

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

MINUTES
ASCE TEXAS SECTION
SPRING 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING
April 12, 2024 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST

In-Person

Fairfield Inn & Suites San Angelo (1459 Knickerbocker, San Angelo, TX 76094)
Meeting Space: Concho Room

1.0 Convene

1.1 President Kimberly Cornett PE called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

1.2 Board Secretary Mike Sosa called roll. A quorum was not present. A quorum was present at 9:58 AM, prior to any votes being taken.

2023-2024 Board

Position	Name	Present/Absent
President	Kimberly Cornett PE	Present
Past President	Travis Attanasio PE	Present
President Elect	Mark Boyd PhD, PE	Present
VP Educational	Julia Clarke PE	Present
VP Educational Elect	Genest Landry PE	Present
VP Professional	Andres Salazar PhD, PE	Present
VP Professional Elect	Julie Jones PE	Present
VP Technical	Christopher Nance PE	Present
VP Technical Elect	Mark Mann PE	Absent
Senior Director at Large	Rebecca Rice PE	Absent, judge
2 nd Year Director at Large	Victor Murillo PE	Absent, judge
1 st Year Director at Large	Adam Eaton PE	Absent
1 st Year Director at Large	Angie Fealy PE	Absent, judge
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	Absent
Central Texas	Jacob Hinson PE	Absent
Corpus Christi	Joe Alvarez	Arrived 9:58 AM
Dallas	Carlos Balderrama PE	Absent
El Paso	Marvin Gomez PE	Absent
Fort Worth	Andrea Taylor	Present
High Plains	Rodolfo Mireles PE	Absent
Houston	Sarah Alvarez PE	Present
Northeast Texas	David Stanley PE	Regrets, A
Rio Grande Valley	Edwin Manrique PE	Regrets, A
San Antonio	Mike Bratten PE	Absent
Southeast Texas	Liv Haselbach PhD, PE	Regrets, A
West Texas	No delegate	Absent

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

* Reports received and distributed prior to board meeting.

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Guests

Marsia Geldert-Murphey, Society President

Sean Merrell PE, Region 6 Director (left 9:30 AM)

Lawrence Goldberg PE, Region 6 Governor (left 9:30 AM)

Curtis Beitel PE, Texas Civil Engineering Foundation

Anna Olveda, Assistant Treasurer

Patrick Williams PE, Section/Branch Relations Committee Co-Chair

Farrah Rawashdeh, Younger Members Committee Chair

1.3 President Elect Mark Boyd PhD, PE led the Pledges & Invocation.

1.4 President Cornett welcomed the visitors listed above to the meeting.

1.5 Region 6 Director Sean Merrell PE provided updates for Region 6.

Discussion:

- Welcomed everyone to the Symposium and thanked the planning team for their support and dedication throughout the process.
- The Region 6 Grant Program is still ongoing. They are interested in supporting efforts related to membership, legislative efforts, students, and younger members.
- Region 6 is looking for a prospective candidate for the Director position, which is slated to open in Fall 2025 when Sean's term ends. The person must have served as a Governor.
- He thanked the Houston Branch for hosting a screening of the Cities of the Future movie and encouraged all Branches to host a screening. Funding is available from ASCE and Region 6.
- ASCE funding for subsidiaries decreased slightly as they continue to balance their overall budget.
- Membership categories are also being reworked, keep an eye out for updates on this process.

ASCE President Marsia Geldert-Murphey PE provided updates for ASCE.

Discussion:

- The new ASCE Grants team has raised over \$700,000 already.
- ASCE Board has a Strategic Advisory Committee that is currently looking into "reimagining" ASCE, essentially a review of the current org to produce a report with suggestions on how to move forward.
- ASCE is looking into new payment options to reduce credit card processing fees.
- Life Member Forums – there will be a session at the 2024 ASCE Convention dedicated to this new offering, attend if you'd like to help pilot this program.

1.6 President Cornett provided the Executive Summary.

Discussion:

- Student chapters are still getting back to normal from the pandemic, a lot of institutional knowledge for the competitions was lost.
- Engineers Week was a success again in 2024, with a lot of Branch activity across the State.
- Continue to promote the Section's major programs (CECON, Student Symposium, etc.)
- The Texas Civil Engineering Foundation (TCEF) is looking for trustees (need to be a Texas Section Past President) and a Board Member (need to also be a Texas Section Past President).

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- Good news, the Texas Section's investment account is back to a pre-pandemic level.

2.0 Administrative Items for Board of Direction Action

2.1 Approve Substitute Section Directors, if applicable.

Discussion: Patrick Williams PE is substituting for the Dallas Branch.

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

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

Discussion: Add agenda item 3.14 for Travel and add CECON Site Selection to 3.7.

Motion to approve changes as 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.

3.0 Items for Discussion

3.1 Review Role of Volunteers

Discussion: Executive Director Jenni Peters CAE gave an overview of the Role of Volunteers presentation.

3.2 Membership Update

Discussion: President Elect Boyd & Operations Specialist Sosa gave a brief update on the retention rates before and after the most recent dues increase.

	ALL
Joined in 2022	1473
Still member in 2024	1319
	90%
	ALL
Joined in 2021	1147
Still member in 2023	1020
	89%

3.3 2023-24 Section Officer Election Guidelines & Timeline

Discussion: Past President Travis Attanasio PE overviewed the Nominating Committee and noted that they are still working for ways to encourage increased voter participation. The Nominating Committee has also updated the guidelines based on feedback from 2023.

President Cornett summarized the voting totals over the past years and explained the detailed process for the 2023 election. Even with increased touchpoints, the voting turnout was still less than 5% of membership.

3.4 Student Symposium

Discussion: VP for Educational Affairs Julia Clarke PE provided an overview of Symposium planning process and budget. She thanked everyone on the planning team for their efforts over the last year. She noted that revenue goals were reached for 2024 and suggested that the budget be adjusted by around 8% each year to accommodate for growth and increased costs.

The host school for the 2025 ASCE Region 6 Student Symposium is Tarleton State University!

An updated profit-sharing agreement for the Region 6 Student Symposium has been approved by the Region 6 Board. The Texas Section Board suggested the creation and use of an MOU to help facilitate this

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agreement each year. The Board also had one small edit – adding the phrase “per the planning manual” to the second asterisk item. Additionally, the Board wanted the definition of “participation” to be better defined either in this document or the planning manual.

3.5 Leadership Development Weekend & ExCom Meeting

Discussion: President Elect Boyd asked everyone to Save the Date for July 12-14 in Dallas. Spread the word to Branch Leaders as well. We ask that each Branch send 2 representatives to attend, but the more the merrier!

3.6 Webinars Program Update

Discussion: VP for Technical Affairs Chris Nance PE noted that the Texas Section has really struggled to find willing speakers for webinars in 2024.

3.7 CECON

Discussion: President Elect Boyd explained the process behind the CECON Site Selection Committees recent efforts to identify venues for CECON 2026 to 2029. In consultation with Executive Director Jenni Peters, and Texas Section Executive Committee, the CECON Site Selection Committee requests the Board endorse the following schedule for CECON locations to be held at the venues identified:

- CECON 2026 – Omni Hotel and American Bank Center, Corpus Christi, TX
- CECON 2027 – Hilton Hotel and Waco Convention Center, Waco, TX
- CECON 2028 – Hilton Hotel and Waco Convention Center, Waco, TX
- CECON 2029 – Embassy Suites, Denton, TX

Motion to endorse CECON Site Selection Committee Recommendations for CECON 2026 to 2029. Move to endorse. Seconded and passed without dissent.

3.8 New Annual Awards – YM & Student

Discussion: VP Educational Clarke highlighted the updates to each award based on discussions during Spring ExCom and via email since then.

Motion to approve the new Annual YM and Student Awards. Move to approve. Seconded and passed without dissent.

3.9 ASCE Legislative Fly-In

Discussion: VP for Professional Affairs Andres Salazar PhD, PE noted that he has received positive feedback from the 2024 Fly-In. 17 total invitations went out to Texas Section members and priority topics included transportation funding, sustainability, and aging infrastructure.

3.10 Strategic Dialogues

Discussion:

- Review the rules of operation and don't hesitate to reach out with questions or suggestions.
- Texas Construction Institute Chapter and Forensics Group are both looking for active volunteers to help restart those chapters.
- The Texas Section STEM Committee is starting to get some traction in Corpus Christi but the Section Committee goal is to spread efforts across the state.
- Austin Branch has issue with ASCE funding for Cities of the Future because they couldn't plan to screen the movie until after the deadline.

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- Chad Ballard has moved out of state and the Subject Matter Experts Bureau needs a replacement lead/chair.

3.11 Items to report back to Branches by Section Directors

1. Identify if your Branch has an active Younger Member Group or Contact.
2. Ask Branch Members if they are interested in helping with the Forensics Group or Construction Institute at the state level.
3. Save the Date for LDW 2024 on July 12-14 (two delegates per Branch).
4. Save the Date for CECON 2024 on September 18-20 (sponsor/exhibit opportunities available!).
5. Vote in the Texas Section Election this June.
6. Award nominations due May 1!
7. Ask your Branch if anyone is interested in serving with TCEF as a Board Member.
8. Start asking your current Branch leaders and volunteers if they are interested in serving at the Section level in any capacity (officer, committee, etc.).

3.12 VP Education Discussion Items

Discussion: None

3.13 Travel Reimbursement for Officers/Volunteers

Discussion: There is a small budget item used for travel reimbursements for officers/volunteers, which has been set at \$5,000 for the last few years. There is discussion about the best way to include committee chairs and/or other volunteers within that program to help facilitate more engagement from those positions. The Board agreed that the idea has merit and should be pursued, whether it be expanding the current line item or including an additional budget line specifically for these activities.

4.0 Additional Items for Board of Direction Action

4.1 The Board is asked to adopt the consent agenda.

Discussion: report 5.7 to be included with reports from agenda.

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 Meeting, September 22, 2023
- 4.1.3 Approve Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, January 26, 2024
- 4.1.4 Approve Residential Foundation as a Standing Committee
- 4.1.5 Approve CECON 2024 Budget
- 4.1.6 Approve new Porter Fund Trustee – Kimberly Cornett PE

4.2 Approve 2024-2025 Officer Candidate Slate and Election Guidelines as recommended by the Nominating Committee (See Report 5.2 Past President).

Discussion: None

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Motion to approve 2024-25 Officer Candidate Slate and Election Guidelines as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Move to approve. Seconded and passed with one dissenting vote, Houston Branch Section Director.

5.0-8.0 Officer, Branch, Staff, and Fund Reports

9.0 Closing Remarks

None.

10.0 President Cornett adjourned the meeting at 12:34 PM.

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 10-13, 2024 – San Angelo, TX

ASCE Region 6 Student Symposium & TexASCE Board of Direction meeting (Friday AM)
hosted by ASCE Student Chapter of Angelo State University

May 1, 2024

ASCE Texas Section Annual Individual Awards Nominations Due

June 1-30, 2024

ASCE Texas Section Officer Election

July 12-14, 2024 – Dallas, TX

Leadership Development Weekend & TexASCE Executive Committee meeting (Fri PM)

September 18-20, 2024 – Frisco, TX

CECON 2024, "Raising the Grade" & TexASCE Board of Direction meetings (Friday PM)

October 31, 2024

ASCE Texas Section Officer Nominations & Texas OCEA Award Nominations Due

November 5 – Worldwide

ASCE Day celebrates the Society's founding on November 5, 1852!