

**Maine Section ASCE
January Board Meeting
January 17, 2008
Hilton Garden Inn
Freeport, Maine**

ATTENDEES:

Tim Merritt, President
Chris Taylor, Vice President
Walter Fagerlund, Secretary (by phone)
Ralph Nelson, Treasurer
Patti Korbet, Director Year 2 (by phone)
Scott Gorneau, NE Delegate Year 2
Jen Tooley, NE Delegate Year 1
Lynn Farrington, Newsletter Editor
Jeremy Bragg, Outreach Committee
Peter Merfeld, Past President
Bob Chaput, Past President
Be Schonewald, Past President
Ethan Rhile, SEAM
Mark Gray, SEAM

MINUTES:

1. Meeting Start
2. **November Board Meeting Minutes.** (Walter) – **Minutes approved unanimously.**
3. **Treasurer's Report** (Ralph) – **Report approved unanimously.**
 - a. Good cash on hand right now due to SPAG grants and section allotment. Temporary dip below \$15k prior to that due to Landmarks brochure printing and YM red sox tix purchase. We should try to stay above \$15k if at all possible by trying to time the large disbursements we have control over. In '07 the huge dip below \$15k in late Feb was likely before trans conf receipts and around the time of large disbursement to PSMJ for tech seminar, somewhat unique situation.
 - b. \$3500 MEPC sponsorship should come out of #80 and go into #96, as it comes straight out of the SPAG grants. #80 is for E-week booth & advertising, Rebuilding Together, etc.
 - c. Consider raising Section dues based on remittance info from Ralph at summer planning meeting, survey membership for support on election ballots.
 - d. E-week booth registration? There was discussion regarding MEPC booth fee and the need to register. Also need to register for MEPC banquet. Notify Be for the banquet attendees.
 - e. Outstanding job by Ralph, new presentation format is great for making budget/spending decisions.
4. Maine Section/Region 1/National events calendar (Tim)
 - a. **YM Group and Web page award deadlines** – Feb 1/June 1 – **YM group to submit.**
 - b. **Legislative Fly-In, DC, March 5-6; Phil and Walter attending, Nationals paying travel stipend for both.**
 - i. 3 of 4 legislators will be available
 - ii. Walter is following up with Phil to prepare

5. Committees

a. **Government Relations / Legislative Task Force** (Be/Peter/Phil / Jeremy)

- Legislative Fly-In – We should try to sell Report Card to our federal legislators, take NH sample. Invite them to our meetings. Mention Engineers in Classrooms effort. Phil should brief Walter on what to expect.
- Any news yet from A/E Task Force on proposed bills?
- Bill discussions
- **Discussion of the Task force.**
 - **Meeting next Tuesday to discuss resolve 486.**
 - **Position papers being submitted by other societies (SEAM, AIA, AGC).**
 - **Be will continue to monitor.**

b. **Program Committee** (Chris, Erik, Patti)

i. Monthly meetings (Chris):

Budget: Currently breaking even for year, budgeted \$600 loss in first half, \$2000 for year.
January will be ~\$450-500 loss. Split with SEAM.

Jan 17: Air Force Memorial in DC – Joe Orlando, Cianbro
Freeport – Hilton Garden Joint meeting with SEAM

Feb 21: Salt water marsh restoration at Sherman Lake in Edgcomb, Charlie Hebson, MDOT
Augusta – Senator Inn Joint meeting with Society of Women Engineers

- Also USM professor anticipated

Mar 20: Technical Seminar; Renewable Energy and Infrastructure

Lewiston – Ramada

- Topic set
- Mars Hill, Lnadfill gas energy, waste to biofuel, Peter Report Card at lunch, Kleinschmidt dams, Ellen Katrina volunteer, E-W highway, MN bridge project, Bob geotech backup presentation
- Pricing - \$85 for members,
- Flyer for Informant
- **Patti presented the details for the seminar**
 - **Topic is Energy and Infrastructure.**
 - **Presentations to include Mars Hill, Tidal Power, gas to energy project, Waste to biofuel.**
 - **Lunch is the ASCE Report card. Afternoon is dam safety, infrastructure, Cianbro to discuss East west highway. Potentially for using Bob's geothermal presentation as backup.**
 - **Looking to keep meeting Registration fees around \$80 for early registrants. Discussion of fees and costs. Consideration for member – non member fee structure.**

Apr 16: Student Chapter led meeting; ASCE Executive Director, Pat Natale to do Order of Engineer ring ceremony in Orono

May 15: Annual Meeting

Location TBD, possibly Hilton in Auburn or Saltwater Grille in S. Portland

Ideas being considered:

- Skip technical presentation to allow more time for social activities, award presentations and other business
- Order of the Engineer ceremony
- Make it a more formal, fun event at a venue other than the usuals,
- Invite wives & husbands,

- Instead of having a technical presentation do a short, fun presentation. I'm thinking something historical from Maine - Greg??
- To go with the historical, fun theme do a 'slide rule competition' for each table with prizes.
- Offer a challenge to the regular firms to send the most employees/members with a prize for the employees attending.
- Do the usual awards but also add a few YM sponsored awards - maybe the most innovative project of the year and the Community Service award?
- Obviously this will all cost a little more - maybe we could get companies to sponsor tables with their advertisements on them? Possibly sell hats or polo shirts as a fundraiser?

May annual meeting still in planning.

- **Chris is looking at some options for some other formats, for “fun” and non-technical presentations. In recent meetings the tech presentations have been a little rushed due to schedule.**
- **Chris was looking at the Hilton in Auburn, and the Saltwater Grille. Holiday Inn by the Bay, however prices are a little high.**
- **Interest from the YM to try to help with the meetings as a part of their award criteria, and to create more appeal to YM’s.**

Chris also suggested including with annual election ballots a survey RE: meetings.

- **Locations, times, cost, topics, etc. to get feedback from membership**

ii. **E-Week (Erik)**

Booth?? Material for Informant/web page?

- **Could be NASCAR engineering related topic**
- **Save the date already included, other material is not ready yet for the Informant**

iii. **Transportation Conference (Tim/Peter)**

- Huge success except nobody really worked our booth much, including the students.
- Casey Dinges (ASCE) keynote was well received; Eva Lerner-Lam won the Max Wilder speaker award.
- Peter made announcement on Report Card and got several volunteers.

iv. **Technical Seminar (Patti/Sarah)**

- See above.

v. **Special Programs – Jeremy mentioned trying to do another seminar with SEAM like Blodgett’s Welding seminar.**

c. **Infrastructure Report Card (Peter)**

SPAG Application was accepted and the full \$3000 requested was granted. We will have this for printing, mailing and reception costs later in the year. I followed up from last meeting I sent out a dozen or so requests to individuals that I thought would be important to include. I provided the minutes from last meetings (soon to be on Maine web site), the Guide (http://www.asce.org/files/pdf/govrel/Local_Report_Cards_Guide_12-04.pdf) as well as NH section and Nationals card (these two links available on Maine web site). I did take advantage of the Transportation Conference this past December. Casey Dinges, Government Relations Manager for ASCE Nationals was keynote and spoke about Report Card. I took the opportunity to stand up and announce that section is creating a local card and folks interested need to let me know. I had many people come up to me after. I have been collecting information and have created a 5 inch thick 3 ring binder. We are well on our way but still need Champions and resources in many areas.

- **Peter reported progress.**
- **Minutes are posted on the website**
- **A few areas still need champions – see minutes.**
 - **Aviation, dams, parks, schools, rail, security**

d. Nominating (Peter)

Tim provided me with some suggestions. We need to have some names for the ballot so we can vote on at March meeting (I need several Past Presidents to participate in this- Be, Bob!!) so we can include in the April Informant. So I need to know if any vacancies will be occurring in next several weeks so I can propose a list of names at February meeting and we can final vote at March and report to President.

- Ballot by March meeting
- Letter to be sent to all subscribing members (can be electronic)
- Patti to provide Lynn/Lauren with previous ballot

e. **Membership** (Peter)

I have been researching membership data and trying to explore different avenues to take (published the unedited list of the top companies with members in late December). I was able to meet with Bruce Van Note and Chip Getchell at DOT to discuss DOT members. They agreed that a Pizza Luncheon to promote ASCE would be appropriate and we should schedule for their main conference room and invite DOT personnel. I will coordinate for March or April most likely and will need volunteers to come in and speak on benefits of membership. We will need to make sure we are on top of our mailing/gift to May grads from U.Maine as well (possibly do something at April meeting). I also can report we are number one in new recruits in our region (I sent an email).

- **Focus has been on DOT to start, some others**
- **Some work has been done to look into membership data**
- **Peter has been researching membership statistics. Identified that Maine is a leading section in recruitment. Planning an ASCE luncheon to present involvement.**
- **Discussion of gifts from UMaine graduating engineering students.**

f. Public Relations (Erik)

- See Erik's report including the media outlet flowchart.
- Focus on reporter database and Report Card PR.
- PR committee chair should be a standing position?
- Join Maine Public Promotion Council and subscribe to MaineBusiness.com????
- **Need to get word out to public.**
 - **Letters to the editors are a very effective communication tool with the public. The editorial page is the most read page in any paper. Erik recommended setting up a timeline to incrementally increase awareness of the Infra report card.**
 - **Erik had limited success in previous press releases and had talking with some other PR professionals. Membership in other media groups, which give you access to more media and assist in distributing releases and information. Erik recommended that the board setup a standing committee to create continuity, as the PR has a learning curve, and will assist in communication.**
 - **Erik plans on participating in the report card committee and helping with some of the PR aspects.**

g. **Student Outreach/West Point** (Jeremy)

- Large SPAG applied for; Engineers in Classrooms campaign in conjunction with E-week & West Point Bridge Design Contest; \$7,000; granted in full amount!!! \$3500 goes to MEPC sponsorship.
- West Point contest should be launched electronically by end of week. Hard copy mailing to go out by end of month.
 - Jeremy just waiting on code from West Point to start
 - Ralph ready to set website
- Small brainstorming session to be scheduled for initiating a pre-engineering curriculum at Deering High School. Have developed a list of potential attendees.
- Met with Tad Johnston (Mathematics Specialist & Regional Representative Maine Department of Education) who is interested in Engineers into Classrooms initiative. He will be connecting us with other members of the Dept. of Education.

- Presentation to be given at high school class in Biddeford on January 25th (Lynn's boss will be presenting). He will be providing feedback.
 - STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) summit in Augusta on January 24th. Will attend to see how state efforts can be married with ASCE effort in terms of engineering outreach.
 - Meeting on January 28th with Pat Hinckley, who is the associate director of professional development at Cianbro but also has a strong resume in engineering and organization. Pat is excited about outreach initiative and should have good advice if not an active role.
 - Will be meeting in near future with outreach committee members from BSCE and Rhode Island ASCE to discuss ideas and potential joint efforts.
 - Working with Steve Cole to mesh MEPC speaker's bureau with Engineers into Classrooms
 - Initial effort for Engineer into Classrooms brochure begin this month
 - Effort will be made to establish a date for brainstorming session in April or May, as well as looking for a facilitator.
 - Hoping to find someone to take over effort of obtaining sponsors for West Point contest.
 - **Patti volunteered to help out based on her experience with model contest**
 - Considering possibility of holding committee meetings as needed. **Need volunteers.**
 - **Maybe online forum or similar – looking for suggestions**
 - **A teacher from Deering contacted Jeremy to start a pre-engineering program. Scarborough MS looking at engineering program. Be mentioned Deb Augustine who used to be a teacher and might be a great resource.**
- h. Student Chapter (Eric/Lynn)
- Job fair update?
- i. Younger Members (Jen/Lynn/Lauren)
- **PE class venue??** Need a volunteer for the PE course venue, starting Feb 19. We have 5 or 6 people signed up so far. 12 Sessions on 3 PM to 5 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Rescheduled the skating event.
 - Recent and upcoming events?
 - **Dale Carnegie training next week Seminar next Wednesday at the Dale Carnegie and 15 people have signed up.**
 - Red Sox tix
 - **July 11th, 7:05 pm against Baltimore**
 - Hockey tix raffle
 - The Committee wants to get more involved with helping with meetings setup. There are not any plans for a student job fair.
- j. Awards (Phil)
- We decided to create Maine Section PR or Volunteer award at last board meeting. Need award criteria established by early 2008 for May award. **Tim will ask Phil to draft.**
- k. Newsletter (Lynn/Lauren)
- **1/20 deadline for Feb Informant submission. Need filler material?? Should put in I-35W interim report letter, tech seminar ad, west point kick off, E-week info, Report Card champion needs.**
 - **Should we distribute our Small Section of Year application along with e-Informant and post on web to illustrate value of local Section Dues??**
- l. Web page (Ralph)
- **Need to update upcoming meeting info.**
 - Activity with the website; We've had 719 unique visits to the website since November

14, 2008 with the destinations primarily focusing on the main page, career opps page, file downloads, bridge contest, and the informant.

- Other updates include;
 - Updated the Career page with the recent advertisements, plus the **22 student resumes**. Surprisingly, one of the resumes was from a student attending a university in California.
 - Added a new section on the front page, which is current news relating to engineering and political activity. **I'd appreciate anyone forwarding along pertinent articles.**
 - Updated the YM page to include the upcoming events, Dale Carnegie and the Ice skating.
 - Added the 2006-07 annual report,
 - Added the 2007 web and section award logo, and
 - Cleared outdated items to archive pages.
- Upcoming Items
 - Award page, or adding a list of Section awards to the Awards Committee page
 - Bridge Contest
 - Need an announcement of the recent awards for the front page
 - Honorable Mention – Diversity
 - Outstanding Section
 - Section web

m. History & Heritage (Greg)

- **Status of dam applicataions? Wyman Dam? Bangor water tower?**
- We have received 4,000 more Landmarks brochures, distributed to Maine Tourism and Turnpike, kept 100 to pass out to members at meetings or as requested (Tim has).
- **Need to find co-chair** for Greg to better progress potential Landmark applications

n. Maine DEP Task Force (Kathy K/Dave K)

No recent news

o. Scholarship (Leslie)

Received a couple scholarship applications so far, but that is normal because I usually do not receive the bulk of them until the end of the month.

n. Diversity (Jen)

Jt mtg with SWE in February

6. Old Business

Tim attended National Conference and Council of Presidents. Theme was Infrastructure Planning, Design, Sustainability, and Maintenance. Most technical sessions were on items of interest to Central Florida, such as smart/planned growth in fully developed/sustainable communities, major transportation corridor planning involving all modes, the save the Everglades water quality/hydrology effort. ASCE leaders talked a lot about sustaining the public trust after events like Katrina, Big Dig tunnel collapse, and I-35W bridge collapse, the 2025 CE Vision, political involvement, ASCE is entering the green house gas/ global warming arena for the first time, plans to revamp web page in 18-24 months, etc.

Ideas:

- Survey membership on what we are doing well or not well
- Some Sections are using professional MC's for their annual banquet type meetings, dresses things up a bit, more time management, everybody enjoys the meeting.

- Some Sections have created an annual Student Award that they give to a deserving student chapter member.
- A lot of Sections have Board/Committee Chair name tags that they wear to meetings
- Life Member Forums are becoming popular
- We need to work with state PE board and UMaine on Policy 465, changes/clarifications have been made based on feedback and revised Policy is due out in Jan '08

7. New Business –

- Any further comments on **Region 1 Bylaw revisions?**
 - **Discussion about Region 1, without comments from the board. Most of the communication and email chain had addressed most of our concerns. Tim will convey to Tony Puntin that we have no other comments.**
- Maine Section won Small Section Award, Small Section Web Page Award, and Honorable Mention from the Committee on Diversity and Women in Civil Engineering (based on our Small Section application, no formal criteria).
- Highlights of Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders (Ralph, Sarah, Lauren)???
- **Resolve 46 Draft Proposal** by the Business, Research and Economic Development (BRED) Committee of the Legislature. SEAM taking the lead and if passed will nominate the structural engineer that will sit on the Technical Building Codes Board. Objectives are:
 - To reduce the cost of designing and permitting for new construction and rehab of existing and historic buildings
 - To improve public safety, accessibility, quality of construction and energy efficiency while reducing uncertainty and risk for lenders, consumers and insurers
 - To identify a process of building related codes administration that provides the appropriate scale and scope of building regulation for Maine.
 - **Ethan Rhile from SEAM: Resolve 46 committee has received SEAM comments pretty well and is still accepting comments. AIA position paper is not on the cimittee website yet. SEAM is reaching out to form coalitions on the code. Mark Gray was also present. Tim commented that it is pretty early in the process and the board had not taken a formal postion. Our feeling is that as it moves forward ASCE would support SEAM as the group to nominate.**