Minutes for the CSCE Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m. - February 7, 2012 – Tuscany Grill, Middletown, CT

CSCE Members in Attendance:
Jason Waterbury*  Rob Barakat*  Ron Nault*
Sara Ramsbottom*  Greg Holness*  Chris Holden*
Bob Gomez*  Billy Cunningham  Jim Sime
Gary Fuerstenberg  Tom Roy  Tom Loto

*Note: CSCE Board Members

Administrative Staff: Amy Petrone

1. President - Jason Waterbury

1.1 ACE Awards – Applications when out and are due by March 2nd. There was discussion on how the applications will be reviewed. Tom Loto will create review teams and coordinate with Amy to distribute the applications to those teams.

1.2 WSBL Nashville – Jason Waterbury’s experience was positive. He said that CSCE’s billboards were mentioned several times as examples of good things the chapters have done well. He said other sections use survey monkey, sometimes giving away small prizes to get members to participate in the survey. Also, the Maine section gave out ACE-like awards to student members, which boosted student participation.

1.2.1 Media/Public Outreach (public relations) – Jason Waterbury handed out pamphlets on ASCE’s “Failure to Act” campaign that he received at WSBL. He suggested that the information in the pamphlets could be the starting point for a new billboard campaign. There was discussion about possibly getting other organizations like AWWA, APWA and CCIA to collaborate on this. Bob Gomez said CSCE can afford to spend $5,000 on this billboard campaign.

1.3 History & Heritage – CSCE will need to put on a presentation to support the application for the New Haven Northampton Canal to achieve ASCE’s Historic Civil Engineering Landmark status. Applications are submitted on a rolling basis. The process may take up to a year.

1.4 Fairfield Branch – About 30 people attended the recent meeting with the Fairfield Branch. There was discussion about the facility where the meeting was held being too loud. Jason Waterbury will discuss with Ron Hill to see if it can be moved for next year’s meeting.

2. President Elect – Bob Gomez

2.1 Geotechnical Technical Group – Gary Fuerstenberg said there is a Structural Engineers Coalition joint meeting April 18th. Gary also noted that a DFI structural workshop on geotechnical instrumentation is coming up in April or May. He didn’t have all the information on the meetings, but said he’d send it out by email so they could be put into the next newsletter.

2.2 Legislative Affairs Committee – The ASCE Legislative Fly-In is March 22nd. Bob Gomez is planning on attending, and perhaps Rob Barakat or Ron Nault as well. Don Shubert from CCIA is planning on going too.

2.2.1 DEEP Hearing – Ron Nault and Tom Roy testified on the proposed legislation that would create a licensed engineering professional to review stormwater plans. Ron said that at this point, it appears that this legislation will not be progressed in this legislative session. He noted that the landscape architects had their national representative at the hearing. Jason Waterbury and Billy Cunningham will touch base with ASCE to provide assistance in the future. Ron and Tom will draft a short synopsis of the issue to be published in the next newsletter.

2.3 Construction Technical Group – Billy Cunningham is looking for ideas for construction site tours.

2.4 Next Executive Board – This will need to be assembled and then announced at the April meeting.

3. Vice-President – Sara Ramsbottom

3.1 Student Chapters/Students – Sara Ramsbottom is looking to provide assistance to the students with interviewing skills. Greg Holness and Jason Waterbury volunteered to help.

3.1.1 Student awards will be given out at the April meeting.

3.2 Continuing Education Committee – While its too late to put together a training class in preparation for the professional engineer exam, it is something that should be planned for next year.

3.2.1 Engineering/Construction Law Seminar – Greg Holness has put together a panel of lawyers to speak on March 30th. After discussion, it was decided that the charge for this half-day seminar will be $50 for members and $100 for non-members. Greg will provide a flyer for the next newsletter.

3.2.2 Post-Disaster Safety Assessment – It was decided to push this seminar to the summer or fall.
3.3 Government Engineers – Rob Barakat said he was looking for ideas to get more government engineers involved. Ron Nault asked if we could charge half price for government engineers to attend meetings. Greg Holness said he thought the issue was more with the yearly charge for ASCE membership than for the monthly meetings. After some discussion, it was decided this issue should be discussed more fully at the summer planning meeting.

4. Secretary/Administrative Assistant – Greg Holness/Amy Petrone

4.1 Meeting Minutes from Previous Meeting – Greg Holness made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the December 8, 2011 CSCE Board meeting. Rob Barakat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer – Tom Loto

5.1 Bank Account - CSCE’s bank account is at approximately $40,000 and there are no financial issues of note.

5.2 Younger Members Committee (Sara Ramsbottom) – Randy States will be speaking to students at the University of New Haven on February 21st about the history of civil engineering.

5.2.1 Attendance at Younger Member meetings is up so Sara Ramsbottom suggested the creation of an executive board to attend to Younger Member business. It was decided that the CSCE By-Laws will need to be amended and then reviewed by CSCE’s Executive Board and ASCE.

5.2.2 Jen Buchanon will be co-chair of the Younger Member committee next year, but she is looking for another co-chair to assist.

5.2.3 Sara Ramsbottom suggested that at the next ERMC in Rhode Island, CSCE send students. CSCE has not done so in the past, but ASCE will pay for a portion of the expense.

5.2.4 The golf tournament will be held on Friday, July 27th.

5.2.5 Scholarship Committee (Jim Sime) – Bob Gomez noted that from a financial perspective, he sees no reporting of the scholarship fund. There was some discussion on whether this is necessary or not, and Bob will investigate further and report back to the board.

Jim Sime provided the Board with an update on the CSCE Scholarship Fund, and his written recommendation to restructure it to be in line with Swensen’s theories of use of EFTs diversified over all sectors and rebalancing periodically. Billy Cunningham questioned whether REITs were safe. Jim said he doesn’t see REITs being the cause of the recent market issues. Greg Holness asked about the logic of changing from a 50/50 split between equities and fixed income to a 70/30 split. Jim explained that this is part of the Swensen theory. Chris Holden noted that it had been a decision of the board a long time ago to keep 50% in safe fixed income. Jason Waterbury noted that that previous decision was likely made with less investigation and knowledge than what is being recommended by Jim. After discussion, Greg Holness made a motion to enable Jim to transition the CSCE Scholarship Fund to his recommendation within a reasonable period of time, to rebalance on a monthly basis, to report all such transactions to the Board on a monthly basis, and to report back at the annual planning meeting so that discussion could occur then. Rob Barakat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Newsletter Editor – Jen Buchanon

7. Director-II – Ron Nault

7.1 Audit Committee – Ron Nault will find someone to assist CSCE with the audit/review of the books. He will nominate two persons for the Board’s consideration.

7.2 Nominating committee – Nominations due April 1st. The award will be given at the ACE Awards dinner.

8. Director-I – Rob Barakat

8.1 Past President Council – Rob Barakat has started a LinkedIn group for past presidents. He hopes to use it to discuss issues brought forth from the Board. Sara Ramsbottom and Jason Waterbury noted that the LinkedIn group should comply with ASCE social media policy.

8.2 Website Committee – Rob Barakat looked at models for advertising on CSCE.org, and stated that we could start providing crosslinks with other websites. He also noted that ASCE has a YouTube channel, so CSCE could start taking videos and post them to YouTube.

9. Open Discussion

9.1 Continuing Education for Licensed PEs – Billy Cunningham mentioned that Blaine Leonard of ASCE told him that he had heard that NSPE and ACEC were meeting with the Connecticut licensing board about making continuing education mandatory. Billy confirmed that ACEC has already met with the board. Rob Barakat said
that we discussed this topic at the planning meeting this past summer, but that there were some people very
against the idea of mandatory continuing education requirements, so the topic was tabled and Rob told NSPE
that CSCE was not going to push for it. ACEC has been able to get UConn to back the idea, so there seems to
be some steam behind it this time. Billy told ACEC that we want to be involved and Paul Brady agreed to keep
us informed. Greg Holness asked if CSCE is comfortable advocating for a mandatory continuing education
requirement, noting that a survey of members a couple years ago indicated that approximately 50% were for it
and 50% were against it. Jason Waterbury and Billy Cunningham both stressed that ASCE has a position
advocating for it, and we must follow that position. It was generally agreed that CSCE needs to be part of the
discussion so that we can influence what model Connecticut takes. Rob Barakat will coordinate with Paul
Brady going forward.

10. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.