

Minutes of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Board Meeting
September 18, 2007 – University of Connecticut, Storrs – Nathan Hale Inn – 4:30 p.m.

CSCE Members in Attendance:

Jeffrey Benoit	Greg Holness	Jay Silva
Billy Cunningham	Kiran Majmudar	James Sime
Chris Holden	Tom Roy	Leslie Smith
		Randy States

Administrative Staff:
Amy Petrone

1. President's Report (Jay Silva):

- 1.1 National Convention in Orlando, Florida - November 1-3:** Jay Silva plans to attend the convention on behalf of CSCE. Amy Petrone will check with Ron Hill to determine who plans to attend the convention on behalf of the Fairfield County Branch since CSCE can only cover the costs associated with sending one person from the Fairfield County Branch.
- 1.2 Fairfield County Branch /Budget & Allocation:** Please see item 5.1 below.
- 1.3 Programs – Speaker Gifts (ASCE Paper Weight):** This item was not discussed.
- 1.4 DFI Seminar - November 2 – Profit Sharing with DFI. Do we want to revise the agreement from last year?:** It was decided that CSCE will continue the current profit-sharing agreement for the remainder of 2007 and the CSCE Board will revisit it at the first meeting in 2008.
- 1.5 Region I Assembly & NE Council Meeting:** Billy Cunningham distributed a handout listing the highlights of these two meetings. The Board discussed the lack of an increase in dues next year, the availability of a \$75,000 merit-based grant (applications due 10/5/07) and Governor Openings in 2008 (Applications due 12/15/07).
- 1.6 Action Item List:** Jay Silva distributed a revised Action Item List, which was reviewed by the Board.
- 1.7 CSCE in the news – Minnesota Bridge Collapse:** In response to the bridge collapse, Jay Silva was interviewed for 2 AM radio programs and 2 newspaper articles (The Connecticut Post, & republished in the Willimantic Chronicle & the Newtown Bee), Kiran Majmudar was interviewed by Fox 61 News, and Tom Roy was interviewed by Channel 30.
- 1.8 Review CSCE Section/Branch Statistics from ASCE National:** Billy Cunningham reviewed the monthly statistics report distributed by ASCE. Chris Holden would like to utilize the report to recognize CSCE members who voluntarily donate to CSCE. Also, Kiran Majmudar will work with Shahvir Vimadlal to develop ways to target non-ASCE members to become ASCE members, possibly by cross-referencing this report with a list of Professional Engineers in Connecticut.

2. President-Elect's Report (Chris Holden):

- 2.1 Legislative Affairs:** Tom Roy submitted minutes from a meeting of the CSCE Legislative Affairs Committee on September 10, 2007. At that meeting, the Committee discussed the topic of surveying CSCE members via the CSCE website. He also submitted two copies of example surveys for the Board to review. Chris Holden asked that his email address be added to the distribution list for the Legislative Affairs Committee so that he may attend future Committee meetings.
 - 2.1.1 Reorganization of DOT:** This item was not discussed.
 - 2.1.2 Procedure for Legislative Alerts:** The Board reviewed a draft of the legislative alert process. Greg Holness made a motion, which was seconded by Chris Holden, to approve the process with the following modification: In item #6, the words, “within 4 hours of” will be replaced with “promptly after”. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2.2 SPAG Grant Activities:**
 - 2.2.1 Finalize Activity Report (Requested Back-up Info to Sharon Baber):** As requested by ASCE, a cancelled check was submitted to ASCE
 - 2.2.2 Ideas for this year (Deadline (Nov 2):** After a discussion about the upcoming release of a report card on infrastructure in New Jersey, Chris Holden made a motion that was seconded by Tom Roy to (1) submit a small SPAG grant application outlining an initial phase of a report card on infrastructure in Connecticut and (2) submit a large SPAG grant application to support the Connecticut OPAL awards. The motion passed unanimously. Jay Silva suggested that CSCE contact Governor Rell's office and “Keep Connecticut Moving” to obtain their support for a Connecticut report card on infrastructure.

2.3 Geotechnical, Construction, Structures Technical Groups

2.3.1 October Meeting – Science Center Tour & Presentation: A tour and presentation at the Science Center will precede the October CSCE Board meeting.

2.3.2 STG Seminar – November 15: Leslie Smith will finalize the details of this seminar.

2.4 Water Resources: The Water for People Golf Tournament held on September 11th was well attended.

3. Vice-President's Report:

3.1 Public Relations - CT OPAL Awards Planning: See Item 2.2.2 Above.

3.2 Student Chapter Meeting:

3.2.1 Steel Bridge Competition: This item was not discussed.

3.2.2 UNH Concrete Canoe Donation Request: Billy Cunningham made a motion for CSCE to donate \$500 to the University of New Haven for their concrete canoe. The motion was seconded by Greg Holness and passed unanimously.

3.2.3 Three Rivers Community Technical College (Meeting w/ Randy & Billy): Billy Cunningham and Randy States met with Professor Diba Khan-Bureau to discuss the possible discontinuation of the civil engineering program at this college. They would like to survey the CSCE members regarding the civil engineering program at the college and what people know about the college. It was decided that Randy States should also email Tom Roy and Professor Khan-Bureau regarding a project at the state level. It was also noted that ASCE no longer accepts student clubs, only student chapters.

3.3 Government Engineers: This item was not discussed.

3.4 Career Guidance - CCIA Construction Career Days - October 2nd & 3rd: Kiran Majmudar & Billy Cunningham will be coordinating the CSCE effort at this event. The UCONN Steel Bridge Club will display the steel bridge used in last year's competition. CSCE is looking for volunteers to assist. The CSCE Banner needs to be obtained from Jason Waterbury.

3.5 Continuing Education: See Item 2.3.2 Above.

4. Secretary's Report:

4.1 Dedicated CSCE Phone for Amy: Amy Petrone submitted a list of costs for obtaining a dedicated phone line for CSCE. The Board reviewed the list and decided to defer action on this item until the CSCE budget has been finalized.

4.2 Membership Committee: See Item 1.8 Above.

4.3 CSCE Roster to National: Amy Petrone will submit this information to ASCE by September 29, 2007.

5. Treasurer's Report:

5.1 Draft Budget Review: After a brief review of the draft budget submitted by Rob Barakat, the Board members decided to review the budgets submitted by Rob Barakat (for CSCE) and Ron Hill (for the Fairfield Branch) and email any comments on them to Rob or Ron as soon as possible. It was also decided that Rob Barakat and Ron Hill should submit revised budgets based on those comments two weeks after the September Board meeting so that Board members can review them and be ready to vote on the budgets at the October Board meeting on October 17th.

5.2 Future Leaders: This item was not discussed.

5.3 Scholarship Committee Report: Jim Sime submitted a report on the status of the CSCE Scholarship Fund and a Bob Brinker's Marketimer Newsletter (dated 9/6/07). Jim Sime recommended that there be no change in the portfolio at this time. If there are deposits in the future, he recommends that they be deposited into the Equities or Growth portion of the portfolio.

5.4 Expense Report Form developed by Tom Roy: Billy Cunningham made a motion, which was seconded by Greg Holness, to approve the CSCE Expense Report form developed and submitted by Tom Roy with

minor corrections. The motion passed unanimously. Tom Roy will forward an electronic copy of the form to Amy Petrone for inclusion in the CSCE Operations Manual.

6. Newsletter Editor:

6.1 Newsletter delivery method – any complaints?: There has been a generally positive response to the change in newsletter delivery method. Billy Cunningham will forward the email addresses of the Region I Governors to Greg Holness for inclusion in the email distribution list for future newsletters.

6.1.1 Paper Post card Delivery: This item was not discussed.

7. Director-I:

7.1 Webmaster:

7.1.1 Review of Web Hosting options to gain more control of website: Jay Silva obtained two quotes from local web hosting companies and discussed them with the Board. Tom Roy made a motion, which was seconded by Greg Holness to change the web hosting to Quasars at a cost of \$10/month for a one year contract. The motion passed unanimously.

7.1.2 Review website content: This item was not discussed.

7.2 CSCE Ad Sponsorship - Region I Website: This item was not discussed.

8. Director-II - Audit (internal/external): This item was not discussed.

9. New Business

9.1 Donation to Professor Jack Stephens Scholarship Fund:

On Monday, August 6, 2007, UConn Professor Jack Stephens passed away. He was Past President of CSCE (1967-1968), and a Benjamin Wright Award recipient (1989). On August 10, 2007, Tom Roy made a motion via email to donate \$500 to the Professor Jack Stephens Scholarship Fund. The motion was seconded via email by Rob Barakat. The following Board members voted in favor of the motion via email: Tom Roy, Ron Nault, Chris Holden, Rob Barakat, and Jay Silva. These members represent a majority of the Board and the motion passed.

10. Adjournment: Billy Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m., which was seconded by Greg Holness. The motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the CSCE Board is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at the University of Hartford at 4:30 p.m.