MINUTES

ASCE TEXAS SECTION

### SUMMER 2021-2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, July 22, 2022 | 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM CT

**Hilton Garden Inn Fort Worth Alliance Airport**

2600 Westport Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177

Room: **Alpha & Bravo**

**1.0 Convene**

**1.1 Call to Order.** President Patrick Beecher PE called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM.

**1.2 Group Photo**

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

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| **Position** | **Name** | **Present/Absent** |
| President | Patrick Beecher PE | Present |
| Past President | Sean Merrell PE | Present |
| President Elect | Travis Attanasio PE | Present |
| VP Educational | Clay Forister PE | Present |
| VP Educational Elect | Heather Guillen PE | Present |
| VP Professional | Patricia Frayre PE | Present |
| VP Professional Elect | Augustine Verrengia PE | Present |
| VP Technical | Ron Reichert | Present |
| VP Technical Elect | Mark Boyd PhD, PE | Present |
| Senior Director at Large | Yan Linwood PE | Absent |
| Treasurer | Christopher Nance PE | Present |
| Executive Director | Jenni Peters CAE | Present |
| Board Secretary | Mike Sosa | Present (virtual) |

**Guest List**

1. Glenn Goldstein (Texas Section Assistant Treasurer, 2022-24 Texas Section Treasurer) - PRESENT
2. Stephanie Ludlow (Texas Section Communications Specialist) - PRESENT
3. Jerry Paz PE (Chair, Region 6 Board of Governors) - ABSENT
4. Michael Schneider PE (Chair, Tellers Committee) – PRESENT (VIRTUAL), LEFT AT 2:39 PM
5. Ed Penton PE (Dallas Branch President) - ABSENT
6. Andrea Taylor PE (Fort Worth Branch President) - ABSENT
7. Daniel Story PE (Northeast Texas Branch President) - ABSENT
8. Kimberly Cornett PE (2022-23 Texas Section President Elect) - PRESENT
9. Julia Clarke PE (2022-23 Texas Section VP Educational Elect) - ABSENT
10. Rebecca Cummins PE (2022-23 Texas Section First Year Director at Large) - ABSENT
11. Victor Murillo PE (2022-23 Texas Section First Year Director at Large) - ABSENT
12. Art Clendenin PE (2019-20 Texas Section President) – PRESENT
13. Surya Bhandari EIT (Dallas Branch Section Director, TxTDI Chair) – PRESENT
14. Lawrence Goldberg PE (Region 6 Governor) – PRESENT at 2:15 PM
15. Curtis Beitel PE (Chair, Texas EWRI Chapter) – PRESENT at 4:15 PM

**1.4 President Beecher welcome the guests listed as PRESENT above to the meeting.**

**1.5 President Elect Travis Attanasio PE led attendees through the Pledges and Invocation.**

**1.6 Region 6 Governor Sean Merrell provided Society and Region 6 Comments on behalf of Director Jerry Paz PE.**

Discussion: Governor Merrell noted that ASCE is in the early stages of reworking the Society-level strategic plan and that Region 6 is working on a program to help Region members move up and serve in volunteer roles at the global level.

**1.7 Leader Development: Anti-Trust Case Studies.**

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

Discussion: President Beecher noted that he is excited for Leadership Development Weekend and thankful for all the help that the Executive Committee throughout his term. He also congratulated the Section and its Branches for their efforts in reaching out to students at all and building relationships.

Next, President Beecher noted that both the Porter Trust Fund and John B. Hawley Fund will have open spots at the end of this fiscal year, and that he is currently reviewing potential appointees.

Lastly, he noted that the Board will be looking for committee chairs and an assistant treasurer in the coming months.

Action Item – please send any suggestions for Trust Fund Trustees and Committee Chairs to President Beecher.

**2.0 Administrative Items for Executive Committee Action** *(began at 2:29 PM)*

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

Discussion: Past President Merrell requested to pull his report from the consent agenda. His request was confirmed already covered in 4.2.

No changes to agenda were requested; therefore, no vote was taken.

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

Discussion: All Executive Committee members have signed and submitted a COI form.

No additional conflicts were disclosed; therefore, no vote was taken.

**3.0 Items for Discussion** *(began at 2:31 PM)*

**3.1 Welcome to 2022 Leadership Development Weekend**

Discussion: President Elect Attanasio welcomed everyone to LDW 2022 and gave a brief overview of the agenda for Saturday and Sunday.

* 1. **2022-2023 Texas Section Tellers Committee Election Results**

Discussion: Tellers Committee Chair Michael Schneider PE provided the tellers report, which included a total of 119 ballots cast. All six individuals were elected by a wide margin and the results were verified by the other three Directors at Large (Yan Linwood, Michael Gurka, Marita Moya).

**3.3 Section Finances**

Discussion: Treasurer Chris Nance PE noted that the Section is in good shape overall, despite the savings account has los about $62,000 since the start of this fiscal year due to the market conditions. He also noted that the Section is on pace to draw less from the savings account this year than the $28,000 budgeted amount. In addition, he noted that the Section has slightly overbudgeted its dues revenue for the past couple years and should re-evaluate the calculation for the next budget to improve accuracy.

Next, Treasurer Nance updated the group on the audit status; noting that the Section Office and himself are currently in the process of sending information to the auditor.

Past President Merrell and President Beecher requested that we ask our financial advisor for a brief report about best practices for navigating the current market conditions at the next Board Meeting.

Action Item – Review the Treasurer Report and April 2022 Financial Report to get a full picture of the Section’s budget and current financials.

**3.4 Professional Activities**

Discussion: VP Professional Patricia Frayre PE noted that the VP Pro team and Government Affairs Committee continues to meet with various elected officials who are on state committees. She also noted that Beyond Storms Committee will be presenting the Friday Keynote at CECON 2022 and a free five-part webinar series about the report. That committee has also been working with the Section’s GAC to provide important information to pass along to elected officials.

VP Professional Elect Augustine Verrengia PE noted that they are working on programs for small communities to have better access to funds required to meet their infrastructure needs.

VP Professional Frayre presented President Beecher’s letter endorsing SEAOT’s position on additional SE Licensure and made a motion for approval. Seconded by Past President Merrell. Motion passes.

Action Item – invite colleagues to join the five-part webinar series.

**3.5 Ombudsman Committee discussion update**

Discussion: President Beecher noted that after reviewing ASCE’s existing Committee on Professional Standards, his recommendation is not move forward with an Ombudsman Committee at the Section and instead refer all issues to ASCE’s Committee on Professional Conduct instead. This will ensure there is adequate separation in the relationship between parties.

Action Item - The Ombudsman-related duties will be removed from the DEI Committee’s official description in the Texas Section Rules of Operation.

**3.6 Nominations Process Review Task Committee Update**

Discussion: VP Professional Frayre noted that this group was charged with reviewing the existing government documents that facilitate the nominations process. They are still finalizing their recommendations at this time but will have them ready to be reviewed at the Board Meetings in September.

**3.7 Rules of Operation updates**

Discussion: President Beecher gave a brief review of the updates and asked for suggestions on ways to keep individuals on committee’s being sunset engaged with the Texas Section.

VP Professional Frayre suggested creating a database of Section Members that can serve as industry/discipline experts when needed by media requests, government officials, webinar speakers, committees, etc.

Based on discussions, merging/sunsetting of Flood Mitigation and Beyond Storms Committees has been suspended. Will be reviewed in 2023.

Action Item – Section Staff can start the database by emailing members of IRC and other key committees and asking for permission to include them. VP Professional and VP Technical to serve as lead volunteers.

**3.8 Technical Activities**

Discussion: VP Technical Ron Reichert noted that the biggest item with the institute chapters is that TxGI and TxUESI are hosting their annual conferences in conjunction with CECON 2022. Based on this year’s success, the goal will be to get additional institute chapters involved for 2023 and beyond.

Next, VP Technical Reichert noted that there is one more part of the Geotechnical Considerations webinar series and then the five-part Beyond Storms series will begin in August and go through the end of the year with a few other sessions mixed in between. He also explained that the webinar pricing structure was experimented with in 2022 (free webinars, low cost, sponsored) and it seems to have resulted in an increase in attendance. In addition, some unique topic choices (communication-based topics) drew a greater audience as well.

Past President Merrell suggested making the webinars free to Section Members and charging non-members and soliciting sponsorships in addition. It was also suggested to allow for donations during registration on the complimentary/free, non-sponsored webinars.

**3.9 2022 YM Camping Trip Recap & Upcoming 2022 CRYMC**

Discussion: VP Educational Clay Forister PE noted that the Texas Section had its first Camping Trip after a couple year hiatus and had 18 attendees. The event was regarded as a success by attendees and the YM Committee does plan to have another trip in 2023. He also noted that the CRYMC is set for Austin in August 2022 and to check out ASCE’s website for additional information on that event.

**4.0 Items for Executive Committee Action** *(began at 4:14 PM)*

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

The consent agenda included the following items:

* Receive all reports marked {I} on the agenda (including the [April 2022 Financial Report](https://texasce.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/Finance/EcT6z-rRRVdAi1KQrKQoikoBF7w3hQnjMni7F9VgZgDvZA?e=pHoB8o))

Past President Merrell motioned to adopt the consent agenda. Seconded by VP Professional Verrengia. Motion passes.

**4.2 Endorse Slate of ASCE Texas Section 2022 Award Recipients as recommended by the Honors Committee.**

Discussion: Past President Merrell read the list of recommendations as noted below:

* Award of Honor: Geoffrey Roberts Jr. (Houston Branch)
* Government Civil Engineer: Sarah Alvarez (Houston Branch)
* Professional Service to Students Award: Justin De La Rosa (Corpus Christi Branch)
* Service to People Award: Sharon Hamilton (Austin Branch)

Past President Merrell motioned to endorse the slate of 2022 ASCE Texas Section Award Recipients as recommended by the Honors Committee. Seconded by President Elect Attanasio. Motion passes.

**4.3 Endorse slate for ASCE Texas Section 2022-23 Officer Special Election.**

* **VP for Professional Affairs Elect – Andres Salazar PhD, PE**

Discussion: President Beecher explained the conflict that occurred with the original candidate for 2022-23 VP Professional, the Nomination Committee has put forth an alternate candidate, and explained that Andres was originally a close runner up and will be a great choice to fill this role. Past President Merrell echoed that sentiment about Andres.

VP Professional Elect Verrengia motioned to endorse the slate for the 2022-23 ASCE Texas Section Officer Special Election as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Seconded by VP Educational Heather Guillen. Motion passes.

**4.4 Endorse President Beecher’s appointment of Carlos Martinez PE as Texas Section STEM Committee Chair.**

Discussion: VP Educational Forister motioned to endorse President Beecher’s appointment of Carlos Martinez PE as Texas Section STEM Committee Chair. Seconded by Past President Merrell. Motion passes.

**8.0 Closing Remarks and Final Comments**

Discussion: President Beecher thanked everyone for their participation and encouraged the group to review the officer

reports in detail once again.

**9.0 ADJOURN. The meeting was adjourned by President Beecher at 4:28 PM**