



MINUTES – DRAFT for BOARD REVIEW

ASCE TEXAS SECTION

FALL 2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTION ORIENTATION & MEETING

September 17, 2021 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM

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

Room: Veramendi G & H

1.0 Convene

1.1 Call to Order. President Patrick Beecher PE called the meeting to order at 2:17 PM, following the induction of 2021-2022 Board members conducted by ASCE Past President K.N. Gunalan PhD, PE.

1.2 Roll Call, Determination of Quorum. Secretary Mike Sosa called role and a quorum was present.

Position	Name	Present/Absent
President	Patrick Beecher PE	P
Past President	Sean Merrell PE	P
President Elect	Travis Attanasio PE	P
VP Educational	Clay Forister PE	P
VP Educational Elect	Heather Guillen PE	P
VP Professional	Patricia Frayre PE	P
VP Professional Elect	Augustine Verrengia PE	P
VP Technical	Ron Reichert	P
VP Technical Elect	Mark Boyd PhD, PE	P
Senior Director at Large	Yan Linwood PE	A
2 nd Year Director at Large	Michael Schneider PE	A
1 st Year Director at Large	Michael Gurka PE	P
1 st Year Director at Large	Marita Moya PE	P
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	Travis Barnett PE	P
Central Texas	Trey Simpson PE	P
Corpus Christi	Joe Alvarez	P
Dallas	Surya Bhandari PE	P
El Paso	Sergio Mendez PE SUB Chris Nance PE	P
Fort Worth	Kameron Boggan PE SUB Kimberly Cornett PE	P
High Plains	Rodolfo Mireles PE	A
Houston	Luis Gonzalez PE	P
Northeast Texas	David Stanley PE	P
Rio Grande Valley	Humberto Lopez PE	P
San Antonio	Amy Stone PE	P
Southeast Texas	Liv Haselbach PhD, PE	P
West Texas	No delegate	

P = Present; A = Absent; SUB = Substitute

Guest List

1. K.N. Gunalan PhD, PE (2020 ASCE President)
2. Lawrence Goldberg PE (Region 6 Governor and former President)
3. Jenni Peters CAE (Texas Section Communications Specialist)
4. Steven Crawford PE (Half Associates, Former VP Professional)
5. Andrew Domke PE (CECON Committee Co-Chair)

1.3 President Elect Travis Attanasio PE led attendees through the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.

1.4 Communications Specialist Jenni Peters CAE took a Photograph of Board Members.

1.5 K.N. Gunalan PhD, PE provided Society Officer Comments.

1.6 Region 6 Governor Larry Goldberg PE provided Comments on behalf of Director Jerry Paz PE

Discussion: Governor Goldberg noted that the Region Board is here to help at the Branch level and encouraged all Section Directors to consider applying for the [Region 6 Grant program](#) to help fund activities.

1.7 ASCE Texas Civil Engineering Conference (CECON) 2021 Report

Discussion: CECON Co-Chair Andrew Domke PE provided a brief review of the 2021 conference numbers (236 full registrations, 35 1-day registrations, 40 additional meals purchased, 50 in booth only, \$35k sponsorships and \$32k exhibitor fees). He also noted that John Mudd PE will be serving as Co-Chair along with him in 2022.

2.0 [Board Orientation](#) by President Beecher and Executive Director O'Leary

- 2.1 Review of Primary Programs
- 2.2 Governing Documents & 2022-2026 Strategic Plan
- 2.3 Operational Overview
- 2.4 Legal & Fiduciary Responsibilities

Break from 3:01 pm - 3:10 pm

3.0 Administrative Items for Board of Direction Action

3.1 Approve Substitute Section Directors.

Discussion: Chris Nance PE substituting for Sergio Mendez PE from El Paso. Kimberly Cornett PE substituting for Kameron Boggan PE.

Motion to approve substitute Section Directors. Move to approve. Seconded and passed without dissent.

3.2 The Board is asked for any changes to the agenda.

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

3.3 The Board is 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; therefore, no vote was taken.

4.0 Items for Discussion

4.1 2021-2022 Kickoff

Discussion: President Beecher provided an overview of his strategic goals and encouraged the group to discuss those goals and provide their thoughts and strategies on how to accomplish them. The goals are:

- 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

The San Antonio Branch has been saving funds for 10 years to create an endowment for a scholarship program. Most of the revenue has resulted from the Branch's successful Engineers Week program. The Board discussed coordinating across all Branches to increase awareness of specific events and programs.

The Board discussed holding an Executive Committee meeting in January 2022. The majority would prefer to meet in Austin, possibly in conjunction with ASCE's Multi-Region Leadership Conference.

ACTION:

- VP Education team to consider possibility of certificate program for young engineers and recent graduates. Consider series of training opportunities on a variety of topics.
- Past President Merrell recommends all Board members and committees request support from the [Region 6 Board of Governors](#).
- President Elect Attanasio and VP Education team to coordinate with the CECON and Student Symposium planning teams, respectively, to reach to the [Texas County Government](#) and [Texas Municipal League](#) regarding collaboration and exhibitor opportunities.
- Past President Merrell to lead the submittal of the 2021 ASCE Outstanding Section & Branch Award nomination, due October 30, 2021.
- President Beecher to hold bi-monthly calls with Branch Presidents and Section Directors, and schedule Winter Executive Committee meeting.

4.2 Review 2021-2022 [Org. Chart](#) & Discuss Recruiting

Discussion: Executive Director O'Leary explained that the CECON Committee should be updated to show Andrew Domke PE and John Mudd PE as the committee chairs. President Beecher then went through the list of open positions and encouraged everyone in the room to brainstorm ideas for volunteers to fill those roles. It was also noted that Section Directors are automatically members of the Membership Committee.

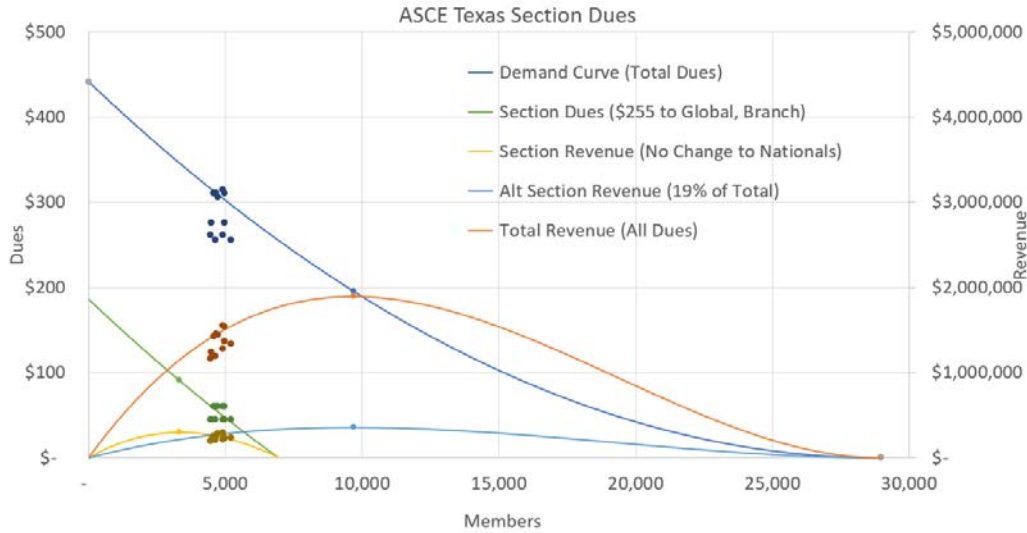
ACTION: Board to identify Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Members to ensure well staff teams.

4.3 Review [2021-2022 Operating Budget](#)

Discussion: Treasurer Chris Nance PE reviewed the major changes from the 2020-2021 budget. He noted that the dues revenue projection has been increased by 5% and the annual allotment that the Section receives from ASCE is expected to be reduced about 9%. He reminded the group that publications and advertising are important sources of non-dues revenue and are currently not being leverage to their full extent and could be opportunities for growth in the coming years.

Next, he noted the major expenses are related to staffing and overhead and those are expected to increase by about 4%. The Texas Section has also budgeted for a financial audit in 2021-2022 of FY2020-2021.

Lastly, he shared a graph created by ASCE that correlates dues revenue with member totals, and noted the data shows a strategy of increase dues has led to a reduction of membership over time. He explained that the number of civil engineers in Texas has grown 2.9% in the last decade, but the Texas Section revenues and membership has decreased. Nance shared the following graph illustrating the demand curve for dues.



An idea for a “Check the Box” campaign was discussed, with the goal of increasing the number of subscribing members i.e., those who pay the combined Section & Branch dues.

ACTION: Board to vote on membership dues increase during their Spring 2022 meeting.

4.4 2022 ASCE Region 6 Student Symposium

Discussion: VP Educational Clay Forister PE provided an overall update on the status of the 2022 event, noting New Mexico and Oklahoma will be joining school from Mexico and Texas for next year and beyond under the new Region 6 format. He noted the return of the Steel Bridge competition has thrown a bit of a complication in the planning process due to the need for increased venue space.

Fort Worth Branch Section Director Kimberly Cornett PE noted that she is coordinating with the Region 6 Governors from Oklahoma and New Mexico to set up meetings with their branch to explain what the Student Symposium is and how they can support.

Past President Merrell is coordinating with the ASCE Foundation as a possible funding source to support the event.

The Texas Council of Engineering Laboratories (TCEF) has agreed to sponsor \$1,000 toward student prize monies. Their generous donation was presented in honor of Rusty Gibson PE during the 2021 Business meeting, held earlier that day.

4.5 CECON 2022

Discussion: President Elect Attanasio noted the committee will have a kickoff call for the 2022 event soon and thanked the committee for their continued efforts.

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

Discussion: First Year Director at Large Marita Moya PE provided comments on behalf of Senior Director at Large Yan Linwood PE. She noted they are trying to feature student chapters on a regular basis, keep better track of policy/legislative changes, and increase their social media presence to help spread the word about the TCE.

ACTION: Staff team to copy the Editorial Committee on the transmittal of monthly Section News to Branches.

4.7 2022-2023 Texas Section Officer Nominations due Oct. 31

Discussion: Past President Sean Merrell PE reminded the Board of the upcoming deadline.

4.8 ASCE Section & Branch Annual Reports due Nov. 30

Discussion: Board Secretary Sosa reminded the Board that a link to submit annual reports will be provided by ASCE in September or early October. Timely reporting ensures the Texas Section receives financial support from ASCE.

ACTION: Section Directors to coordinate with their respective Branch President to complete the 2021 Annual Report.

4.9 Identify Items to be Reported to Branches by Section Directors

ACTION: The Board identified the following items to be reported to Branches by Section Directors.

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. Remind members to “check the box” for Section/Branch dues
5. Texas Section Officer [nominations](#) due October 31, 2021
6. Annual reports due November 30, 2021
7. Support the [2022 Region 6 Student Symposium](#) (volunteer, sponsor, attend)
8. Save the date for [CECON 2022](#) in Frisco (September 14-16, 2022)
9. Support for Section-level committees (Membership, STEM, Infrastructure Report Card, Government Affairs, Branch/Section Relations)
10. Share article ideas and Branch updates with Editorial Committee at share@texasce.org.
11. Encourage your branch to apply for [Region 6 grants](#) (new limit is \$1,000 per grant)
12. ~~Save the Date for the ASCE Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) in Austin in January 2022~~
(Post meeting update: MRLC will be held as a virtual conference, Spring 2022. ASCE to provide additional details.)

5.0 Additional Items for Board of Direction Action

5.1 The Board was asked to adopt the consent agenda*.

Discussion: President Beecher repeated the changes to the 2021-2022 org. chart as noted earlier.

Motion to adopt the consent agenda with changes to committee appointments as noted by President Beecher. Move to adopt. Seconded and passed without dissent.

*The consent agenda included the following items:

- Receive all Reports marked [I] on the agenda
- Approve Appointments of Committee Chairs, including Task Committee Chairs (Org. Chart)
- Adopt Final 2021-2022 Operating Budget

9.0 Closing Remarks

Discussion: President Beecher reviewed upcoming schedule of events. Executive Director O'Leary informed the group about her news that she is resigning and taking a position with ASCE HQ.

10.0 Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by President Beecher at 4:58 PM.