- He is checking with Dan Imig of ConnDOT's MS4 Unit about giving a presentation at a CSCE winter lunch and learn webinar. The date is TBD.
- He is going to follow up with the ASCE contact on the latest developments regarding showing the Cities of the Future film at the CT Science Center.
- He will get the December President's message to Danielle Morin later today.

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

- ASCE Structural Engineering Institute - CT Chapter - Chair – Sangyul Cho – The SEI-CT Chapter shared the following information with the Board:
  - The SEI-CT Chapter was selected by the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute for the 2025 SEI Chapter of the Year Award. A couple of the SEI-CT Board members are interested in attending the SEI Plenary and Awards Program at 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2025, at the Structures Congress in Phoenix, AZ, to receive the award in person.
  - 2025 Budget Proposal (see below):

*Connecticut Chapter of Structural Engineering Institute (SEI-CT) is pleased to submit this budget proposal to CSCE Board for funding to support student activities within the structural engineering discipline. SEI-CT has successfully hosted the 2024 SEI-CT Structural Engineering Seminar, generating a certain amount of revenue that was advertised to fund CSCE's scholarships. As the event was focused on the structural engineering topics, SEI-CT proposes to spend that available fund to be aimed at enhancing student engagement in the structural engineering field. This proposal outlines the financial support needed for two key initiatives: SEI Graduate Student Chapter (GSC) Support and SEI-CT Student Poster Competition.*

#### *1. SEI Graduate Student Chapter (GSC) Supports*

*In Connecticut, there are two SEI GSCs: one at University of Connecticut and the other at University of New Haven. Both GSCs are instrumental in connecting students with the structural engineering community, promoting professional development, and fostering leadership skills. Members from both GSCs have actively volunteered in past SEI-CT seminars, assisting with setup and registration for the 2023 and 2024 seminars, demonstrating their commitment and dedication to the structural engineering profession.*

*The purpose of support is to provide a small financial contribution that will assist the GSCs in continuing to develop student-led events, educational initiatives, and outreach activities related to structural engineering. After the funds are awarded to GSCs and then spent to cover costs related to student engagement activities, each GSC will need to submit the reimbursement form to CSCE Treasurer with an approval from each GSC's faculty advisor.*

**2. SEI-CT Students Poster Competition**

*The SEI Student Poster Competition aims to provide students with a platform to showcase their research and design projects to real-world engineering problems through visual posters. This competition fosters academic engagement, improves presentation skills, and encourages 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 as separate subcategories, focusing on the structural engineering discipline. The event will culminate in an awards ceremony during the 2025 SEI-CT Structural Engineering Seminar, where the best posters will be recognized.*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Subcategory</b>	<b>Amount</b>
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) 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Places	\$1000
		\$650
		\$350
	Undergraduate Students (Individual or Team) 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Places	\$1000
		\$650
		\$350
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>\$5000</b>

The above proposal is a one-time request, and the SEI-CT Chapter would like this proposal discussed and decided upon by early January so the students can be invited to the CSCE Dinner Meeting on January 29, 2025, to receive the scholarships in person. To help cover the costs of the 2 graduate student awards, CSCE should look into applying for the \$500 ASCE grants. The SEI GSC at UNH applied for the ASCE grant in the past and received it.

- Career Guidance Committee – CSCE has the opportunity to speak with students about careers in civil engineering on the following dates:
  - February 7, 2025 - 8:00-9:40 a.m. Career Fair at Daniel Hand High School, Madison, CT (snow date is 2/14)
  - February 18, 2025 – 5-8 p.m. - STEM Night at Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill, CT
  - Information session for a group of students at Daniel Hand High School, Madison, CT - Sometime in 2025 (January or in the Spring) – Date: TBD
  - Visit to Henry Abbott Technical High School, Danbury, CT, in 2025 – Date: TBD

Eric Hoyt and Tyler Parker are interested in volunteering for these events. Tyler Parker will also contact high schools in Simsbury and Avon to ask about the dates of upcoming career fairs.

- Programs Committee – Eric Hoyt shared the following information about an upcoming collaboration with an affiliated organization. On January 15, 2025, CSCE is going to host a joint winter brewery social with the Connecticut Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO-CT) from 5-8 p.m. at the East Rock Brewing Company & Beer Hall in New Haven, CT. Over emails that were sent before this Board meeting, the CSCE Board approved the following motion to support this event. Eric Hoyt made a motion to cover \$200 for the rental of a private space for the brewery social. Jodi Constant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Student Chapters Committee – Kim Fletcher shared the following information:
  - She will be hosting a Zoom meeting with the Committee and potential Practitioner Advisors at 12 p.m. on Friday, December 27, 2024.
  - The University of Hartford submitted a funding request to help purchase two concrete beam formworks for \$3,000 for a civil engineering class. Amy Petrone will send the proposal to the Board.

With no new business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

The next CSCE Board meeting is scheduled on Microsoft Teams at 12 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2025.