



ASCE Texas Section advances civil engineering by protecting public health, safety, & welfare, delivering value to our members, and creating a legacy of service through:

- *Stewardship & Service (World)*
- *Professional Development & Leadership (Members)*
- *Advocating Civil Engineering (Profession)*

**MINUTES**  
 ASCE TEXAS SECTION  
**WINTER 2021-2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
 February 4, 2022 | 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM CT | Virtual Meeting

Virtual via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6173358544>

Meeting ID: 617 335 8544

**1.0 Convene**

**1.1 Call to Order.** President Patrick Beecher PE called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

**1.2 Zoom Tips & Screen Capture**

**1.3 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 (left 2:30 PM)	P
Treasurer	Christopher Nance PE	P
Executive Director	Jenni Peters CAE	P
Board Secretary	Mike Sosa	P
Asst Treasurer	Glen Goldstein PE	P

P = Present; A = Absent; Sub = Substitute

**Guest List**

1. Glenn Goldstein (Texas Section Assistant Treasurer)
2. Stephanie Ludlow (Texas Section Communications Specialist)
3. Jerry Paz PE (Chair, Region 6 Board of Governors)
4. Susan Roth PE (2020 Texas Section President)
5. Jacob Hinson PE (Central Texas Branch President)
6. Kelly Mahmoud (Financial Advisor, Edward Jones)
7. Andrew Domke PE (Co-Chair, CECON Planning Committee)
8. Patrick Williams PE (Chair, Membership Committee)
9. Lawrence Goldberg PE (Region 6 Governor)
10. Craig Thompson PE (Chair, Branch/Section Relations Committee)

**1.4 President Beecher welcomed the guests listed above to the meeting.**

**1.5 President Elect Attanasio led attendees through the Pledge and Invocation.**

**1.6 Texas Section Financial Advisor Kelly Mahmoud provided the Investment Report.**

Discussion: Financial Advisor Mahmoud gave an overview of the four investment accounts. Please reach out to the Section Office if you need a copy of her full report.

**([A]-action items, [C]-consent items, [D]-discussion items, [I]-information items)**

\* Reports received and distributed prior to board meeting.

**1.7 Region 6 Director Jerry Paz PE provided Society and Region 6 Comments.**

Discussion: Region 6 Director Paz provided a few updates from the ASCE January Board Meeting including: Region 10 is researching strategies for international student competitions, the Committee on Life Members proposed changes to the dues structure for life members, and that there is a Future World Vision webinar on 2-22-22 at 2:22 PM ET (info on ASCE Society calendar). He also mentioned that an ASCE Committee is considering an official membership option for affiliate members. Next, he noted the Region 6 Presidential Forum on May 6 will feature two candidates running for ASCE President in May and will be open to all members in the Region. Lastly, he mentioned the Region 6 Grant Program is currently offering up to \$1200 for programs/events that foster engagement for branch members and students.

**ACTION ITEM: Texas Section staff to set up and promote the May 6 ASCE Global Presidential Forum Zoom webinar.**

**1.8 President Beecher provided the Executive Summary.**

Discussion: President Beecher started by providing an update on the Texas Section staff, noting that Jenni has been hired as the Executive Director and Stephanie has been hired as the Communications Specialist. Next, he congratulated the Texas Section for winning the 2021 ASCE Outstanding Very Large Section Award, the Dallas Branch for winning the 2021 ASCE Large Section Award, and the Houston Branch for getting runner-up for the 2021 ASCE Large Section Award.

**2.0 Administrative Items for Executive Committee Action (began at 12:47 AM)**

**2.1 The Executive Committee was asked for any changes to the agenda.**

Discussion: VP Educational Forister asked the committee to pull item 4.1.3 from the consent agenda and add it to the discussion items. Request received 1/29/2022, item 3.11 added, and noted for discussion.

**2.2 The Executive Committee was asked to review the COI form and disclose potential conflicts.**

Discussion: All 2021-22 Executive Committee members have signed and submitted a COI form. Sean Merrell noted the potential conflict in serving as Regional Director and Nominating Committee member; and added that it had been reviewed by ASCE legal counsel Tara Hoke who advised that no conflict exists. No additional potential conflicts were disclosed; therefore, no vote was taken.

**3.0 Items for Discussion**

**3.1 Section Finances**

Discussion: Treasurer Nance noted that a current financial breakdown is available in report 5.7. He also noted that the audit process will begin soon, and he has recently sent out an RFP for auditors. The Texas Section's tax return is almost ready but will need to wait until audit process is finalized. Extension request has been submitted to and approved by the IRS.

Executive Director Peters noted that TCEF and the Texas Section are working on an agreement to create a donation page on the Section website to collect funds for TCEF starting in 2022.

**3.2 Recruiting**

Discussion: President Beecher encouraged everyone on the call to reach out to their contacts and ask if they are interested in serving in any of the current openings listed below:

- Construction Institute Chair, Forensics Chair, EMI Chapter Leaders, Communications Council, Future World Vision Task Committee, Sponsorship, STEM, and 2023-24 Texas Section Officers (no IRC Co-Chair needed)
  - TCEF Past President's Trust Fund officers actively being sought out and Hawley Trustees to replace Sean Merrell rolling off (preference on a water resources engineer)
  - VP Professional Frayre and VP Technical Elect Boyd suggested that a term change be implemented for the IRC Chair role due to the length of the project. (2- or 3-year terms with the final year being a transition and advisory role).

**ACTION ITEM: IRC stakeholders to discuss the proposal for the revised committee chair(s) term length (Patrick Beecher, Patricia Frayre, Mark Boyd, Griselda Gonzalez, Travis Attanasio)**

### **3.3 Strategic Dialogue: HOT TOPICS/IDEAS (began at 1:30 PM)**

Discussion:

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Past President Merrell noted that his company has a partner membership, so he was able to get a list of all his coworkers who weren't already ASCE members and do some recruitment efforts. VP Educational Elect Guillen noted that she does a similar process at her office. President Beecher noted that he does this as well and emphasizes the career benefits he has received from his membership.

President Elect Attanasio tried to survey his local contacts on why people aren't members and the two largest responses he has heard are a perceived lack of time and a perceived lack of value.

VP Technical Reichert noted they regularly ask attendees at their presentations if they are ASCE members and include marketing slides for various TexASCE programs and initiatives. He also noted they have sponsored student attendance at Houston and Dallas Branch meetings in 2021 and 2022 and gotten a great response.

Lastly, President Beecher noted that a list of "at-risk members" will be emailed to ExCom members, and he would like each member to review the list for local/personal contacts and reach out to 6 individuals with a recruitment effort.

Membership Committee Chair Williams gave an overview of his corporate ambassador efforts over the past years and asked for help from ExCom members to identify people who could potentially be ASCE ambassadors at their company.

#### **OMBUDSMAN COMMITTEE**

VP Educational Forister gave an overview of the Ombudsman Committee description noting that they would serve as a resource for any member who has complaints or feels they've been wronged and would serve as advisory group to the Board to provide recommendations on best practices. He also noted that while the Ombudsman Committee is currently listed within the DEI Committee, it should be a separate entity that fulfills this specific effort.

VP Technical Elect Boyd noted that he has heard in the past that Dallas Branch members would like a formal place to file complaints that is separate from the Board.

Treasurer Nance suggested expanding the definition of which type of complains this committee would hear.

Beecher noted that this item is currently just in a discussion stage and he would like to continue the discussion with the full Board before finalizing the details of the Ombudsman committee and presenting it to the Board for approval.

**ACTION ITEM:** President Elect Attanasio suggested to reach out to ASCE and see if they already have a committee that fills this role.

**3.4 Beyond Storms Report** (began at 2:12 PM)

Discussion: VP Professional Frayre noted that the full Beyond Storms Committee Report release and virtual media event is scheduled for February 16 (the one-year anniversary of the winter storms). The executive summary is already available on the Texas Section website.

President Beecher encouraged everyone on the call to share this resource with their respective networks.

**3.5 Professional Activities**

Discussion: VP Professional Frayre noted that the hybrid ASCE National Legislative Fly-In is right around the corner (March 2-4) and she is pleased with the turn out from Texas (currently at 19, 15 of which in-person). A final attendee list will be sent out next week.

**3.6 Student Symposium**

Discussion: VP Educational Forister encouraged everyone to attend the 2022 Region 6 Student Symposium on March 30 – April 2 in Sugar Land, TX. He noted that the Section is still soliciting sponsorships for the event and encourages all ExCom members to review the sponsorship options.

Lastly, Forister mentioned that the discussion item regarding honoring Rusty Gibson at the annual Region 6 Student Symposium is still ongoing and needs to be revisited in the future.

**ACTION ITEM:** With the Student Symposium going Regional, Section staff and leadership to discuss honoring Rusty Gibson with naming of a Texas activity or program at the Section level.

**3.7 2022 Leadership Development Weekend**

Discussion: President Elect Attanasio noted that a contract has been signed for the Hilton Garden Inn Fort Worth Alliance Airport for July 22-24 at the great nightly rate of \$99. He also noted that he has two tentative speakers and is currently soliciting others to fill out the sessions for Saturday.

**3.8 Technical Activities** (began at 2:28 PM)

Discussion: VP Technical Reichert noted that the CECOM MOU is currently being revised for 2022, however, there are two institute chapters are interested in becoming more involved with the conference. Those talks are set to be finalized on Monday 2/7 and then a new MOU may need to be created for those two specific institutes. Next, he noted that securing speakers for the technical webinars has been a difficult process that has gotten worse due to low attendance. He also advised from a previous speaker that the low attendance is not worth the time and because we charge members for attendance, they would not be a speaker for us. For the February 8 session, the cost for attendance has been set at \$0 to increase attendance and instead the session will be sponsored by AmeriTex at \$750. Based on the success of this trial run, this may become the preferred model moving forward.

**3.9 Texas Civil Engineer**

(Sr Director-At-Large Linwood had to leave early, Jenni Peters provided update in his place)

Discussion: Executive Director Peters noted that the committee is operating smoothly, however, the backlog of articles is running low, so they are making a push to get members to send articles and updates to [share@texasce.org](mailto:share@texasce.org).

### **3.10 CECON**

Discussion: President Elect Attanasio noted that an RFP was sent out for a new meeting planner and an agreement has been signed with TTI for CECON 2022.

CECON Co-Chair Domke explained some of the major budget changes for 2022, highlighting the increased costs of operating in Frisco and an increased budget for keynote speakers. In addition, he noted that the plated Ethics Session breakfast on Friday will be scrapped for 2022 and an Exhibitor Happy Hour will be added for Thursday prior to the Gala. Lastly, he noted that they are increasing the exhibitor/sponsor goal to help cover some of the increased cost, as well as a raise in the registration cost at about 8-10%. President Beecher noted that he understands the increase in registration cost and feels that it is entirely reasonable and does not expect it to impact attendance.

### **3.11 Officer Nominations Discussion**

Discussion: VP Educational Forister noted that Ron Reichert was nominated for President Elect by the Houston Branch in recent years and was told that he needed to serve on the Board first before he would be eligible for Section President Elect. He was also told that priority is given to a candidate with a PE to serve in the President role, which is not a requirement in ASCE's bylaws. Lastly, Forister noted that it seems like the Board is getting too filled with members from the large branches in recent years and an effort should be made to address that situation.

Past President Merrell noted that the five most recent Past Presidents comprise the Nominating Committee. Nominations Committee Chair Thompson noted that the committee attempted to evaluate all aspects of the candidate pool and provide a diverse list of qualified recommendations based on a variety of information. One lesson learned Thompson noted was to find new ways to engage the smaller branches and solicit nominations from them during this process.

VP Professional Frayre shared a concern with the nomination process itself, specifically requesting that the Section should establish a small council to evaluate the current process and provide recommendations to the Board.

Frayre, Forister and Merrell all volunteered to participate in that evaluation process.

VP Educational Forister moved to pull item 4.1.3 from the consent agenda for separate approval. Seconded by VP Professional Frayre. DISCUSSION: Past President Merrell noted his dissent of this motion.

Three (3) yes votes, Five (5) no votes. Motion fails.

## **4.0 Items for Executive Committee Action**

### **4.1 The Executive Committee was asked to adopt the consent agenda.**

Discussion: None aside from 3.11.

Merrell motioned to adopt the consent agenda. Seconded by Attanasio. Six (6) yes, Two (2) no. Motion passes.

The consent agenda included the following items:

**([A]-action items, [C]-consent items, [D]-discussion items, [I]-information items)**

\* Reports received and distributed prior to board meeting.

- 4.1.1 Receive all Reports marked [I] on the Agenda (including the [November 2021 Financial Report](#) and the [December 2021 Financial Report](#))
- 4.1.2 Establish Communications Council under the Editorial Committee
- 4.1.3 Endorse Slate of Officer Nominees for 2022-2023 as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

The nominees include:

President Elect: Kimberly Cornett PE (Fort Worth Branch)

VP Educational Elect: Julia Clarke PE (Houston Branch)

VP Professional Elect: Amy Stone PE (San Antonio Branch)

VP Technical Elect: Christopher Nance PE (El Paso Branch)

1st Year Director at Large: Rebecca Cummins PE (Houston Branch)

1st Year Director at Large: Victor Murillo PE (Corpus Christi Branch)

Treasurer: Glenn Goldstein (Austin Branch)

#### **4.2 Endorse Past Presidents Council Recommendations for 2022 Texas OCEA Award & Award of Merit.**

Discussion: None.

Merrell motioned to endorse, Forister seconded. Eight (8) yes. Motion passes.

4.2.1 OCEA: [Bagby Street Improvement Project submitted by Brian Manning PE](#)

4.2.2 Award of Merit: [Runway 18R-36L Rehabilitation Project submitted by Thomas C. Lyon PE](#)

**ACTION ITEM:** Section Staff will send a corrected link to the award nomination documents above to the Executive Committee members.

**ACTION ITEM:** Section Staff to send the most recent ASCE Global award completed nomination form to the Executive Committee members.

#### **8.0 Closing Remarks and Final Comments**

Discussion: President Beecher thanked everyone for their time and dedication to the Texas Section. He also reviewed the upcoming calendar of events and highlighted a few important things coming up this Spring.

#### **9.0 Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by President Beecher at 3:26 PM.**



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## 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 9 - 11, 2022

[ASCE Multi-Region Leadership Conference](#)

February 20 - 26, 2022 – Nationwide

[Engineers Week 2022](#)

March 2 - 4, 2022 – Washington, D.C.

**ASCE Legislative Fly-In 2022**

March 20 – 25, 2022 – Orlando, FL

[ASCE Week](#)

March 30 – April 2, 2022 – Houston, Texas

[Student Symposium 2022](#) & **TexASCE Board of Direction Meeting**

April 29 - May 1, 2022

[2022 ASCE Texas Camping Trip](#)

May 1, 2022

[ASCE Texas Section 2022 Award](#) Nominations Due

July 22-24, 2022 – Fort Worth, Texas

[Leadership Development Weekend 2022](#) & **TexASCE Executive Committee Meeting**

September 14 - 16, 2022 – Frisco, Texas

[CECON 2022](#) & **TexASCE Board of Direction Meetings**