

**MINUTES – DRAFT for BOARD REVIEW**

ASCE TEXAS SECTION

**FALL 2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING**

September 15, 2021 | 7:00 – 9:45 AM

Embassy Suites Hotel, Spa &amp; Conference Center | San Marcos, Texas 78666

Room: San Marcos River A &amp; B

**1.0 Convene****1.1 Call to Order.** President Sean Merrell PE called the meeting to order at 7:09 AM.**1.2 Roll Call, Determination of Quorum.** Secretary Mike Sosa called role and a quorum was present.

Position	Name	Present/Absent
President	Sean Merrell PE	P
Past President	Susan Roth PE	P
President Elect	Patrick Beecher PE	P
VP Educational	Natalie Chaney PE	P
VP Educational Elect	Clay Forister PE	P
VP Professional	Griselda Gonzales PE	P
VP Professional Elect	Patricia Frayre PE	P
VP Technical	Robert “Bob” Stevens PhD, PE	P
VP Technical Elect	Ron Reichert	P
Senior Director at Large	Alik McCoy PE	A
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Director at Large	LJ Francis PE	P (7:45 AM)
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Director at Large	Michael Schneider PE	A
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Director at Large	Yan Linwood PE	A
Treasurer	Christopher Nance PE	P
Executive Director	Lindsay O’Leary PE, CAE	P
Board Secretary	Mike Sosa	P
Austin	Kat Lauer EIT	P
Brazos	Robert Lys Jr. PE	P
Caprock	Russell Carter PE	P
Central Texas	Trey Simpson EIT	P
Corpus Christi	Joe Alvarez	P (8:00 AM)
Dallas	Phillip Alcorn PE	P
El Paso	Chris Nance PE	P
Fort Worth	Kimberly Cornett PE	P
High Plains	Rodolfo Mireles PE	A
Houston	Luis Gonzalez PE	A
Northeast Texas	David Stanley PE	P
Rio Grande Valley	Aldo Garcia	P
San Antonio	Amy Stone PE	P (7:45 AM)
Southeast Texas	Liv Haselbach PhD, PE	A
West Texas	No delegate	A

P = Present; A = Absent; Sub = Substitute

**Guest List**

1. Jean-Louis Briaud PhD, PE (2021 ASCE President)
2. K.N. Gunalan PhD, PE (2020 ASCE President)
3. Jerry Paz PE (Chair, Region 6 Board of Governors)
4. Tim Newton PE (Governor, Region 6)
5. Glenn Goldstein PE (Assistant Treasurer)
6. Travis Attanasio PE (Texas Section 2021-22 President Elect)
7. Mark Boyd PhD, PE (Texas Section 2021-22 VP Technical Elect)
8. Jenni Peters CAE (Texas Section Communications Specialist)

**1.3 President Elect Patrick Beecher PE led attendees through the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.**

**1.4 Welcome Visitors, Housekeeping Announcements**

**1.5 2021 ASCE President Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud PhD, PE provided Society Officer Comments**

Discussion: Dr. Briaud started by mentioning that ASCE has balanced its budget and stabilized membership. Other notable achievements during his presidential year include starting the automatic transition for student members into professional members, creating the Government Engineers Council, further developing the corporate member program, updating ASCE's Code of Ethics and hosting a monthly town-hall style "Ask the President" event.

Dr. Briaud also mentioned that ASCE is currently evaluating the engagement level of life members, has a task force looking into new credentials related to sustainability and resiliency, and that the MOSAIC Committee is currently working on its guidelines.

**1.6 Region 6 Director Jerry Paz PE provided Region 6 Comments**

Discussion: Director Paz mentioned that Region 6 is excited to kick off the new Student Symposium with participation from New Mexico and Oklahoma and that the Region 6 Board has an assembly on the second day of ASCE Texas Civil Engineering Conference (CECON) 2021.

**1.7 President Merrell provided Executive Summary**

Discussion: President Merrell thanked outgoing Board Members for their efforts and provided a recap of his presidential year including the release of the *2021 Texas Infrastructure Report Card (IRC)*, successful virtual versions of the Legislative Drive-In and Fly-In, a successful virtual Student Symposium, the creation of the Beyond Storms Infrastructure Network Resilience Task Committee in response to Winter Storm Uri, and the official formation of the Diversity Equity & Inclusion Task Committee.

Lastly, Merrell noted that he hopes to continue his ASCE service at the society level.

**2.0 Administrative Items for Board of Direction Action**

**2.1 Approve Substitute Section Directors.**

Discussion: No substitute directors were present; therefore, no vote was needed.

**2.2 The Board was asked for any changes to the agenda.**

Discussion: No changes were requested; therefore, no vote was taken.

**2.3 The Board was asked to review the COI Acknowledgement form and disclose any potential conflicts.**

Discussion: Executive Director O'Leary reminded the Board about the purpose of the conflict of interest (COI) disclosure form. No potential conflicts were disclosed and therefore no vote was taken.

**3.0 Items for Discussion**

**3.1 Welcome to CECON**

Discussion: President Elect Beecher provided an overview of the CECON keynotes and panels and thanked the committee members for their efforts in planning a successful event. He also announced the CECON Planning Committee Co-Chairs for 2022 will be Andrew Domke PE and John Mudd PE, and the theme will be *Civil Engineering: A Unified Community*, with the conference taking place in Frisco, Texas for the first time.

### 3.2 CECON Visioning Task Committee

Discussion: President Merrell received a preliminary report earlier this week and is currently reviewing it. He anticipates the task committee will finalize the report within the next few weeks. He thanked Nancy Cline PE, Ottis Foster PE, and Ken Rainwater PhD, PE for their efforts.

**ACTION: CECON Planning Manual be updated in 2021-2022 to include recommendations from the Task Committee's final report.**

### 3.2 2022 ASCE Region 6 Student Symposium

Discussion: VP Educational Natalie Chaney PE noted that the 2022 event will be hosted by the University of Houston's ASCE Student Chapter and the team is currently working through contracts with venues. She also mentioned that the Steel Bridge competition will be returning for 2022, provided an update on the Texas Council of Engineering Laboratories (TCEL) prize money for the technical paper competition, and mentioned TCEL and the Texas Section are also working on honoring Rusty Gibson with a memorial bench at a Tatum ISD Athletic field facility.

**ACTION: Staff team to coordinate with TCEL Executive Director Kim Icenhower on memorial bench details.**

*Break from 7:40 am – 7:55 am.*

### 3.4 VP for Technical Affairs Updates

Discussion: VP Technical Robert Stevens PhD, PE reminded the board we have six (6) institute chapters and one technical group. Over the last year, Stevens explored starting other chapters, but the level of interest was not there. He noted upcoming webinars and commented on their steady non-dues revenue stream.

**ACTION: VP Technical Team to finalize their evaluation of (1) the possibility of a group rate for webinars, for group viewing, and (2) possible Texas Section support fee charged to Institute Chapters for meeting support and administration.**

### 3.5 VP for Professional Affairs Updates

Discussion: VP Professional Griselda Gonzales PE noted the Beyond Storms Infrastructure Network Resilience Task Committee plans to roll out their report in early 2022. Board discussed review process for the report and Beecher recommended the Committee develop a review process.

VP Professional Gonzales also mentioned that the next Texas IRC will be released in 2025.

**ACTION: O'Leary to inquire if ASCE Committee on America's Infrastructure is evaluating the impacts of Hurricane Ida to prepare a post-storm report and/or recommendations.**

### 3.6 [Texas Civil Engineer \(TCE\)](#)

Discussion: Director at Large LJ Francis PE reported on behalf of Senior Director at Large Alik McCoy PE. He noted that the TCE was changed to bi-monthly for 2021, the committee evaluated the costs of an annual "Best of TCE" printed publication for members, and that the Excellence in Journalism Award is recommended to be sunset.

Director at Large Francis also provided an update on the Tellers committee, noting the election was held successfully and votes were counted and verified prior to the Summer 2021 Executive Committee meeting.

**ACTION: Editorial Committee requests VP Technical Team provide article ideas via [Share@TexASCE.org](mailto:Share@TexASCE.org)**

**ACTION: Editorial Committee is seeking a student volunteer.**

### 3.7 Call for ASCE Texas Section Officer Nominations

Discussion: Past President Susan Roth PE encouraged everyone in the room to reflect on their experience this year and consider whether they would like to pursue a new role within the Texas Section Board. She noted nominations will be due Oct. 31, 2021. She, outgoing Nominating Committee Chair Audra Morse PhD, PE, and incoming Nominating Committee Chair Craig Thompson PE plan to meet next week to discuss solicitations and the associated nominating form.

### 3.8 Strategic Planning

Discussion: President Elect Beecher thanked Committee Chair Kacey Paul PE and summarized the updated [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#). Director at Large Francis inquired about K-12 STEM outreach activities. VP Educational Chaney noted covering activity across the state is difficult and that the Section is currently seeking a STEM Committee Chair.

**ACTION:** Board to identify STEM Committee Chair. (For reference: [Org. Chart](#))

### 3.9 Rules of Operation Updates

Discussion: President Merrell provided a summary of the changes to the Rules of Operation including:

- Establishment of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council
- Policy 15.F “Policy for Endorsement of Official Nominees in an ASCE Election” removed and replaced with “Endorsements by Organizational Entities and Individual Members”
- Policy 15.G Board Member Participation has been expanded to include the removal of inactive officers if absent from two consecutive meetings without reasonable cause, by Executive Committee.
- Policy 15.I Dues Changes has been updated to include a mechanism for indexing dues based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), mirroring ASCE’s governing and guidance documents. It also states the current dues amount of \$60.
- Added 15.P Policy on the Restriction of Company or Product Promotion as it relates to webinars, conferences, and technical articles.
- Added 15.Q Policy for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion so that Texas Section may reach its full potential, celebrate individuality, and benefit from the inclusion of all.
- Added 15.R Conflict of Interest Policy to reflect the current practice of Board members reviewing COI policy and signing disclosure form each year.

Based on an informal poll, the majority of Board would be in favor of a \$5 dues increase based on poll. One member was opposed (Chris Nance).

Francis thanked the Section leadership and was impressed by the conversations had at the Strategic Planning Retreat earlier this year.

Forister discussed incorporating demographics in ASCE and provided a handout suggesting an alternative to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, titled [Ombudsman Committee](#). Equity vs. Equal Opportunity. He inquired if the Texas Section should mirror ASCE’s policy and noted there are several ASCE policies that not all Board members may agree with, such as the policy on Climate Change. It was also discussed that the Strategic Planning Committee voted to include use of word “equity”, based on majority committee vote.

### 3.10 Membership Initiatives

Discussion: President Elect Beecher provided a brief overview of the September membership report and encouraged all board members and Branches to continuously work on both recruitment and retention. Merrell asked Dr. Briaud to encourage ASCE to communicate more with its subsidiaries about membership programs and initiatives.

**ACTION: Merrell to obtain membership information from ASCE HQ regarding partner programs.**

### 3.11 Review 2021-2022 Operating Budget

Discussion: Treasurer Chris Nance PE provided a general overview of the [2021 Operating Budget](#) and noted that a goal of raising membership by 5% has been set for 2021-2022. He also noted that digital advertising and other classified ads are important sources of non-dues revenue.

### 3.12 Member Engagement

Discussion: Stevens inquired if ASCE Texas members' dues invoice includes Section/Branch dues automatically. It does not currently, it's an opt-in process. An opt-out process would be preferred.

**ACTION: Merrell to share news about ASCE partner programs with the Board and continue to follow-up with Section Directors about membership engagement.**

### 3.13 Leadership Development Weekend 2021

Discussion: President Elect Beecher noted the event had the highest-ever attendance and he shared an overview of his presidential goals, as noted below.

1. Facilitate transition campaigns for student members emerging into young professionals
2. Advocate the Texas Section as the leading authority and technical resource of Civil Engineering topics for state and local officials
3. Encourage community and public outreach

## 4.0 Other Items for Board of Direction Action

### 4.1 The Board was asked to adopt the consent agenda\*.

Discussion: None

Motion to adopt the consent agenda. Move to adopt. Seconded and passed without dissent.

\*The consent agenda included the following items

- Approve Minutes of Board Meeting, March 12, 2021 (Hybrid)
- Approve Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, July 9, 2021 (Houston)
- Approve Minutes of Board Teleconference, August 31, 2021
- Appoint Rohit R. Goswami PhD, PE as a John B. Hawley Memorial Trust Fund Trustee 2021-2027
- Receive 2021 Student Symposium Financial Report
- Approve 2022 Student Symposium Preliminary Budget
- Receive all Reports marked [I] on the Agenda (including the July 2021 Financial Report)

### 4.2 Approve Texas Section [Bylaws](#) Amendments (approved by ASCE on September 7, 2021)

Discussion: VP Educational Forister noted he will support approving bylaws but would like to continue the discussion surrounding the new Diversity Equity & Inclusion Council.

Motion to approve the Texas Section Bylaws Amendments provided two formatting edits are corrected. Move to approve. Seconded and passed by majority with one opposed (Francis).

**4.3 Approve Texas Section Rules of Operation's Leadership Handbook Revisions (2021)**

Discussion: None

Motion to approve the Texas Section Rules of Operations Revisions. Move to approve. Seconded and passed by majority with two opposed (Reichert and Francis).

**4.4 Endorse Preliminary 2021-2022 Operating Budget.**

Discussion: None

Motion to endorse preliminary budget. Move to endorse. Seconded and passed without dissent.

**4.5 Approve 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Update as Living Document, with minor grammatical and text edits and appendix content changes to take place in 2021-2022.**

Discussion: None

Motion to approve 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Update. Move to approve. Seconded and passed without dissent.

**5.0 Closing Remarks**

Discussion: President Merrell thanked everyone for their attendance and for their help over the past year.

**6.0 The meeting was adjourned by President Merrell at 9:45 AM.**