

ACE
ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION ENGINEERS

ACE ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING
October 22, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

The ACE annual general business meeting was held by as part of the ACE 2020 Virtual Conference. The meeting started at 8:00 am and was then suspended and restarted at 4:00 PM central standard time on October 22, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Howard at 4:8:00 PM and roll was taken.

Review of minutes from 2019 ACE annual conference business meeting: The 2019 ACE Secretary changed jobs after the conference and the meeting minutes were lost and not submitted for approval.

President's Report: ACE President, Howard Thomas submitted the following report:

2020 has been a challenging year, we have all heard the same phrases such as how "How everything is unprecedented."; "How this is the new normal."; or we have all experienced how new changes in the way things are being done are blamed on COVID. We have all had to learn to adapt how we have done things, how we have had to interact and relate with one another, and how we do our work. Now for the first time we are experiencing it with the ACE 2020 Virtual Conference. As the year progressed, the board had to transition from planning an onsite conference in Wyoming, to discussing if we thought we should proceed with the onsite conference, to making the decision that it would not be wise to proceed, to discussing if and how to plan a virtual conference, to planning the virtual conference, finally to where we are today, jumping into the world wide web and hosting our first virtual conference. It is mine and the boards hope that next year things can return much closer to normal and we will host an onsite conference here in Missouri that will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Association of Conservation Engineers. But we also hope that what we have gone through in 2020 will help us as an organization to expand and grow and that all future conferences can have an virtual component to make participation in ACE easier and more accessible to many more engineers and others in related disciplines who work with the natural environment.

2020 has defiantly been a tough and challenging year, but I read something that was posted in social media recently that helped give me perspective. "..., imagine that you were born in 1900. When you are 14, World War I starts and then ends on your 18th birthday with 22 million people killed. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until you are 20. Fifty million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million. When you're 29, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, global GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. When you're 41, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war and the Holocaust kills six million. At 50, the Korean War starts, and five million perish. At 55 the Vietnam War begins, and it doesn't end for 20 years. Four million people die in that conflict. Approaching your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, could well have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening. As you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How do you survive all of that? A kid in 1985 didn't think their 85-year-old grandparent understood how hard school was...." Yet many had to struggle to live, work, raise families during all of the things listed above. Perspective is an amazing

art. Let's try and keep things in perspective. Let's be smart, help each other out, and we hopefully we can all work together to get through our current challenges.

My sympathies go out to anyone that have lost a job, a loved one or has been adversely affected by the crises that we have endured thus far in 2020. But that is our lot in life to toil and struggle to make a living in this imperfect and sinful world and then to eventually die. We are all a breath away from death and it could come anytime. What is important is how we live the life that we have been given, that we live it to love and serve other, and that we make the right choices concerning our eternity while we are still alive.

Meeting was suspended for conference program and restarted at 4:00 pm:

Report of the Secretary:

Report of the Treasurer: 2019-year end Treasurer's report was submitted by Mattheuw Prenger and approved as submitted. Matt also presented an informational report on the 2020 transactions to date but no report was submitted for approval by the membership.

Bylaws Committee – Natalie Little and Tom Hohman – Nothing to report, still working on non-profit status.

Membership Committee – Terry Boyd completed phone calls and emails. Need to start promoting membership earlier in the year.

Awards Committee: There were two submittals for the 2020 ACE awards and the winners of the ACE 2020 Carl V. Anderson Project Engineering Awards are as follows;

Award of Excellence

Project Name - Fisheating Creek Flood Resistant Prototype Structure

Owner – Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

Consultant – G.M. Hill Engineering, Inc.

Project Category – Special Projects

Award of Merit

Project Name – Kankakee River Flood and Sediment Management Plan

Owner – Kankakee River Yellow River Basin Development Commission

Consultant – Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC

Project Category – Studies/Research Program

History Committee: Terry Boyd no report

Program Committee: Loren Woodin - gets an ata boy did an excellent job. Howard was a big help with the speakers. Ata boy to Autumn and Genevieve from Meetings Northwest, Big Thankyou to Genevieve.

Past Presidents: Holly Bentz no report

Scholarship Committee: Matt Prenger report - We had students join this year, we had no scholarship applicants this year.

Special Communications/Social Media Committee: Inactive, no report, Loren has access to Facebook page will try to add highlights on site this upcoming year.

Publications and Newsletters: Terry Boyd, sent 2 Newsletters in 2020

Time and Place Committee: Howard Thomas shared that the plan is to have an onsite 2021 ACE

Conference in Missouri, and we would like to have a plan in place by end of year, targeting the 3rd week of October. Due to the COVID pandemic, the Springfield, Missouri Convention and Visitor Board is offering hotel contracts with zero attrition charges and room incentives so this might be an appealing option. Howard shared that the Springfield area has many attractions such as Wonders of Wildlife museum, Bass Pro, Roaring River State Park and Trout Hatchery, Dogwood Canyons, Silver Dollar City, Andy Dalton Shooting Range, Table Rock and Taneycomo Lakes, etc.) We are looking at returning to Wyoming in 2022.

Election of Officers: The following nominations were made, and all of the officers were elected unanimously:

President Elect - Loren Wooden, nomination by Tom Hohman, second Holly Benz

Treasurer Matt Prenger, nomination by Sara Lau, second by Holly Bentz

Secretary Deborah Byrd, nomination by Sara Lau, second by Holly Bentz

Member At Large: Justin Fessler, nominated by Matt Prenger, second by Terry Boyd

Member At Large: Sarah Lau, nominated by Holly Benz, second by Terry Boyd

Installation of the President: Howard passes the gavel to the new ACE President Bill Schepeler. Bill shared that he is excited to represent ACE. It's going to be a challenge to fill Howard's shoes, thank you to all the board and everyone that helped put the conference together this past year. It is always great to get together with people that do similar work, it was a great conference.

Howard entertains a motion to adjourn; Matt Prenger so moves with a second by Loren Woodin.

Conference adjourned