

## Meeting Minutes

### Maine Section ASCE Board of Directors January 18, 2007 Hilton Garden Inn Freeport, Maine

Role: Executive Board:

Peter Merfeld, President	Present
Tim Merritt, President-Elect	Present
Erik Wiberg, Vice-President	Present
Chris Taylor, Secretary	Absent
Walter Fagerlund, Treasurer & Co-Editor	Absent
Patti Korbet, Director & Co-Editor	Present
Ralph Nelson, Director	Present
Jeremy Bragg, NE Delegate	Present
Scott Gorneau, NE Delegate	Present
Bob Chaput, Past President	Present

Other Attendees:

Phil Dunn, Awards Chair  
Be Schonewald, former Past-President  
Jen Tooley, Younger Member Chair  
Lynn Farrington, Younger Member Group

1. Welcome. Peter Merfeld welcomed everybody.
2. Board Meeting Minutes  
Minutes for November 16, 2006 board meeting were presented. Minutes unanimously approved.
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Walter not present, no treasurer's report provided, tabled until next meeting or by email. Walter did get in touch with Peter and indicated all is well financially.
4. Committees
  - a. Government Relations / Legislative Task Force (Be / Jeremy)
    - Legislative fly-in scheduled for March 7 & 8, 2007, nobody going at this point. Legislature is in session, many bills to consider, Judith Harvie is reviewing and will pass relevant bills onto the A/E Task Force, that will meet on 2/2/07 @ Senator in Augusta. A/E Task Force invoice for \$700 submitted by Be to Walter, check cut next week.
    - SPAG application for Transportation Funding campaign approved for \$3750, Peter is continuing to follow up and invite others to participate.
    - Revisions to Architect/Landscape Architect statute looked good at last reading. PE Board is happy that our comments were addressed. Board decided to remain neutral, neither for nor against. Peter to write letter indicating that we reviewed and our comments were addressed before 2/2/07.
  - b. Membership (Bob)  
Seek out non-members at meetings and talk to.
  - c. Public Relations (Tim)
    - Tim has contact info for Jim Wilson and others organizing the A/E Golf Tourney (June 8<sup>th</sup>), will begin discussions soon.
    - Tim passed a list of public outreach/community service project ideas drawn from material received at the national conference and by reviewing national's public service award recipients on the web page. Indicated that he would like to do 1 project in April +/-, in addition to the West Point Bridge effort and the A/E Golf Tourney. Younger Member group is doing the Rebuilding Together project in

greater Portland area in April. It was acknowledged that the Section is already doing many things this spring. The board discussed possibly hooking up with Vinal Applebee to do Habitat for Humanity in the fall. Scott Gorneau indicated that he does a charity event each year by entering a team into Maine Handicap Skiing (ski-a-thon) at Sunday River on 3/24/07. He agreed that the Section could field a team under him. Board thought this was a great idea. Tim to write an article on the "Virtues of Volunteer Service" for the Feb or March Informant.

- National has good material on issuing press releases (post-event) and media advisories (pre-event). A good tip was to id reporters that commonly write on topics related to civil engineering (construction, math/science education, infrastructure, etc.). Tim asked everybody to email him with any names of reporters that they notice writing these pieces and he will begin compiling a list.
- d. Program Committee – see schedule of events.
- i. Monthly Meetings (Erik)
    - February 15<sup>th</sup> will be on porous pavements @ Governor's in South Portland.
    - March 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting only at MTA @ 5PM.
    - March 28<sup>th</sup> is Tech Seminar in Lewiston.
    - April 19<sup>th</sup> is the joint meeting with the student chapter.
    - April 26<sup>th</sup> board meeting only at MTA @ 5PM.
    - May 17<sup>th</sup> is Annual meeting topic may be on the Mars Hill wind farm project, at Muddy Rudder in Brewer. Back-up topic would be the Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C. by Alan Fisher of Cianbro. Board discussed virtues of each. There has been some press on wind project in Bangor area, but not huge amount. Some were concerned about having 2 meetings in a row in Bangor area, may make sense to move May meeting to south. Group discussed other items for meeting like potential tour or cruise and golf.
  - ii. E-Week (Erik)

SPAG for \$3,563 approved. Will do West Point Bridge demo with SEAM joining ASCE potentially. Set up own booth side by side. Use projector and laptops.
  - iii. Technical Seminar (Patti)
    - Program committee met last week to finalize contract, pricing, details. Patti had subsequent discussions with PSMJ and slightly revised the registration fees and the advertising brochure. Should be signing contract next week and get formal advertising into the February Informant. PSMJ will advertise to their general mailing list as well. We will advertise to all engineering groups, add AIA to the list.
    - Topic is project management with the PSMJ speaker. Their 2-day PM Bootcamp has been compressed into 1 day content.
    - Board expressed some concern for higher than usual registration fees (\$150 members, \$200 non-members). PSMJ's 2 day seminar is usually \$1000-\$1500 and not offered locally.
- e. Younger Members (Jen)
- Jen and a few more people will continue to try to get group Red Sox tickets. A bowling night was held and was successful with 8 bowlers. Next happy hour is planned for 2/8 @ 6pm @ Sebago Brewing in the Old Port. March 22 will be the financial planning seminar. YM Group will do Rebuilding Together in April and trying to do a PE webinar in February.
- f. Scholarship (Leslie) Waiting for applications, none yet, deadline is 1/31.
- g. Awards (Phil) Nothing to report, advertise in Feb Informant.
- h. School age (K-12) Outreach (Jeremy)
  - West Point Bridge local contest-moving forward with demo at E-week and then run contest through April. Send flyer to high school science/math teachers, Jeremy will send draft to board

soon. We can use the Boston Section web page and link to it. Jeremy will contact Kathy Kern regarding company sponsors to put towards cash prizes.

- i. Website (Ralph) No discussion
  - j. Newsletter (Patti / Walter) Items due by Jan 22.
  - k. History & Heritage (Greg) No Discussion
  - l. Maine DEP Task Force (Kathy/Dave K) Dave passed on info to Peter. Not much to report, don't have any issues on the front burner. Will be meeting again on 1/26, agenda may include a DEP training video on oil storage tanks. Planning to invite someone from Commissioner's Office to brief us on new legislative initiatives. The Task Force is always interested in hearing from members who have issues they would like to bring before the Task Force.
  - m. Nominating Committee (Bob) Bill Scott back in Maine and has expressed interest in coming back to board, but not at entry level. He left as Secretary.
  - n. Student Chapter (Eric) No discussion.
5. Old Business
- a. By-Law Change Status  
Peter will hand out by-laws and ballots at tonight's meeting, will be on-line by Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. SEAM/SEI Technical Group Status – See below.
  - c. Region 1 – Next regional meeting is March 25<sup>th</sup> in Sturbridge, MA. Jeremy & Peter will attend. Workshop for Region 1 & 2 in Princeton, NJ, Jan. 26-27. Patti, Scott, and Lynn Farrington (YM) have signed up.
6. New Business – Discussion on Diversity-Peter has discussed this with Jen Paul at MDOT. She has volunteered to get involved on the Section's behalf and will coordinate a meeting between ASCE, MDOT, UMaine, Dept of Labor, and Women's Unlimited. Maybe have committee and get more involved in '08 E-week activities.
7. Joint board meeting with SEAM – Todd Neal, SEAM President and Ethan Rhile, SEAM Secretary present. Tim gave brief history of the discussions to make SEAM the Maine Section's local representation of SEI. There has been concerns for SEAM members having to pay SEI dues and vice versa. Tim has tried to get info from national on how this has been done in other states, with no luck. There are about a 100 SEI members in the Maine Section and there seems to be some overlap in membership with SEAM, but not all. Our SEI members are not very active in Section events and are likely only SEI members because paid members get one Institute membership free. SEAM does not see any benefit in doing this formally, but has interest in continuing our joint efforts informally. The Maine Section board members that are structural will continue informing SEAM of SEI efforts, plan joint meetings, use SEI for local structural seminars, etc.

Minutes prepared by Tim Merritt