April Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2015

Host: Nebraska Section ASCE, Transportation Group (Paul Knievel & Ticha Rohan, Transportation Group Committee Chairs)

Location: Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room, UNO Campus
62nd & Dodge
Omaha, NE 68132

Program: The Iowa Infrastructure Report Card Experience

Presenter: Joe Spradling, ASCE Iowa Section President, HDR Engineering

Times:
- 5:30 pm: Registration and Social Hour
- 6:00 pm: Dinner
- 6:15 pm: Truss Bustin’ Award Presentation
- 6:30 pm: UNO Concrete Canoe & Steel Bridge Presentation
- 7:00 pm: Presentation by Joe Spradling, HDR Engineering

Menu/Price: Buffet with two entrée options:
- Roast Beef
- Baked Chicken

$15.00 (includes tax and tip)—payable to NEASCE at the door (cash, check, or credit card).

Registration/Deadline: Meals for students and special guests are free, but everyone must register to attend.
Register at http://meeting.neasce.com/signup/
Sign up by 4:00 pm Tuesday April 14, 2015.

Parking: Parking is available using the meters in front of the Milo Bail Student Center and in the East Parking Garage (just east of the Caniglia Athletic Field).
For more parking information: http://www.unomaha.edu/parking/visitor.php
From the President

Greetings Nebraska Section!

On March 19th, we had our monthly meeting organized by Lara Syrocki, our Environmental Technical Chair. The speaker, Elizabeth Hunter, PE, gave an interesting presentation about the work that she has done with the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON). This meeting was held at lunch time instead of our regular time, but it was still well attended.

Our Legislative Affairs Co-Chairs, Bill Arneson, PE, and Ed Prost, PE travelled to Washington D.C to participate at the ASCE Legislative Fly-In program. The Fly-In provides a valuable opportunity for ASCE members to learn more the issues in Congress that affect the profession and increase the cooperation between civil engineers and our elected officials. As you go through this newsletter, you will find a small article summarizing Bill and Ed’s experience at the Legislative Fly-In. Speaking of legislative affairs, there have been some developments regarding LB 610 which would raise the gas tax in Nebraska. The additional revenue coming from this tax would be used for construction and maintenance for roads and bridges. During the first round of debate, 26 state senators voted yes, 10 voted no, and 9 did not vote. As a member of the Professional Engineers Coalition, the Nebraska Section of ASCE has expressed support of the LB 610 to change the fuel excise tax. In the next few days, the ASCE Government Relations Department will be sending an email with additional information in case you want to contact State Senators asking them to support this bill.

Our Transportation Technical Chairs, Paul Knievel & Ticha Rohan, have been busy working on the planning of the April Meeting and the Transportation Conference. This month’s meeting will be held on Thursday April 16th and is organized jointly with the UNO ASCE Student Chapter. The speaker for this meeting will be Joe Spradling (ASCE Iowa Section President). I am looking forward to hearing Joe talk about the Iowa Section’s experience with their Infrastructure Report Card. The 11th Annual Transportation Conference will take place the following day, Friday April 17th. This conference provides 6.5 Professional Development Hours to registered attendees. In addition, proceeds from this conference benefit the ASCE funded Transportation Scholarship for civil engineering students enrolled at UNL or UNO. Please be sure to sign up before April 10th to get the early registration fee.

Last but not least, preparations for the NEASCE Annual Banquet, to be held on Tuesday May 19th, are on the way. At this meeting, officers for the upcoming year are elected and awards are presented to Life Members, Outstanding Members, and Students. Our President-Elect, Joe Flaxbeard, has been busy preparing a great event.

I look forward to seeing you at these events. See you soon!
**March Meeting Summary**

The Nebraska Section ASCE Environmental Group hosted the March meeting at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha. Elizabeth Hunter, PE, AICP, LEED BD+C, gave a presentation on her work with the National Ecological Observatory Network.

The list below can be considered official documentation of attendance at the March 19, 2015 meeting and presentation worth one (1) PDH credit.

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<th>Andy Wester</th>
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Iowa Section Infrastructure Report Card

From the Iowa Section of ASCE

Des Moines, Iowa—The Iowa Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released the inaugural 2015 Report Card for Iowa’s Infrastructure during a press conference in Des Moines this morning. The state earned an overall GPA of C-

The Report Card contains grades for 11 infrastructure categories. By assessing eight categories, the civil engineers who developed the Report Card awarded one B, seven Cs, and three Ds. Solid waste earned the highest marks, a B+, while inland waterways, dams, and bridges were all scored with Ds.

Iowa’s Report Card highlights several challenges facing the state’s aging infrastructure:

- One in five of Iowa’s bridges is rated structurally deficient or posted with weight restrictions—ranking third highest in the nation
- Only 10 percent of Iowa’s 4000 dams are inspected regularly and just 23 percent have Emergency Action Plans in place (national average is 70 percent)
- Just one of the 13 locks and dams on the Mississippi River is able to handle modern tows in a single lockage and 12 locks are over 80 years old
- There’s an annual $215 million shortfall to meeting critical needs for Iowa’s roadways, most of which were built 50 to 60 years ago
- Only 61 percent of the state’s 108 airports meet all service level requirements
- Just 57 levees in Iowa are minimally acceptable and 18 are unacceptable with no resources for follow-up on existing levees after initial construction

“As civil engineers, we work with infrastructure on a daily basis—much of it hidden from sight. Yet we understand just how essential it is to the function of our daily lives, to our economy, and to Iowa’s competitiveness,” remarked Joe Spradling, Professional Engineer and president of the Iowa Section of ASCE. “With our training, experience, and unique perspective, we provided the objective, critical analysis of infrastructure the Report Card contains.”

The Iowa Section asks Iowans to consider whether the grades in the Report Card are acceptable to them. “We want Iowans to be aware of the issues with our infrastructure. We want elected officials to have a resource to use in decision-making and spending prioritization. And we look forward to an ongoing discussion of the necessity of maintaining and modernizing our infrastructure to meet not only the needs we have today but those of the future for generations of Iowans to come,” Spradling stated.

Grades were awarded in 11 infrastructure categories in the Report Card: aviation (C-), rail (C), roads (C), bridges (D+), inland waterways (D), levees (C-), dams (D), electrical energy (C), drinking water (C+), wastewater (C-), and solid waste (B+).

Not simply an analysis and critique, the Report Card also contains recommendations for improving infrastructure grades.

The Iowa Report Card was created as a public service to citizens and elected leaders of the state to inform them of infrastructure condition. By using school report card letter grades, civil engineers use their expertise to condense complicated data into easy-to-understand analysis. The Iowa Report Card is modeled after the national 2013 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure which gave America’s infrastructure a grade of D+.

To view the full report, visit www.iowaasce.org.
Message from ASCE Government Relations

Attention ASCE members Nebraska:

Urge Legislators to Increase the Gas Tax and Improve Roads!

Nebraska could become the 4th state to increase its gas tax to invest in its transportation infrastructure. At the moment the legislature is considering LB 610 which would raise the tax to 7.5 cents per gallon until the end of 2015 and implement incremental increase until it reaches 9.5 cents per gallon in 2019. The additional revenue would be used for construction and maintenance of roads and bridges.

As a civil engineer you have the opportunity to share your expertise and help advance the discussion. We encourage you to reach out to your state representatives to encourage support for an investment in Washington’s roads and bridges. The time is now to help policymakers make an informed decision on investing in the future of our state’s infrastructure!

Visit ASCE’s “Click & Connect with Congress” website to read background on the issue and send a message urging your Senators to invest in infrastructure today!

For questions, please contact ASCE Government Relations.
The University of Nebraska Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) held their 5th Annual Industry Networking Mixer on February 27 at the Peter Kiewit Institute on the University of Nebraska Omaha campus. This E-week event was co-sponsored by the student chapters of the Mexican American Engineers & Scientists (MAES), UNO Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and UNO American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The students came prepared with thoughtful questions and genuine interest in the companies that participated. Several people mentioned how nice it was to have the opportunity to talk to engineers who could answer questions about the day to day operations and their job responsibilities. In addition to the students gaining networking experience, engineers could promote opportunities available within their companies and interact with potential new employees in a casual environment. Overall, the night was a success for everyone involved and an excellent event for ASCE to support.
GEO Institute (G-I) and Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers are hosting this first-of-its-kind event! And, you can be a part of the excitement.

This joint conference has combined the best of both Institutes Congresses into one unique event. This will take the place of the 2016 congress for both Institutes.

Submit an abstract or full session proposal by April 7, 2015

www.geo-structures.org

I hope you will consider making a submission and attend this unique event.

Geotechnical and Structural Engineering Congress
February, 14-17, 2016 – Phoenix, AZ
NEASCE/LOCATE Transportation Conference

Friday April 17, 2015 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (CDT)
Omaha, NE

NEASCE and LOCATE invite you to participate in their 11th Annual Transportation Conference. The conference will be held at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha, NE on April 17th, 2015. We hope to continue our past success by providing interesting and informative presentations covering the topics of railroad, roadway, traffic and bridge engineering along with information on current events and issues affecting today’s transportation engineer or planner.

Our planning committee consists of members from NDOR, City of Omaha, City of Lincoln, MAPA, University of Nebraska, NEASCE and LOCATE.

For registration and additional information: http://NETransCon.eventbrite.com

AGENDA

8:00 – 8:30  Registration

8:30 – 8:35  Welcome
(Paul Knievel - ASCE Transportation Co-Chair - HDR)
(Mike Forsberg - LOCATE Vice President - HDR)

8:35 – 9:25  Omaha Complete Streets Policy (Master Plan)
& Heartland Region Bike/Ped Study
(Todd Pfitzer - City of Omaha)
(Mike Helgerson - MAPA)

9:25 – 9:55  Boone County-Primrose - ABC Project
(Fouad Jaber - NDOR)

9:55 – 10:05  Break

10:05 – 10:35  Council Bluffs Railroad Consolidation - Past, Present and Future
(Greg Reeder - City of Council Bluffs)
(Craig Hunter - HDR)

10:35 – 11:05  New University Projects
(Larry Rilett)

11:05 – 11:35  MAP-21 Rulemaking - An Update on Performance Elements
(Ryan Huff - NDOR)

11:35 – 12:35  Lunch

12:35 – 1:05  Keynote Address
(Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley)

1:05 – 1:35  Traffic Master Plan

(Continued on Next Page)
NEASCE/LOCATE Transportation Conference (continued)

1:35 – 2:05  
**3R for Local Projects**  
(Roger Figard)

2:05 – 2:15  
**Break**

2:15 – 2:45  
**Wildlife Crossings**  
(Rich Montgomery - URS)

2:45 – 3:30  
**FHWA/NDOR CE Projects - Progress Update**  
(Khalil Jaber - NDOR)  
(Doug Atkin - FHWA)

3:30 – 3:40  
**Break**

3:40 – 4:00  
**“Baby Bob” Bridge**  
(Derek Miller - HDR)

4:00 – 4:30  
**Vehicle Communication Technology**  
(Bernie Arseneau - HDR)

4:30 – 4:35  
**Closing**  
(Paul Knievel - ASCE Transportation Co-Chair - HDR)  
(Mike Forsberg - LOCATE Vice President - HDR)
The 32nd Annual Geotechnical Conference (GeoOmaha 2015) was held on Friday, February 13th at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha, Nebraska. The conference was well attended again this year with a record attendance of over 265 participants including professional attendees, students, presenters, vendors, and special guests. A significant number of students took part in the conference this year. Several of the presentations are available for download from the NEASCE website. NEASCE sponsored the conference in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Department of Civil Engineering and the College of Engineering. Proceeds from this conference benefit the ASCE funded Peck/Benak Engineering Achievement Scholarship for civil engineering students enrolled at UNL or UNO and other NEASCE outreach programs including Future City.

Welcoming remarks were provided by Dr. Daniel Linzell (University of Nebraska Civil Engineering Department Chair). Dr. Linzell discussed the importance of the various engineering disciplines and provided an update on the state of the civil engineering department. Following the welcoming remarks, Greg Decker (Student, University of Nebraska) was honored as the current recipient of the Peck Benak Scholarship.

Presentations in the morning included a discussion of large diameter pipe piles for support of the $3.1Billion New NY Bridge (Brian Keaney, HDR and Scott Jacobs, Tappan Zee Constructors). The bridge crosses the Hudson River and has variable soil conditions that range from shallow bedrock to 400+ feet of soft clay. Neal McCulloch and Steve McMullen (Shannon and Wilson) discussed railroad embankment failures and landslide mitigation for a rail line located in the mountains of Washington State.

A group of students, led by Tyler Schmidt, competed previously in the ASCE Geo-Institute’s Paper MSE Wall competition. Several of these students provided demonstrations of the Paper MSE Wall throughout the day at a booth in the vendor section of the conference center.

Following lunch, Jenny Owens provided a remembrance and insightful comments about her father, Dr. Joseph Benak, who passed away in 2014. Dr. Benak taught geotechnical engineering courses for many years at the University of Nebraska and was a guiding force in the development and growth of GeoOmaha. Dr. Benak will be greatly missed.

Presentations in the afternoon included a discussion about closure of the Oil Superfund Site Landfill in Los Angeles, California (Ed Kavazanjian, Arizona State University), a discussion about excavation support systems adjacent to sensitive structures (Rich Finno, Northwestern University) and a discussion about enhanced levee investigation and design methods using in-situ and geophysical technology for subsurface characterization (Don Moses, USACE and Joe Waxse, Terrracon).

The conference was a huge success thanks to the speakers who donated their time and shared their professional insights with our audience. Thanks are also due to the committee members who collaborated for many months to make this event a reality including Bryan Kumm, Bill Arneson, Loras Klostermann, Deanna Baker, Ed Prost, Steve Saye, John Puls, Ed Schnackenberg, Tom Strauss, Steve Nickel, Ryan Leigh and Kristle Beaudet.
American Society of Civil Engineers Nebraska Section

www.neasce.org

The Nebraska Section of ASCE is an active organization of over 600 members who are diverse in practice & geography. ASCE represents more than 140,000 civil engineers nationwide and is America’s oldest national engineering society.

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For underwriting information, contact Greg Seib,
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Deadline for articles to be published in the May newsletter will be May 1st. Email articles to Greg Seib at gseib@olssonassociates.com