



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 2022-2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
 January 14, 2023 | 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM CT | Austin, Texas

**RS&H Engineering**  
 8240 N Mopac Expy, Suite 300  
 Austin, TX 78759  
 Room: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Longhorn Conference

**1.0 Convene**

**1.1 Call to Order.** President Travis Attanasio PE called the meeting to order at 11:08 AM.

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

Position	Name	Present/Absent
President	Travis Attanasio PE	Present
Past President	Patrick Beecher PE	Present
President Elect	Kimberly Cornett PE	Present
VP Educational	Heather Guillen PE	Present, arrived at 11:15 AM
VP Educational Elect	Julia Clarke PE	Present
VP Professional	Augustine Verrengia PE	Present
VP Professional Elect	Andres Salazar PhD, PE	Present
VP Technical	Mark Boyd PhD, PE	Present
VP Technical Elect	Christopher Nance PE	Present
Senior Director at Large	Marita Moya PE	Present, arrived at 11:20 AM
Treasurer	Glenn Goldstein PE	Present
Executive Director	Jenni Peters CAE	Present
Board Secretary	Mike Sosa	Present

**Guest List**

1. Anna Olveda PE (Texas Section Assistant Treasurer) – Present, arrived at 11:20 AM
2. Sean Merrell PE (ASCE Region 6 Governors, Chair) - Present
3. Austin Messerli PE (Austin Branch Section Director) - Present
4. Paul Hahn PE (Austin Branch President) - Present
5. Jacob Hinson PE (Central Texas Branch Section Director) – Present
6. Stephanie Ludlow (Texas Section Communications Specialist) – Present
7. Kelly Mahmoud (Edward Jones) – Present, left at 11:33 AM

**1.3 President Attanasio welcomes guests listed above to the meeting.**

**1.4 President Elect Kimberly Cornett PE led the group through the Pledges and Invocation.**

**1.5 Section Financial Advisor Kelly Mahmoud (Edward Jones) provided the investment report.**

Discussion: The Section has four funds currently managed by Edward Jones:

- Texas Section Savings

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

\* Reports received and distributed prior to board meeting

- J. Walter Memorial Porter Trust Fund
- John B. Hawley Trust Fund
- Texas Section Past Presidents Educational Trust Fund

[Review the full report for January 2023.](#)

#### **1.6 Region 6 Director Sean Merrell PE provided Society and Region 6 Comments.**

Discussion: ASCE is currently meeting to discuss nominees for the upcoming leadership election and finishing up the pricing structure for the monthly dues program. The Future World Vision IMAX movie has also begun filming.

Update on Life Members – anyone who achieves Life Member status prior to Dec 31, 2027 will be a “legacy” life member and not have to pay annual dues. After that date, the dues will be 50% reduced for any life member. Any member who does not want to start paying dues with that new plan will still be a member but will not maintain ASCE benefits. Subsidiaries will have to make their own decisions on whether to allow those people to be involved without paying dues.

A new Region 6 Governor from Mexico has been installed, Hector Avalos. Susan Roth PE plans to run for the upcoming open position as Region 6 Governor in Texas.

After a year of inactivity, the High Plains Branch has recently met in December 2022 and has plans to meet again in February 2023.

Region 6 has \$1000 grants available. Apply on the Region’s website:

<https://regions.asce.org/region6/>

#### **1.7 President Attanasio provided the Executive Summary.**

Discussion: The Texas Section received two ASCE awards in 2022 for Very Large Sections (Outstanding Section/Branch award and Outstanding Website award). The Dallas Branch also won both awards for the medium category. President Attanasio suggested that the Houston Branch apply for the Large Branch category, and the West Texas Branch apply for the small Branch category to sweep the awards for the next year.

The Section has recently started a new process for advertising through Multiview. This third-party service will curate advertisements for both the Section website and a bi-monthly newsletter sent to all members. This service will also be used to contact student members on a quarterly basis and reach out to sponsors/exhibitors.

### **Reports for Action or Discussion**

#### **2.0 Administrative Items for Executive Committee Action**

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

Discussion: VP Professional Verrengia asked to remove agenda item 4.1.2 from the consent agenda, and it was removed. Item 4.1.2 was Establish **Residential Foundations Flood Mitigation** Committee (standing) under VP Professional.

President Elect Cornett requested to add a discussion item to 3.9 regarding the CECON Site Selection Committee.

Motion to approve changes listed above. So moved. Seconded and passed without dissent.

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

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

## 3.0 Items for Discussion

### 3.1 Section Finances

Discussion: Treasurer Glenn Goldstein PE provided a brief overview of the current state of the Section's finances and financial processes. Review [the Treasurer Report \(5.7\)](#) and [budget attachment](#) for further detail.

Glenn noted that the audit for FY2020-21 is almost finished, and a draft report has been provided by the auditor and reviewed by the Section's CPA. It will also be reviewed by Executive Director Peters prior to being accepted and finalized by the end of January. President Attanasio explained the idea of adding Section 15.S to the Section's Policies and Procedures document regarding the use of budgeted funds for memorial donations on behalf of deceased Past Presidents.

- The current suggestion is to donate to their alma mater or a local STEM foundation
- President Elect Cornett suggested phrasing the policy so that a set amount gets donated to the ASCE Foundation instead
- VP Professional Verrengia noted that the policy language should include a relation to the approved operating budget and that any amount in excess must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Motion to pull item 4.1.3 from the consent agenda and add to agenda item 3.1

Moved to pull item 4.1.3 from the consent agenda. Seconded and passed without dissent.

Motion to approve the inclusion of Policy 15.S to the Section's Policies and Procedures Document. So moved. Seconded and passed without dissent.

Official policy language: **15.S Policy on Past President Memorial Fund Donations**

*Following the death of an ASCE Texas Section Past President, the current ASCE Texas Section President may determine that a nominal and reasonable donation based on approved budget may be made to the Civil Engineering Department at the Alma Mater of the Past President or a local school or STEM initiative the Past President was active or associated or the ASCE Foundation. Monies are held for such donations in the annual Texas Section budget. Donations for ASCE Texas Section members who were not a Past President may be considered by the Executive Committee of the ASCE Texas Section Board.*

President Attanasio explained that a life member who recently moved to Texas has requested that his Section/Branch dues be waived. The item was discussed by the group, and a consensus was reached not to take further action on it.

Action Item – update Rules of Operation to include item 15.S as approved in item 3.1

### 3.2 Volunteer Recruiting

Discussion: President Attanasio noted that he is still reaching out to individuals to Chair both the Diversity Equity & Inclusion committee and the Branch/Section Relations committee. He also noted that the John B. Hawley Trust Fund has an open trustee position. This fund has not awarded a scholarship in a while and would benefit from an engaged trustee. This fellowship is intended for graduate students in the EWRI field. VP Technical Boyd noted that the Construction Institute and Forensics Group are both currently looking for Chairs and other leaders.

Action Item – if you know anyone who would be a good fit for any of the positions mentioned in item 3.2, please send their information to President Attanasio

<Break for lunch from 12:42 to 1:30 PM.>

### 3.3 Membership

Discussion: President Elect Cornett gave an overview of the new member sweepstakes that was held in 2022. During that time, 144 of the new members signed up and paid local Section/Branch dues. Once a winner is selected at random, announcements will be made on the Section's email and social media.

Secretary Sosa provided a brief rundown of the January 2023 membership report, [please see full report for details.](#)

Senior Director at Large Moya asked if we have a breakdown of gender, and this spurred an idea to collect this data so we can get a better picture of our membership demographics. President Attanasio has suggested to reach out to National regarding the

difference between the two Get-A-Member campaigns. The Texas Section showed a difference of members signing up than the National data suggested. President Attanasio will reach out to National.

**Action Item – Staff and Membership Committee to brainstorm ideas for collecting data on gender of members**

### 3.4 Professional Activities

Discussion: VP Professional Augustine Verrengia PE noted that ASCE has started to send out acceptances for the Legislative Fly In and that the Texas Section's Government Affairs Committee is planning for a 2023 Legislative Drive-In on April 3-4, 2023. A main change for the 2023 Drive-In is the inclusion of a sponsorship program with levels from \$500 - \$2,000.

VP Professional Verrengia also gave a summary of the concern that the Residential Foundations Oversight Committee raised regarding a paper recently published by ASCE that contradicts some forensic guidelines in the committee's April 2022 released document on slab deflection. The committee asked the Section to submit a statement on their behalf. After discussion, the Executive Committee agreed that they are not in the position nor have the due diligence resources to make such a statement on behalf of the Section.

The VP Professional Team and current committee chairs suggest the Residential Foundations Task Committee be made a Standing Committee and be transferred to VP Technical.

Next, VP Professional Verrengia explained the idea behind the Subject Matter Experts Bureau. This group would be a resource for media and interview requests and could be a resource for the formation of task committees that are needed in response to disaster (Flood, Beyond Storms, etc), this would also serve to keep these volunteers involved more than just one time. The Executive Committee liked the idea and suggested the VP Professional team begin working on an outline/plan for getting this idea approved.

**Action Item – VP Professional Team to begin working on a plan for the formation and sustainability of a Subject Matter Experts Bureau, including a timeline and description.**

### 3.5 Student Symposium

Discussion: VP Educational Heather Guillen PE noted that the event is set for April 12-15 in Amarillo, Texas and will include schools from Texas, Mexico, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. The breakeven budget is set at \$135,000 for this year. \$35,000 in sponsorship revenues has

been raised (50% of the way to the goal). Next, she mentioned that the Symposium Planning team is also in need of competition judges, so please send your contact info and a note expressing interest to [region6judge@gmail.com](mailto:region6judge@gmail.com).

Lastly, VP Educational Guillen asked the group to review the sponsorship information and ask their respective companies to support this one-of-a-kind student event.

Action Item – send any prospective competition judges to Head Judge Shannon Jungman at [region6judge@gmail.com](mailto:region6judge@gmail.com)

Action Item – review sponsorship brochure and ask your company for support!

### 3.6 2023 [Leadership Development Weekend](#)

Discussion: President Elect Cornett noted that the event will be held on July 21-23 in San Antonio at the UTSA Campus.

### 3.7 Technical Activities

Discussion: VP Technical Mark Boyd PhD, PE noted that EWRI, GI, SEI and T&DI are all planning to be involved with CECON 2023 either in a small capacity or to host a full educational track. The institute leaders have held two monthly meetings so far during his term and CECON Co-Chair John Mudd was on each of the calls to explain the purpose of getting institutes involved with the conference.

Next, he noted that he has been struggling to fill the webinar schedule for 2023 but does have a good number of leads to follow up on in the coming weeks. He has also asked the Institute Chapter Chairs to provide topics and speakers. He hopes to get back on track starting with the second session in January.

There are also four additional sessions set for Thursdays that will be presented by David Eastwood and focus on geotechnical topics.

Action Item – if you, a coworker, or a friend has a potential webinar presentation that would be interesting to Section members, please send that information to VP Technical Boyd. (Example - a recent project overview, a policy change review, a case study, etc)

### 3.8 *Texas Civil Engineer*

Discussion: Senior Director at Large Marita Moya PE noted that the Editorial Committee has been meeting monthly and is still producing bi-monthly content updates. They have started collecting some better data on viewership and engagement which should help the committee plan more relevant content moving forward. The Editorial Committee is still looking for a member to lead their Social Media/Communications Council as part of the overall Editorial efforts.

Reminder – the editorial committee is a GREAT resource for spreading the word about local activities, student activities, work projects and other related accomplishments.

### 3.9 CECON

Discussion: President Elect Cornett provided an overview of the CECON 2022 Financial Summary and planning manual updates. Please see 5.3 President Elect Attachments for a full report on the planning manual updates.

She also noted that the Call for Speakers for CECON 2023 is currently open as well and all are encouraged to submit as soon as possible.

Technical Tour suggestions of Lake Dunlap Dam rebuild and the Tallest Tower (WGI/Augustine) recommended.

Lastly, President Elect Cornett provided an update on the site selection process for future years, noting that they are looking for a Chair right now and hope to have a general outline of the process before the next Board Meeting in April.

### 3.10 Officer Nominations Discussion

Discussion: Past President Patrick Beecher PE listed the slate of candidates as noted in his report and on the agenda/consent agenda. Unlike previous years, there will be two positions that are contested for this upcoming election (President Elect & VP Professional Elect). Election Rules will be presented to the Board in April for approval, to include notation of zero campaigning.

President Attanasio reminded the group to begin brainstorming potential nominees for these officer roles (especially from small branches) because the next election will be here sooner than expected.

## 4.0 Items for Executive Committee Action

### 4.1 The Executive Committee is asked to adopt [the consent agenda](#).

Discussion: No additional discussion

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

The consent agenda includes the following:

4.1.1 Receive all Reports marked [I] on the agenda (including the [November 2022 Financial Report](#))

4.1.2 Removed, see agenda item 2.1

4.1.3 Removed, see agenda item 3.1

4.1.4 Endorse Slate of Officer Nominees for 2023-2024 as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The nominees include:

- President Elect: Mark Boyd PhD, PE (Dallas Branch) & Ron Reichert (Houston Branch)
- VP Educational Elect: Genest Landry PE (Austin Branch)
- VP Professional Elect: Julie Jones PE (Dallas Branch) & Steve Messina PE (Fort Worth Branch)
- VP Technical Elect: Mark Mann PE (Southeast Texas Branch)
- First Year Director at Large: Adam Eaton PE (Houston Branch)
- First Year Director at Large: Angie Fealy PE (Fort Worth Branch)

#### **4.2 Endorse Past Presidents Council Recommendations for 2023 Texas OCEA Award & Award of Merit**

Discussion: None

Motion to endorse PPC's recommendations for 2023 Texas OCEA Award & Award of Merit. Move to endorse. Seconded and passed without dissent.

- 4.2.1 OCEA: [Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project](#) (Liberty and Harris Counties)
- 4.2.2 Award of Merit: [Runway 13R-31L & Taxiway C Phase 1 Reconstruction Project](#) (City of Dallas)

#### **5.0 Closing Remarks and Final Comments**

Discussion: President Attanasio reminded the group to review the completed officer reports as they are a great activity recap and provide ideas/insights that can be used to improve moving forward.

**6.0 Adjourn. President Attanasio adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM CT.**





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## 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 19-25, 2023 – Nationwide

[Engineers Week](#)

March 1-3, 2023 – Washington, DC

**ASCE National Legislative Fly-In**

April 3-4, 2023 – Austin, Texas

[ASCE Texas Section Legislative Drive-In](#)

April 12-15, 2023 – Amarillo/Canyon, TX

[ASCE Region 6 Student Symposium](#) & [TexASCE Board of Direction meeting \(Th\)](#)  
hosted by West Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University

May 1, 2023

[ASCE Texas Section 2023 Annual Individual Awards](#) Nominations Due

July 21-23, 2023 – San Antonio, TX

[Leadership Development Weekend](#) & [TexASCE Executive Committee meeting \(F\)](#)

September 20-22, 2023 – San Marcos, TX

[CECON 2023](#), "The Future is Now" & [TexASCE Board of Direction meeting \(F\)](#)

October 31, 2023

**ASCE Texas Section** [Officer Nominations](#) & [Texas OCEA Award](#) Nominations Due

November 5 – Worldwide

[ASCE Day](#) celebrates the Society's founding on November 5, 1852!