



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)
- Advancing Civil Engineering (Profession)

MINUTES
 ASCE TEXAS SECTION
FALL 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETINGS
 SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

In-Person

Embassy Suites San Marcos Convention Center, Room: Veramendi G & H
 1001 E. McCarty Lane, San Marcos, TX 78666

- 1.0 **2022-2023 Board of Direction Convene**
- 1.1 President Travis Attanasio PE called the meeting to Order at 2:03 PM.
- 1.2 Secretary Mike Sosa called roll and a quorum was present.

2022-2023 Board

Position	Name	Present/Absent
President	Travis Attanasio PE	P
Past President	Patrick Beecher PE	P
President Elect	Kimberly Cornett PE	P
VP Educational	Heather Guillen PE	P
VP Educational Elect	Julia Clarke PE	P
VP Professional	Augustine Verrengia III PE	A (excused)
VP Professional Elect	Andres Salazar PhD, PE	P
VP Technical	Mark Boyd PhD, PE	P
VP Technical Elect	Christopher Nance PE	P
Senior Director at Large	Marita Moya PE	A
2 nd Year Director at Large	Michael Gurka PE	A
1 st Year Director at Large	Rebecca Rice PE	P
1 st Year Director at Large	Victor Murillo PE	P
Treasurer	Glenn Goldstein PE	P
Executive Director	Jenni Peters CAE	P
Board Secretary	Mike Sosa	P
Austin	Austin Messerli PE	A
Brazos	Robert Lys Jr. PE	A
Caprock	Travis Barnett PE	P
Central Texas	Jacob Hinson PE	P
Corpus Christi	Joe Álvarez	P, left 2:25 PM for technical tour
Dallas	Surya Bhandari EIT	P
El Paso	Sergio Mendez PE	A
Fort Worth	Kameron Boggan PE	P
High Plains	Rodolfo Mireles PE	A
Houston	Sarah Alvarez PE	P
Northeast Texas	David Stanley PE	Sub Benjamin Boardman PE, P
Rio Grande Valley	Humberto Lopez PE	A
San Antonio	Amy Stone PE	A
Southeast Texas	Liv Haselbach PhD, PE	P

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

West Texas	No delegate	A
------------	-------------	---

Guest List

1. Kim Garcia, Marketing Communications Coordinator - P
2. Stephen Archer, CECON Co-Chair - P
3. Carlos Balderrama, 2024 CECON Co-Chair - P
4. Braden Hoffman, Dallas Branch and TxTDI Communication Chair - P
5. Patrick Williams, Membership Chair (22-23) & Branch/Section Relations Chair (23-24) - P
6. Art Clendenin, Texas Section Past President & Nominating Committee Chair (23-24)– P
7. Julie Jones, Incoming VP Professional Elect 2023-24 - P

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

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

1.5 **Region 6 Director Sean Merrell PE provided Region 6 Comments.**

Discussion: skipped.

1.6 **President Attanasio provided the Executive Summary.**

Discussion: President Attanasio noted that the Porter Fund, TCEF are looking for Trustees for 2024+ (water resources specialty preferred), and that the 2025 IRC Committee plans to get started later this year.

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

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

Discussion: Ben Boardman PE is substituting for Northeast Texas Branch Section Director David Stanley PE.

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: President Attanasio asked to remove Consent Agenda Item 4.1.8 from the Consent Agenda and add it to the Agenda as item 3.5.

Motion to **approve changes to the agenda listed above**. 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 **Leadership Development Weekend 2023**

Discussion: President Elect Cornett provided a brief recap of the event, which took place in July 2023. The event was well attended and came in about \$6,000 under the budgeted amount.

3.2 **Membership & Dues Increase**

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

Discussion: 2023 Membership Committee Chair Patrick Williams gave an overview of the recent initiatives of the Section's Membership Committee and noted that the engagement on membership efforts has been very beneficial.

President Elect Cornett gave a brief overview of the membership report from September 2023.

President Cornett announced the 2023-2024 Membership Committee Co-Chairs: Clint Hoover and Joe Alvarez.

3.3 CECON 2023 Preliminary Report

Discussion: CECON Co-Chair Stephen Archer PE noted that the revenues from exhibitors and sponsorships were just over \$120,000 and he expects there to be a small profit after the post-event accounting is finished. There were 530 attendees in total (440 on Wed, 448 on Thurs, and 429 on Fri.)

Lastly, he noted that he is excited about CECON 2024 in Frisco and ran through some of their initial programming ideas.

3.4 Rules of Operation Updates

President Attanasio summarized the updates, as listed below.

- Endorse sunseting of Task Committees: Beyond Storms Infrastructure Network Resilience, Flood Mitigation
- ~~Endorse move of Residential Foundations to a standing Committee under VP Technical~~-(removed from motion)
- Endorse addition of SME Bureau (See VP Professional's report)

Discussion: (b) was removed from this motion

Travis Barnett noted that the messaging to the current volunteers of the sunset committees needs to be clear that their efforts are appreciated and accomplished and that the Section would like to find a role for them within a current committee.

Motion to approve **Rules of Operation Updates as noted above**. Move to approve. Seconded and passed without dissent.

Item 3.4 (b)

Discussion: Houston Branch Section Director Alvarez asked how any changes/review of the Residential Foundations Guidelines would happen. Executive Director Peters noted that the VP Professional would oversee any updates and then pass them along to the Board for review and approval at a Board Meeting.

Motion to **sunset Residential Foundations Committee**. Move to approve. Seconded and passed without dissent.

Item 3.4 (d)

Discussion: None.

Motion to **approve a Resolution that all Task Committees sunset by the Board on September 22, 2023 present bylaws to the VP Professional to reconstitute themselves under the SME Bureau**. Move to approve. Seconded and passed without dissent.

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

3.5 Approve updated Fort Worth Branch Bylaws (rev 9-6-2023)

Discussion: President Elect Cornett noted that the Branch has reviewed the comments from the Texas Section ExCom and have made the appropriate changes.

Motion to **approve updated Fort Worth Branch Bylaws (rev 9-6-2023)**. Move to adopt.

Seconded and passed without dissent.

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 Spring 2023 Board of Direction Meeting on April 13, 2023
- 4.1.3 Receive 2023 Student Symposium Final Report
- 4.1.4 Approve 2024 Student Symposium Budget
- 4.1.5 Approve Policy 15.S Past President Memorial Donations
- 4.1.6 Approve addition to the ASCE TxUESI Chapter Bylaws: Cesar Quiroga Scholarship Fund
- 4.1.7 Approve Texas Section support for the Distinguished Member nomination of Dr. JoAnn Browning
- ~~4.1.8 Approve updated Fort Worth Branch Bylaws (rev 9-6-2023) removed per item 2.2~~

4.2 Endorse Preliminary 2023-2024 Operating Budget

Discussion: Treasurer Goldstein gave an overview of the processes involved in updating the budget each fiscal year and highlighted the primary revenue sources and expenses. He also noted that while the budget does include an investment draw, the Section only makes that draw if needed to balance the budget at the end of the fiscal year.

Motion to **endorse 2023-24 Preliminary Operating Budget**. Move to endorse. Seconded and passed without dissent.

Break & Group Photo

5.0 2023-2024 Board of Direction Convene

5.1 President Kimberly Cornett PE called the meeting to Order at 3:38 PM.

5.2 Secretary Mike Sosa called roll and a quorum was present.

2023-2024 Board

Position	Name	Present/Absent
President	Kimberly Cornett PE	P
Past President	Travis Attanasio PE	P
President Elect	Mark Boyd PhD, PE	P
VP Educational	Julia Clarke PE	P
VP Educational Elect	Genest Landry PE	A
VP Professional	Andres Salazar PhD, PE	P
VP Professional Elect	Julie Jones PE	P

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

VP Technical	Christopher Nance PE	P
VP Technical Elect	Mark Mann PE	P
Senior Director at Large	Rebecca Rice PE	P
2 nd Year Director at Large	Victor Murillo PE	P
1 st Year Director at Large	Adam Eaton PE	A
1 st Year Director at Large	Angie Fealy PE	P
Treasurer	Glenn Goldstein PE	P, left 4:26 PM
Executive Director	Jenni Peters CAE	P
Board Secretary	Mike Sosa	P
Austin	Austin Messerli PE	A
Brazos	Robert Lys Jr. PE	A
Caprock	Travis Barnett PE	P (Excused at 4:15)
Central Texas	Jacob Hinson PE	P
Corpus Christi	Joe Alvarez	A (excused)
Dallas	Carlos Balderrama PE	P
El Paso	Sergio Mendez PE	A
Fort Worth	Andrea Taylor	Sub Kameron Boggan PE - P
High Plains	Rodolfo Mireles PE	A
Houston	Sarah Alvarez PE	P
Northeast Texas	David Stanley PE	Sub Benjamin Boardman PE - P
Rio Grande Valley	Humberto Lopez PE	A
San Antonio	Amy Stone PE	A
Southeast Texas	Liv Haselbach PhD, PE	P
West Texas	No delegate	A

6.0 Board Orientation

6.1 Review of Primary Programs

6.2 Governing Documents & 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

- o 6.2.1 Mission & Vision
- o 6.2.2 Strategic Goals & Initiatives
- o 6.2.3 Rules of Operation: Constitution, Bylaws, & Leadership Handbook

6.3 Operational Overview

- o 6.3.1 Governance: Roles & Responsibilities
- o 6.3.2 Meetings: Preparation, Attendance, & Engaging Dialogue
- o 6.3.3 Financial Reports & Tax Return

6.4 Legal & Fiduciary Responsibilities

- o 6.4.1 Duty of Care
- o 6.4.2 Duty of Obedience
- o 6.4.3 Duty of Loyalty

ACTION: Executive Director Peters to send PPT of the Orientation to all 2023-2024 Board members

7.0 Administrative Items for Board of Direction Action

7.1 Approve Substitute Section Directors.

Discussion: Ben Boardman PE is substituting for Northeast Texas Branch Section Director David Stanley PE. Kameron Boggan PE is substituting for Fort Worth Branch Section Director Andrea Taylor PE.

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

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

7.2 The Board is asked for any changes to the agenda.

Discussion: None.

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

7.3 The Board is asked to review the COI Acknowledgement form and disclose any potential conflicts.

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

8.0 Items for Discussion

8.1 2023-2024 Kickoff & Goals

Discussion: President Cornett PE reviewed her strategic goals for the year

- Support and promote outreach: Promote & build upon K-12 STEM programs, Society Resources, Statewide programs/Resources, and Branch programs/resources
- Enhance collaboration across all levels of the Section, and its membership: Increase member awareness of current programs, activities & shared resources, and Region 6 Student Symposium
- Enhance collaboration across all levels of the Section: CECON, Infrastructure Report Card, and Legislative Drive-In
- Enhance Marketing/Branding/Communications: Section/Branch Relations Committee, TCE Digital Magazine/Newsletter -maximize member benefit/revenue, and Promote ASCE through local community organizations

President Cornett plans to continue the bi-monthly Branch Leaders Meeting with the Section President, as well as the quarterly virtual Executive Committee Meetings between in-person Board and ExCom meetings to keep projects flowing and initiatives top of mind.

8.2 Review 2023-2024 Operating Budget

No additional discussion from the Board. Item Skipped, already discussed in item 4.2.

8.3 2024 ASCE Region 6 Student Symposium

Discussion: VP Educational Julia Clarke PE noted that the event is planned by the Student Chapter at Angelo State University and is set for April 10-13, 2024. She also noted that she plans to work with STEM Chair Carlos Martinez to increase the frequency of STEM events in 2024.

8.4 VP for Technical Affairs Updates

Discussion: VP Technical Chris Nance PE noted that involving the Institutes in the CECON programming has resulted in quality breakout sessions and increased engagement across the board.

Lastly, he noted that webinar programming for 2024 may include increased sessions about professional skills and ASCE activities/opportunities.

Lastly, Past President Attanasio noted that ASCE's Leadership Training Committee has a backlog of LIVE webinars that can be requested by ASCE entities as needed.

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

8.5 VP for Professional Affairs Updates

Discussion: VP Professional Andres Salazar PhD, PE noted that the Government Affairs Committee plans to offer training sessions for members throughout 2024, so members are more prepared when it comes time for the 2025 State Legislative Drive-In.

The IRC Committee also has plans to provide some training sessions (starting in October or November) for active and prospective members to get a better idea of the work involved with this 2025 release effort.

8.6 Texas Civil Engineer

Discussion: Sr Director at Large Rebecca Rice PE noted that the Editorial Committee has been meeting regularly to track their current goals and create goals for the upcoming year as well. The big focus has been on increasing viewers through the sharing of content, which they have helped accomplish by adding an easy-to-use sharing feature at the top of each article.

Lastly, they asked for help from the Board on ideas/topics they would like to see more content about.

8.7 2024-25 Section Officer Nominations due Oct. 31

Discussion: Past President Attanasio PE reminded the Board that nominations for 2024-25 and encourage each Branch and State Institute Chapter to nominate at least one candidate for a position.

Houston Branch Section Director Sarah Alvarez provided comments on behalf of the Houston Branch regarding the election/nomination guidelines:

My name is Sarah Alvarez I am a Past President of the Houston Branch and the current Section Director. During the past election cycle a violation was brought to my attention and was reported to the Texas Section. I have discussed in length with the Houston Branch Board of Directors and am speaking today with the support of the board of the directors of the largest Branch of the Texas Section.

The election guidelines and contested elections were created to provide a fair election process. In the inaugural year of contested elections, [a violation occurred] and the guidelines established did not provide sufficient content to balance the infraction. The guidelines as they are written only set forth rules for all members to adhere to, but do not present a course of action other than reporting the violation to the Texas Section. Society's governing documents clearly identify disciplinary action to be taken in the event of a violation [one of which is to have] the nominee be disqualified. The Texas Section must set forth a path to ensure all future elections are fair, there is an enforceable disciplinary action, and above all provide transparency. Stakeholders should be notified of reported violations, the results and if any disciplinary action of a violation, and voting outcomes including number of votes must be reported.

In addition, requiring candidates to procure a nomination from a Branch creates future potential conflicts of interest. This is in essence an unstated endorsement and as we move further into the future the campaigning rule may not be as profound and apparent as it is now. This may open the section to vulnerabilities with Branch's

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

endorsing through their communications, announcements to encourage their members to vote for candidate's representing their branch. Also, in an effort to prevent a conflict of interest the election guidelines must be revised to not allow candidates to give presentations on ASCE hosted webinars or events during the election cycle.

We are all volunteers, we are passionate about ASCE, and we give so much of our time to this organization. If we continue to allow our organization to accept violations to occur because the impact was minimal we will allow these injustices to slowly deteriorate the core of the organization. We have a code of ethics to adhere to as members and leaders of ASCE and currently we are failing ourselves and our membership.

ASCE Houston Branch implores the Texas Section to correct it's practices to provide a fair, nondiscriminatory, and transparent process.

President Cornett expressed appreciation for Sarah reading the comments from the Houston Branch and providing potential solutions to the concerns.

Past President Travis Attanasio requested Section Director Alvarez provide what she read to Mike for the minutes and that he would take them to the nominating committee for review and discussion.

8.8 ASCE Section & Branch Annual Reports due Nov. 30

Discussion: Secretary Sosa noted that Branches should expect an email from Nancy Berson with information on how to submit annual reports via ASCE's online portal (same process as previous years).

8.9 Identify Items to be Reported to Branches by Section Directors

1. 2024-25 Section Officer Nominations due Oct. 31
2. ASCE Section & Branch Annual Reports due Nov. 30
3. Branch Financial reports are due Nov. 30 (small branches)
4. Branch Tax Returns due for ASCE review by Jan. 15 (large branches)
5. The Porter Fund and TCEF are looking for trustees for FY 2024-25
6. Save the date for the 2024 Region 6 Student Symposium, April 10-13

We noted the dues increase needs to continue to be discussed to prepare the members and to continue to pay the Section dues by leaving the box checked or checking it as needed to get the Branch support from Section.

9.0 Additional Items for Board of Direction Action

9.1 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.

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

The consent agenda includes the following:

9.1.1 Receive all Reports marked [I] on the Agenda

9.1.2 Approve President's Committee Chair and Institute Chapter Chair Appointments
Updated 9/22: Travis Barnett PE agreed to serve as Co-Chair for the Branch/Section Relations Committee. Joe Alvarez has agreed to serve as a Co-Chair for the Membership Committee.

9.1.3 Rules of Operation Updates (President Attanasio)

- Approve sunsetting of Task Committees: Beyond Storms Infrastructure Network Resilience, Flood Mitigation
- ~~Approve move of Residential Foundations to a standing Committee under VP Technical~~
- Approve the sunset of the Residential Foundations Task Committee and the Resolution to Reform as endorsed by the previous Board of Direction
- Approve addition of Subject Matter Expert (SME) Bureau standing committee (See VP Professional's report)

9.1.4 Approve 2023-24 Section Operating Budget

14.0 Closing Remarks

President Cornett thanked everyone for their willingness to serve this year!

15.0 President Cornett adjourned the meeting at 5:08 PM.