MINUTES

ASCE TEXAS SECTION

### WINTER 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 26, 2024 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM CT | Waco, Texas

**Walker Partners Engineers | Surveyors**

823 Washington Ave #100, Waco, TX 76701

Room: Training Room

**1.0 Convene**

**1.1 President Kimberly Cornett PE called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.**

**1.2 Secretary Mike Sosa called roll and a quorum was present.**

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| **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 | Absent, notified |
| 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 | Present |
| Sr Director at Large | Rebecca Rice PE | Present |
| Treasurer | Glenn Goldstein PE | Present – arrived at 2:28 PM |
| Executive Director | Jenni Peters CAE | Present |
| Board Secretary | Mike Sosa | Present |

**Guest List**

1. Kim Garcia, TexASCE Marketing Communications Coordinator
2. Casey Richards, Edward Jones Advisor
3. Curtis Beitel, Texas EWRI Co-Chair & TCEF Trustee & Board Member

**1.3 President Cornett welcome the visitors listed above to the meeting.**

**1.4 President Elect Mark Boyd PhD, PE led the group through the pledges and invocation.**

**1.5 Casey Richards from Edward Jones provided the Section’s Investment Report.**

Discussion: 2023 was a good year with a return of about $57,000 (12.81%) and the Section did not have to withdraw any additional funds from this account. All funds are doing well and remain at healthy levels. Casey will meet with the fund trustees for their annual performance review. Please email Jenni or Mike for the full report for the Texas Section Fund and all three Trust Funds.

**1.6** **President Cornett yielded the floor to Curtis Beitel to give a quick update on the Texas Civil Engineering Foundation (TCEF) and the Past Presidents Trust Fund.**

**President Cornett then provided Society and Region 6 Comments on behalf of the Region 6 Board of Governors.**

Discussion: Please see below for an overview of Region 6 Governor activities over the last year. Highlights included MRLC 2024 in Kansas City and additional progress updates on the Future Cities initiative.

[Region 6 Activity Report](https://texasce.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/TexasSection/EdHdo5FinNhNh8MyBPaLYuABJwDoLkub2YCwufgkMaq3pw?e=70KCzQ)

**1.7 President Cornett provided the Executive Summary.**

Discussion: President Cornett explained that she and Past President Attanasio have officially completed the transition process and she has begun bi-weekly update calls with Executive Director Peters. She also noted that the Texas Section had a great turnout at MRLC in Kansas City in January. All Executive Committee members are encouraged to regularly refer to the ASCE Texas Section Strategic Plan when reviewing Committee programs and projects.

**2.0 Administrative Items for Executive Committee Action**

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

Discussion: President Cornett asked to add item 4.1.4 to the consent agenda to endorse Mahsa Arastoo PE for the 2024 ASCE Society Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement.

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

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

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

**3.0 Items for Discussion**

**3.1 Section Finances**

Discussion: Treasurer Glenn Goldstein PE gave a brief overview of the financial reports as of December 2023 and reminded everyone that they can reach out to him at any time if they need a current budget update for any specific committee or activity. He also encouraged everyone to start thinking about the budget for 2024-25 so they are prepared when that process begins.

**3.2 Volunteer Recruiting**

Discussion: President Cornett noted that the Texas Section is currently seeking candidates to fill trustee roles for the two of the funds (Porter-water related & TCEF).

She also reminded the group about the Staff’s volunteer recruitment process that occurs each Fall encouraging accountability on both sides of the volunteer coin.

Action – send recommendations for potential trustees to President Cornett.

**3.3 Membership Update**

Discussion: President Elect Boyd noted that the Section’s assigned membership is approaching 12,000, which is higher than he has ever seen. Correspondingly, the Texas Section subscriber (paying Section/Branch dues) rate is 61%. He also gave a brief update on the Section’s membership retention and recruitment efforts.

**3.4 Professional Activities**

Discussion: VP for Professional Affairs Andres Salazar PhD, PE noted that ASCE received 24 applications from Texas to attend the 2024 Legislative Fly-In and 20 were accepted.

He also gave a brief update on the status of the Residential Foundations Committee and a recap of what has taken place over the past year regarding the committee’s status. He also gave an overview of their current proposal.

***Motion to endorse Residential Foundations Standing Committee proposal. Move to endorse. Seconded and passed without dissent.***

**3.5 Educational Affairs Update**

Discussion: VP for Educational Affairs Elect Genest Landry PE gave a brief status update on the 2024 ASCE Region 6 Student Symposium in San Angelo, noting that revenues are slightly behind prior years, but the committee still expects things to end up close to the totals in the projected budget.

She also reviewed the two new proposed awards (one for students and one for younger members) and asked for feedback from the committee. Committee provided suggested nominal nomination form edits.

Edits to the YM award proposal:

* “Letters of Support” section, update second sentence to read “The second shall be from a professional civil engineering position or activity manager, an ASCE member is preferred.”
* Delete “in September” from the “Award Presentation” section.
* Add note that age is based on time of nomination deadline.
* Change “May15” deadline to “the annual award deadline”.
* With annual Executive Committee review and adoption, recipients will be nominated for the next year’s similar ASCE Society award.

Edits to Student award proposal:

* B. Have you taken the FE exam? Y/N
  + If not, have you scheduled? Y/N
  + If you have taken the FE exam, did you pass? Y/N
* Nomination format section – remove second sentence that caused confusion.

***Motion to endorse the Young Civil Engineer Award and Student Award with comments from today’s meeting included. Move to endorse. Seconded and passed without dissent.***

**3.6** [**Leadership Development Weekend**](https://www.texasce.org/our-programs/leadership-development-weekend/)

Discussion: President Elect Boyd reminded everyone that LDW 2024 is set for July 12-14 in Dallas, TX. The theme will be *Embrace Diversity*.

**3.7 Technical Activities**

Discussion: VP for Technical Affairs Chris Nance PE provided a brief update on the status of the institute chapters and the expected involvement with CECON again in 2024.

**3.8 *Texas Civil Engineer***

Discussion: Senior Director at LargeRebecca Rice PE noted that the Editorial Committee is always looking for new content, so please don’t hesitate to send any potential articles or interesting ideas to them at [share@texasce.org](mailto:share@texasce.org). They also have plans to do a series of short articles about student members this Spring to help spread the word about the Student Symposium.

Lastly, she mentioned that the Communications Council is planning to review the last membership survey from 2018 and work to get an updated survey ready in 2024. Council will review all Section Committee survey requests and questions as the oversight group for member surveying.

**3.9** [**CECON**](https://texascecon.org/)

Discussion: President Elect Boyd reiterated his updates on CECON from his report revision, including:

* CECON Planning Committee Roster is complete, kickoff meeting to occur on Monday, February 5.
* Event prospectus to be finalized by Feb 16, advertising exhibit and sponsorship packages available for purchase.
* Preliminary budget developed for ’24 event.  Budgeting roughly 350 paid attendees and 500 total participants. Expected budget should land within 5% of the 2022 spend when last hosted in Frisco.
* Call for Speakers landing page and sign-up form distributed on January 26.
* Institute cooperative program to be rolled out by end of January. Budgeting for at least 3, but not more than 4, institutes to participate using this program.
* Wednesday evening social at RoughRiders stadium being finalized. To be sponsored by Plastic Pipe Institute again in 2024.

**3.10 Officer Nominations**

*Meeting went into closed session at 4:50 PM.*

Discussion: Past President Travis Attanasio PE explained the context behind this agenda item and asked for comments.

VP Educational Landry provided her support for Eva Reynal.

VP Professional Elect Jones and President Elect Boyd provided support for Colton Gill.

*The meeting officially reopened for guests at 5:06 PM.*

**4.0 Items for Executive Committee Action**

**4.1 The Executive Committee is asked to adopt** [**the consent agenda**](https://texasce.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/TexasSection/EXpRGJ-ocrFCnFIZ1oyVZUgB2wY5dfaYspoMxyV8_TH04A?e=kapyWW)**.**

Discussion: None

***Motion to adopt the consent agenda. Move to adopt. Seconded and passed without dissent. Past President Attanasio abstained from the vote due to an internal conflict on an Issue.***

The consent agenda includes the following:

4.1.1 Receive all Reports marked [I] on the agenda.

4.1.2 Approve CECON Site Selection Task Committee and Chair Patricia Frayre PE.

4.1.3 Endorse Slate of Officer Candidates for 2024-2025 as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The candidate nominees include:

* President Elect: Ron Reichert (Houston) and Russell Carter PE (Caprock)
* VP Educational Elect: Eva Schexnider Reynal (Houston) and Joe Alvarez (Corpus Christi)
* VP Professional Elect: Michael Bloom PE (Houston)
* VP Technical Elect: Patricia Frayre PE (Houston)
* Treasurer: Anna Leija-Olveda (Dallas)
* First Year Directors at Large (2): Colton Gill PE (Dallas) and Saing Zhou PhD (RGV)

4.1.4 Endorse Mahsa Arastoo PE for the Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement.

**4.2 Endorse Past Presidents Council Recommendations for 2024 Texas OCEA Award &**

**Award of Merit winners.** [Click here to view all nominations.](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/vkbztk57zvtoidb8fhzz3/h?rlkey=uxz36ew0uznanoce3jg55s2dh&dl=0)

Discussion: None

***Motion to endorse PPC’s recommendations for 2024 Texas OCEA Award and Award of Merit. Move to endorse. Seconded and passed without dissent.***

4.2.1 By unanimous vote, the recipient of the 2024 ASCE Texas OCEA Award is the   
**Bois D’ Arc Lake Program**.

4.2.2 By unanimous vote, the first recipient of the 2024 ASCE Texas OCEA Award of Merit is the **Memorial Park Bridge in Houston**.

4.2.3 By a 7-5 vote, the second recipient of the 2024 ASCE Texas OCEA Award of Merit is the **IH-35 4B Reconstruction Project in Waco**.

**5.0 Closing Remarks and Final Comments**

Discussion: President Cornett thanked the group for joining in person on a Friday afternoon and reviewed the upcoming Calendar of Events for the Texas Section.

**6.0 Adjourn. President Cornett adjourned the meeting at 5:14 PM CT.**

**2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

February 18-24, 2024 – Nationwide

[**Engineers Week**](https://discovere.org/engage/engineers-week/)

February 28 – March 1, 2024 – Washington, DC

**ASCE National Legislative Fly-In**

April 10-13, 2024 – San Angelo, TX

[**ASCE Region 6 Student Symposium**](https://www.texasce.org/our-programs/student-symposium/)& **TexASCE Board of Direction meeting (historically on Thursday)**

hosted by ASCE Student Chapter of Angelo State University

May 1, 2024

[**ASCE Texas Section 2024 Annual Individual Awards**](https://www.texasce.org/resources/history/awards-honors/) **Nominations Due**

July 12-14, 2024 – Dallas, TX

[**Leadership Development Weekend**](https://www.texasce.org/our-programs/leadership-development-weekend/)& **TexASCE Executive Committee meeting (Friday PM)**

September 18-20, 2024 – Frisco, TX

[**CECON 202**](https://texascecon.org/)**4**, “Raising the Grade” & **TexASCE Board of Direction meeting (Friday PM)**

October 31, 2024

**ASCE Texas Section** [**Officer Nominations**](https://www.texasce.org/resources/volunteer/) **&** [**Texas OCEA Award**](https://www.texasce.org/resources/history/awards-honors/) **Nominations Due**

November 5 – Worldwide

[**ASCE Day**](https://www.asce.org/asce-day) celebrates the Society’s founding on November 5, 1852!