



## **Maine Section ASCE Portland, Maine March Board Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Peter Hedrich, Gorrill Palmer (Guest), Lynn Farrington (Younger Member rep), Be Schonewald (Past President), Patti Korbet (1<sup>st</sup> yr Director), Scott Gorneau (1<sup>st</sup> yr NE Delegate), Tim Merritt (President Elect), Peter Merfeld (President), Erik Wiberg (Vice President), Ralph Nelson (2<sup>nd</sup> yr Director), Maria Fuentes, MBTA (Guest)  
**Not present:** Chris Taylor (Secretary), Bob Chaput (Past President), Jeremy Bragg (2<sup>nd</sup> yr NE Delegate), Phil Dunn (Awards Chair), Walter Fagerlund (Treasurer)

1. Welcome at 5 pm

2. Maria Fuentes, Executive Director of MBTA was introduced. She discussed the Transportation Infrastructure issues. Maria provided information on the Maine Transportation Funding Coalition that Maine Section ASCE is a member:

- Membership is diverse.
- 2 years ago – smallest bond ever
- Last 2 years – no bond

Maria presented a power point presentation “Can We Coast Much Longer?”

- Poor pavement is trending up.
- See Maine Development Foundation report – index for Poor Roads.
- MDF Calls for transportations as one of top 4 issues facing the State.
  - Bridge Bubble – 80 year old bridges – 30 years will quadruple
  - 288 bridges posted – no money to rehab.
- MaineDOT needs to go from 14 to 37 bridges per year for rehabilitation to maintain the number of 80 + years old bridges as the same number (avoid the bubble).
- Polling numbers – public supports transportation infrastructure spending, safety is number one concern.
- Bad roads cost money - \$263 million/year for auto repairs.
- Alternative Transportation (rail, pedestrian access, bicycles), Airports, SeaPorts all in need of improvements for various reasons, all require funding that currently does not exist
- LD781 – MBTA, ACM all testified opposed - \$200 million cut last 2 years, this budget is all ready \$85 million less than last year.

## **Regular Board meeting commenced at 6:20 pm**

3. A motion was made and seconded to approve the **minutes** from the February meeting with the amendment to section 4a.
4. A motion was made and seconded to accept the **treasurer's report**.
5. **Committees:**
  - a. Legislative Task Force: Be – announced breakfast April 3<sup>rd</sup> ACM, AIA, ACEC with legislators. A motion was made and passed for Peter and Be to craft a letter opposing LD781 on technical grounds (inadequate program, need to amend to include additional funding). Motion passed.  
Tabled Dennis Damon bill (new summary – Maria handed out) for discussion next time or by email. Also, see discussion under Old Business relative to Landscape Architect bill
  - b. There was no membership report.
  - c. Public Relations/Community Service – Tim handed out Pledge forms for ASCE ski team – Maine Handicap Skiing. Travis Noyes taking over the golf tourney – need sponsors.
  - d. Program Committee: Erik – May meeting will be Penobscot Narrows Bridge which is an OCEA finalist – Tom Doe presenter.
    - Invite Congressman Mike Michaud & Commissioner David Cole, bus tour to bridge – Cyr Bus, check with FIG to sponsor.
    - E-week Expo – 1200+ people, very successfulTechnical Seminar- registrations coming in strong. Decided no speaker at lunch.
  - e. Younger Members
    - Rebuilding Day – need members to Sign up!
    - Red Sox \$85 each (includes bus)- next Informant
    - Happy hour Lost Bear April 12<sup>th</sup>
    - PE class happening at DOT & Devine Tarbell
    - Financial Planning Seminar March 22 at MTA office
  - f. Scholarship – 14 being reviewed.
  - g. Awards due mid April.
  - h. School age (K-12) Outreach, see report. Web site up, teams registering, e-week booth a big hit,
  - i. Website – Ralph is updating- great job.
  - j. Newsletter – color newsletter instead of heavy paper newsletter?, cost of job ads – figure out cost to go to 2 pages, divide by 3 and that is the charge. Patti to provide more details and we will review next time.
  - k. History & Heritage – Westbrook Jr. High request the use of digital image of canal system. Motion was made and passed. Get copy to Ralph.
    - Greg – plaque, do we need another?
  - l. Maine DEP Task Force – no report.
  - m. Nominating Committee – see ballots.
  - n. Student Chapter – no report.

o. Diversity Committee – no report.

**6. Old Business:**

- a. Constitution/Bylaw changes, bring to technical seminar – announce and read summary sheet. Provide again in April and May and determine status from there
- b. LA LD- new version from Steve Ribble is in hand. Last chance for revisions. Peter & Be will review and provide letter.

**7. New Business:**

- a. Lynn is student practitioner.
- b. Robyn Kemper visit – ride schedule from Portland. Lynn will provide ride.

DRAFT