



MINUTES
 ASCE TEXAS SECTION
SPRING 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING
 April 13, 2023 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST

In-Person

Four Points by Sheraton / Fairfield by Marriott, 1911 East I40, Amarillo, Texas 79102
 Room: West Texas Ballroom

- 1.0 Convene
- 1.1 President Travis Attanasio called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM CT.
- 1.2 Secretary Mike Sosa called role and 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
VP Educational Elect	Julia Clarke PE	Present
VP Professional	Augustine Verrengia III 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	Absent
2 nd Year Director at Large	Michael Gurka PE	Absent
1 st Year Director at Large	Rebecca Rice (Cummins) PE	Present
1 st Year Director at Large	Victor Murillo PE	Present
Treasurer	Glenn Goldstein PE	Present
Executive Director	Jenni Peters CAE	Present
Board Secretary	Mike Sosa	Present
Austin	Austin Messerli PE	Present
Brazos	Robert Lys Jr. PE	Present
Caprock	Travis Barnett PE	Present
Central Texas	Jacob Hinson PE	Absent
Corpus Christi	Joe Alvarez	Present
Dallas	Surya Bhandari PE	Present
El Paso	Sergio Mendez PE	Sub C Nance, Present
Fort Worth	Kameron Boggan PE	Present
High Plains	Rodolfo Mireles PE	Present
Houston	Sarah Alvarez PE	Sub R Rice, Present
Northeast Texas	David Stanley PE	Absent
Rio Grande Valley	Humberto Lopez PE	Absent
San Antonio	Amy Stone PE	Absent
Southeast Texas	Liv Haselbach PhD, PE	Sub M Mann, Present
West Texas	No delegate	Absent

Guest List

- 1. Art Clendenin PE (Texas Section President 2019)

1.3 President Elect Kimberly Cornett led the group in the Pledges & Invocation.

1.4 President Attanasio welcomed visitors to the meeting, see above for a list.

1.5 Region 6 Society Director Sean Merrell provided Region 6 comments.

Region 6 Society Director Merrell noted that Region 6 is operating well. The current Region 6 Governors are working with the Mexico Section to find some new leadership, create governing documents, and get their finances back in order. He also noted that the Region 6 Board needs to submit their Annual Report for 2022 so they can get their allotment from ASCE for the year.

Lastly, he noted that Region 6 is still accepting grants with a maximum of \$1000 and encouraged all Branches and Chapters to consider submitting for a grant for any upcoming events.

1.6 President Attanasio provide the Executive Summary and thanked the Board for their efforts during the first half of his Presidency.

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, Rebecca Rice PE for Houston, and Chris Nance PE for El Paso.

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.

Past President Patrick Beecher asked to add a discussion item regarding the Honors Committee and annual individual award nominations.

President Attanasio asked to move 4.1.5 from consent agenda to a discussion item. Already on agenda under 3.3.

Motion to approve the changes to the agenda. Move to approve. Seconded and passed without dissent.

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 Strategic Plan Goals Review

President Attanasio reminded the Board to review the new Strategic Plan website and current goals. VP Professional Augustine Verrengia noted that promoting the "civil engineering career path" would be a great addition to the goals. Dallas and Houston Branch also establish strategic plan related annual goals under each new leadership team.

3.2 Membership Update

President Elect Cornett reviewed the results of the membership drive from late 2022 and noted that the Section should increase its focus on member retention in preparation for the upcoming dues increases.

Executive Director Jenni Peters briefly explained the Section Office's plan to send monthly communications about this change and the renewal process from May to December 2023. She also mentioned that ASCE is switching to an optional monthly dues format, which will have an effect on the way dues are processed to Branches.

3.3 2023-24 Section Officer Election

Past President Beecher presented the slate of candidates as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The full list of candidates can be found in the Past President report. He also mentioned that there are new guidelines regarding the election and campaigning; and encouraged the Board to review those changes with their respective Branch Leaders. The document will also be distributed to all subsidiaries via email. Strong emphasis was placed on the election rules. It was also stressed that we are all one organization and we do not want mudslinging from any candidate.

Lastly, Executive Director Peters noted that the Texas Section will host a webinar for the President Elect candidates and make that available online.

3.4 Student Symposium

VP Educational Heather Guillen gave an overview of the 2023 Symposium here in Amarillo and noted that the committee did a great job of planning the event and making a small profit. She also mentioned that Angelo State University has agreed to host in 2024 and they held their first planning meeting.

Past President Beecher suggested that the team get the ASCE Foundation involved along with TCEF to help fund students chapter in need of travel assistance.

3.5 Leadership Development Weekend & ExCom Meeting

President Elect Cornett noted that the event is planned for July 21-23 and in San Antonio. The educational programming will be held at UTSA and plans are still being finalized for hotels and evening social venues. She encouraged Branches to spread the word to their current and incoming leaders so they can save the dates.

3.6 Webinars Program Update

VP Technical Mark Boyd noted that the webinars so far in 2023 have been well attended and engaging presentations. He is working to fill out the schedule for two sessions per month for the remaining months of webinars.

3.7 CECON

President Elect Cornett gave an overview of the current CECON 2023 planning process, noting that the program is filling up and four institutes are partnering to host educational tracks. She also mentioned that the committee is communicating well with each other, and the division of duties is working well. Lastly, she gave a summary of the current plan for the CECON Site Selection Committee and shared the roster with the group, noting that Patricia Frayre will be the Chair.

3.8 STEM Initiatives

VP Educational Guillen noted that the current STEM initiatives are aligned with the goals in the Texas Section Strategic Plan. Current STEM Chair Carlos Martinez has been very active in arranging events in the local Corpus Christi area and plans to partner with other STEM organizations to host events later in the year.

3.9 Texas Legislative Drive-In

VP Professional Verrengia noted that the 2023 Legislative Drive-In was a success and received great support from the local ASCE community. [See full program.](#)

He also noted that the event budget was increased last year to create a higher-level experience for attendees and the early feedback from attendees shows that the goal was met. Finally, he encouraged all Branches to get their membership engaged with government affairs efforts moving forward as now is a great time for civil engineers to impact decision-making.

3.10 Strategic Dialogue

3.11 Requests for Committee and Committee Leader Changes

3.11.1 VP Professional related Committees

3.11.2 President related leadership appointments

3.11.3 VP Technical related Committees and Chapters

The idea behind the Subject Matters Experts Committee (SMEC) was to keep individuals from various Task Committees involved with the Section's efforts even after the specific task committee has been sunset. VP Professional Verrengia has sent out an initial timeline for the creation of the committee.

The Residential Foundations Task Committees would like to combine and be formalized as a Standing Committee. If this committee is changed to a full Committee, it is proposed that it move under VP Technical. Another option is to fold these task committees into the SMEC along with Beyond Storms and Flood Mitigation Task Committees.

President Attanasio requested that a Local Government Liaison be created under VP Professional.

3.12 Honors Committee

Past President Beecher requested that the Board review the awards given out by the Texas section each year and nominate a fellow volunteer, friend, or colleague for an award.

Honors Committee is looking to develop an award for Younger Members and one for Students.

3.13 Items to be reported to Branches by Section Directors

1. Save the Date for [LDW 2023](#) (July 21-23) and spread the word to current and incoming Branch leaders.
2. Save the Date for [CECON 2023](#) (September 20-22) and reach out to your network about sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities. CECON promotional graphics will be distributed for local meeting use.
3. Encourage Branch members to get involved with local government affairs efforts.
4. Dues increase & Nominations Process Changes – keep an eye out for communications from the Texas Section with updates on these items and share the information at upcoming branch meetings.
5. [Award Nominations](#) - nominate a fellow volunteer, friend, or colleague for an award.

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:

- 4.1.1 Receive all Reports marked [I] on the Agenda
- 4.1.2 Approve Minutes of Fall Board Meetings, September 16, 2023
- 4.1.3 Approve Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, January 14, 2023

- 4.1.4 Approve CECOM 2023 Budget and Planning Manual
- 4.1.5 Approve 2023-2024 Officer Candidate Slate as recommended by the Nominating Committee
- 4.1.6 Receive Texas Geo-Technical Institute 2022-23 Officers
- 4.1.7 Approve new Hawley Fund Trustee – Travis Attanasio PE

4.2 Approve Executive Committee’s Endorsement of 2023 Texas OCEA Award & Award of Merit Recipients

Discussion: None.

Motion to approve the Executive Committee’s endorsement of the 2023 Texas OCEA Award and Award of Merit. Move to approve. 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)

9.0 Closing Remarks

10.0 President Attanasio adjourned the meeting at 11:40 PM.