



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**  
**SPRING 2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING**  
 March 31, 2022 | 9:00 AM – 12:05 PM CST

**In-Person**

Marriott Sugar Land, Room: Azalea  
 16090 City Walk, Sugar Land, Texas 77479

**1.0 Convene**

**1.1 Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by President Patrick Beecher PE at 9:02 AM.

**1.2 Roll Call, Determination of Quorum.** Secretary Mike Sosa called role and a quorum was not present. A quorum was present as of 9:30 AM.

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	A
VP Professional	Patricia Frayre PE	P
VP Professional Elect	Augustine Verrengia III PE	P
VP Technical	Ron Reichert	P
VP Technical Elect	Mark Boyd PE	P
Senior Director at Large	Yan Linwood PE	P 9:30 AM
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Director at Large	Michael Schneider PE	A
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Director at Large	Michael Gurka PE	A
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Director at Large	Marita Moya PE	A
Treasurer	Christopher Nance PE	P
Executive Director	Jenni Peters CAE	P
Board Secretary	Mike Sosa	P
Austin	Kat Lauer EIT	A
Brazos	Robert Lys Jr. PE (sub Raquel Gonzales PE)	P
Caprock	Travis Barnett PE	A
Central Texas	Trey Simpson EIT	P
Corpus Christi	Joe Alvarez	P 10:19 AM
Dallas	Surya Bhandari EIT	P, Left at 10:00 AM
El Paso	Sergio Mendez PE	A
Fort Worth	Kameron Boggan PE	P
High Plains	Rodolfo Mireles PE	A
Houston	Luis Gonzalez PE	P
Northeast Texas	David Stanley PE	A
Rio Grande Valley	Humberto Lopez PE	A
San Antonio	Amy Stone PE	A
Southeast Texas	Liv Haselbach PhD, PE (sub Mark Mann PE)	P
West Texas	No delegate	A

P = Present; A = Absent; Sub = Substitute

**Guest List**

- Stephanie Ludlow (TexASCE Communications Specialist)
- Glenn Goldstein PE (Assistant Treasurer)
- Lawrence Goldberg PE (Governor, Region 6 Board of Governors)
- Jean-Louis Briaud PhD, PE (ASCE Past President)
- Arthur Clendenin PE (ASCE Texas Section Past President)
- Patrick Williams PE (Membership Committee Chair)
- Raquel Gonzales PE (Brazos Branch President)

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8. Mahsa Arastoo PE (Houston Branch President)

**1.3 ASCE Past President Jean-Louis Briaud provided Society Officer Comments.**

- ASCE's budget was balanced and membership was stabilized in 2021.
- Student members become automatic members of ASCE after they graduated starting in 2021.
- The ASCE Partner Program was started in 2021.

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

- ASCE was a powerful voice in leading the charge for infrastructure advocacy across the country, culminating in the passing of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- ASCE is continuing the rollout for the Future World Vision initiative. Keep an eye on their social media for updates as the rollout continues.
- The Region 6 grant program is still going for this fiscal year. Please consider submitting a request for grant money if you have an event coming up focusing on students or younger members.

Past President Merrell noted that he will be running for Region 6 Director this fall and Tiffany Reed-Villarreal as a Region 6 Governor from Texas.

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

- It was encouraging to see there were 21 representatives from Texas at the recent ASCE Legislative Fly-In and it was great to see all the energy and passion toward advocacy from Texas Section Members.
- A recent bill (S.3609) that would suspend the federal gas tax until January 2023 is strongly opposed by ASCE.
- Created as a result of previous Board and Executive Committee discussions, the newly formed Nominating Process Review Task Committee is being led by Patricia Frayre PE and will be meeting soon.

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

**2.1 Approve Substitute Section Directors, if applicable.**

Discussion: Substitutes include Mark Mann PE for Southeast Texas, Raquel Gonzales PE for Brazos, and Augustine Verrengia for Austin.

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

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

Discussion: No agenda changes were requested and therefore no vote was taken.

**2.3 The Board is asked to disclose any potential conflicts.**

Discussion: No potential conflicts were disclosed and therefore no vote was taken.

**3.0 Items for Discussion**

**3.1 Membership**

Membership Committee Chair Williams gave an overview of his efforts of the past year and his plans for the coming year.

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President Elect Attanasio gave an overview of the Section's membership numbers as of February 2022 according to the monthly membership report emailed out to the Board, noting a >60% assigned member penetration potential. Central Texas noted their efforts in a current subscriber/"check the box" campaign, using the results of the membership numbers as proof these efforts work.

ASCE Past President Briaud asked the Board how they would feel about making Section/Branch dues automatic and received a generally positive response from the room.

**Action: Section Staff to gather data on the number of Texas members (assigned & subscribing) who fall under the Partner Program for membership.**

**Action: All Board members to keep an eye out for potential industry events where Section representatives could exhibit and recruit.**

### 3.2 Webinar Pricing and Sponsorship

VP Technical Reichert gave an overview of the suggested changes to the Texas Section's webinar pricing structure. He noted that the traditional cost of webinar attendance has led to smaller audiences and had an impact on the ability to find speakers. He also noted that the Texas Section is currently trying a free registration model with a sponsor for each session to help offset cost and results will be review prior to the upcoming fiscal year.

**Action – Email [vpotech@texasce.org](mailto:vpotech@texasce.org) if you have a lead on a potential sponsor for an upcoming webinar.**

### 3.3 Strategic Dialogue

#### Ombudsman Committee

President Beecher explained the idea of an Ombudsman Committee and noted that this function currently falls within the DEI Council's purview, which is not the appropriate place for a committee with this function. He also noted that ASCE does have a committee for larger complaints, but it doesn't serve the specific purpose that has been suggested for the Ombudsman Committee.

VP Educational Forister explained that the Ombudsman Committee is set to serve as a committee where members can anonymously submit complaints and have those complaints reviewed by an impartial group.

Treasurer Nance agreed that the role of the DEI Committee should be separated from any disciplinary process or power.

Past President Merrell noted he would seek regional-level review and input, then report back.

It was suggested that the Past President's Council may be an appropriate home for this committee.

Central Texas Director Trey Simpson asked that the group follow up on this in the fall and address the role of the DEI Council at the same time.

**Action: Provide an update on this initiative during the Fall Board Meeting.**

#### Dues Increase

*See previous Board Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for further information about the history of this discussion.*

Past President Merrell made motion to increase dues by \$5 for 2023-2024 fiscal year. Motion seconded. Motion carries.

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Past President Merrell made a motion to mandate the Section Board to review membership dues every other year at the Spring Board Meeting (even years) and compare it to the CPI and other relevant metrics for reference. Motion seconded. Motion carries.

Action - Obtain feedback from membership between now and the Summer 2022 Executive Meeting, then add this dues increase motion to the Fall Board Meeting agenda for official action.

#### Volunteer Recruitment

CI Chair position is currently open.

Action - Send suggestions for a TxCI Chair to President Beecher and VP Tech Reichert.

### **3.4 Student Symposium**

VP Educational Forister gave an overview of the registration totals and budget as of March 31. See below for a breakdown, but please note these numbers are not final.

He also noted that the host schools for the next two years have been set as well. 2023 will be hosted by West Texas A&M University and 2024 will be hosted by Angelo State University. Lastly, he thanked the University of Houston ASCE Student Chapter and the Houston Branch for all their efforts in making the 2022 ASCE Region 6 Student Symposium a success.

Registration – 484 students and 47 professionals registered (another 100+ professionals attended between sponsors, judges, and speakers. The revenue received from registrations is \$66,660.00.

Sponsorship – 42 sponsorships and grants for a total of \$94,247.08.

Planned expenses - \$157,990.

### **3.5 Leadership Development Weekend & ExCom Meeting**

President Elect Attanasio noted that the event will be held on July 22-24, 2022 and the location is set at the Hilton Garden Inn Fort Worth Alliance Airport. He also noted that almost all the speakers are confirmed as of today.

Action - Save the date for LDW 2022 and encourage members of your respective Branch incoming Boards to attend.

### **3.6 CECON**

President Elect Attanasio noted CECON 2022 is set to be held in Frisco for the first time on September 14-16.

He also noted that TxGI and TxUESI are set to hold their integrated continuing education tracks in conjunction with CECON and the planning committee is brainstorming ideas to help engage as many students as possible for the conference.

Action - Save the date for CECON 2022 in Frisco.

### **3.7 Call for ASCE Texas Section Award Nominations**

Past President Merrell noted that the deadline for Texas Section award nominations for 2022 is set for May 15. Nominations can come through a Branch or Institute Chapter.

Action - Submit award nominations by May 15, check the website for full details.

### **3.8 Beyond Storms INR Committee Report**

VP Professional Frayre noted the full report was released on February 16 and has already been presented to the Corpus Christi Branch at a meeting in late February, as well as several agencies and organizations around the state. In addition, the committee plans to do a 5-part series about this report as Texas Section webinars in July – Nov 2022.

Past President Merrell asked how they can request a presentation for their local branch.

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Action – Send all presentation requests for the Beyond Storms Committee to [office@texasce.org](mailto:office@texasce.org).

### 3.9 *Texas Civil Engineer*

Senior Director at Large Linwood encouraged the Board to send any industry-related articles to [share@texasce.org](mailto:share@texasce.org). He also noted that the Editorial Committee is working to develop a formal Social Media & Communications Council. They will likely be in touch with related Branch leaders for partnership in these efforts.

### 3.10 Items to be reported to Branches by Section Directors

- Send suggestions for 2022-23 committee chairs to President Elect Attanasio
- Submit award nominations by May 15, check the website for full details
- Register/spread the word about the YM Camping Trip at the end of April 2022
- Save the date for LDW 2022 and encourage members of your respective Branch Boards to attend
- Save the date for CECON 2022 in Frisco
- Review the [Winter Storms report](#) and let your Branch members know about it as well
- Share TCE articles and topic ideas with [share@texasce.org](mailto:share@texasce.org)
- Consider sponsoring an upcoming Texas Section webinar

## 4.0 Additional Items for Board of Direction Action

### 4.1 The Board is 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 includes the following:

- Receive all Reports marked [I] on the Agenda
- Approve Minutes of Board Meeting, September 15, 2021
- Approve Minutes of Board Meeting, September 17, 2021
- Approve Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, February 4, 2022
- Receive CECON 2021 Final Report
- Approve CECON 2022 Budget
- Approve Executive Committee's Endorsement of Officer Nominees for 2022-2023
- Approve *Guidelines for the Evaluation and Repair of Residential Foundations*, Version 3 (effective May 1, 2022)
- Approve Updated Bylaws for Houston Branch

### 4.2 The Board is asked to approve Executive Committee's Endorsement of 2022 Texas OCEA Award & Award of Merit Recipients

- OCEA: [Bagby Street Improvement Project submitted by Brian Manning PE](#)
- Award of Merit: [Runway 18R-36L Rehabilitation Project submitted by Thomas C. Lyon PE](#)

Discussion: none

Motion to approve the endorsements. Move to approve. Seconded and passed without dissent.

## 5.0 Closing Remarks

Discussion: none

## 6.0 Adjourn. President Beecher adjourned the meeting at 11:08 AM.