

Conferences and Expositions Committee

Minutes

From the meeting on January 29, 2022

Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada

Members Present

Vikrant Aute, Chair
Christine Reinders-Caron, VC
Ahmed H Abdel Salam
Billy Austin
Nohad Boudani
Marites Calad
Kristen Cetin
Gary Debes
Brian Fronk
Rupesh Iyengar
Suzanne LeViseur
Maggie Moninski
Scott Peach
Anoop Peediyakkan
Bert Phillips
Som Shrestha
Raul Simonetti
Davide Ziviani
Devin Abellon, BOD ExO

Members Absent

Robert Cox
Steve Idem
Lina Maged Hashem
Alekhya Kaianathbhatta
Rafi Karim
Erik Sanchez
Marianna Vallejo

Guests

Doug Cochrane
Dimitris Charalambopoulos
Larry Smith
Ayman Etalouny
Corey Metzger
Dan Rogers
Lance Banks
Katherine Newton

Staff

Tony Giometti
Haley Booker-Lauridson
Ragan McHan

Action Items	Status	Due Date	Responsible Party
1. Schedule track chair training for the 2022 ASHRAE Annual Conference	Complete	June 25, 2022	Kristen Cetin
2. Contact individual track chairs and assign a chair to the mini track.	Open	June 25, 2022	Gary Debes
3. Send a formal response to the Hellenic Chapter regarding the organization of the Building Decarbonization Conference	Complete	June 25, 2022	Vikrant Aute
4. Organize an Advisory Committee comprised of UNEP, Research Activities Committee and CEC to discuss the international event.	Open	June 25, 2022	CEC
5. Gather more data on paper submission history and set a meeting to discuss paths forward	Open	June 25, 2022	Staff

1. Call to Order

Mr. Vikrant Aute called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m., PST.

2. Introduction of Members and Visitors

Mr. Aute held a moment of silence in the honor of fellow deceased CEC member Andy Cochrane. He initiated the introduction of members and visitors. Members attended in-person and remotely via WebEx.

3. Review of Agenda

Ms. Christine Reinders-Caron suggested adding Operations under Item #11, Subcommittee Reports. For Items #8 and #9, Mr. Lance Banks and Mr. Doug Cochrane were added to give reports on the Las Vegas and Toronto host committees, respectively.

4. Approval of June 15, 2021 Minutes

Ms. Maggie Moninski moved and Mr. Scott Peach seconded to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2021 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. BOD ExO Comments

Mr. Devin Abellon passed along positive comments on CEC's work from the Board of Directors. The BOD recognizes the hard work of CEC and credits the amount of work over the past two years for making the past virtual conferences and first hybrid conference possible. He thanked the group for their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Abellon presented the ASHRAE Leadership Presentation. He detailed the process that went into the Commitment of Care and emphasized the importance of keeping each other safe. The presentation highlighted a number of partnerships that are in progress with other organizations within the industry. The message passed along was that collaboration makes the industry stronger.

The Society's Strategic Plan has been granted a one-year extension. The committee is working diligently to make sure the vision for the Society moving forward is the right vision for the future ensuring ASHRAE as a leader in the field.

In June 2021, the BOD approved an advisory subcommittee on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) to look at different ways ASHRAE can include diversity and include new opportunities. The purpose of the BOD DEI Subcommittee is to advise and engage the Board of Directors on the following:

- All matters relating to diversity, equity and inclusion - with a view to improving organizational awareness and performance in these areas amongst both staff and the Society membership
- The establishment of annual budgets for DEI program and ongoing initiatives
- The prioritization of inclusivity issues which have relevance to ASHRAE, together with plans for addressing these issues
- Potential DEI training modules for chapters and committees

Mr. Abellon invited CEC to provide any feedback to the subcommittee to help drive the movement forward.

He briefly reviewed the Task Force for Building Decarbonization. The task force is an initiative of the ASHRAE President and President-Elect, with the realization that successful initiatives in building energy efficiency should be expanded to building decarbonization. The taskforce is comprised of 15 members, co-chaired by Presidential

Members Don Colliver and Tom Phoenix including 9 working groups with over 100 international volunteers, developing resources and tools to:

- Provide policy makers with information on how they might achieve goals
- Provide recommendations and best practices for industry stakeholders

He encouraged input and questions be directed to the committee by emailing dcarb@ashrae.org.

Vision 2030 and beyond is looking at ways ASHRAE can evolve as a Society.

Nominations for the next society year are needed. Mr. Abellon encouraged CEC to consider new nominees for the members rolling off the committee. Committee nominations are due mid-February. Council, RAC, TAC, Standards and Handbook nominations are due mid-September.

Other areas that Mr. Abellon briefly overviewed:

- Epidemic Task Force
- Membership and Communities
- ASHRAE Support
- Government Affairs
- Professional Development
- Society theme: Personal Growth. Global Impact. Feed the Roots
- New presidential initiatives
- Publications and Standards
- Resources

6. 2022 Winter Conference, Las Vegas

Mr. Raul Simonetti gave the committee an overview of the 2022 Winter Conference in Las Vegas. He was very happy that the in-person event was happening and proud of the committee's hard work to make the conference possible.

The 2022 Winter Conference had a total of 64 sessions scheduled, comprised as follows: 35 seminars, 20 Paper Sessions (conference papers and technical papers, including 50 conference papers and 9 technical papers), 3 Panel discussions, 3 Forums and 3 Workshops.

The program was comprised of 29 intermediate sessions, 12 basic and 5 advanced. Out of the over 240 total submissions 204 were presented.

The top tracks included:

- HVAC&R Systems and Equipment
- Buildings at 360°
- Energy System Integration
- Environmental Health and IEQ in the International Arena

Mr. Simonetti recommended the top four tracks be kept in mind for future conference planning. He also recommended the committee reach out to speakers in advance on plans to attend in-person. The process was implemented for Las Vegas and exceptions were only made for paper speakers. It was a good practice that helped encourage in-person participation and should be considered for future conferences.

The 2022 Winter Conference was the first hybrid event outside of the ASHRAE Building Performance Analysis Conference that took place November 2021. The Winter Conference hybrid program included 10 hybrid technical sessions that were livestreamed through the ASHRAE Virtual Conference Environment.

Due to the pandemic and knowing it would impact the program, the conference went from eight to six total concurrent sessions. The decrease in concurrent sessions helped allow for social distancing and to reduce the overall support needed onsite.

Mr. Lance Banks, Las Vegas Host Committee General Chair, presented the host committee report, beginning with a thank to CEC. The committee planned the following technical tours:

- Resorts World Central Plant
- Planet 13 Marijuana Production and Cultivation Facilities – Sold Out

General Tours:

- Hoover Dam Tour
- Las Vegas Strip Tour
- Allegiant Stadium Tour
- Mob Museum

The Southern Nevada Water Authority tour was cancelled due to Omicron. All attendees were either refunded or selected a new tour in its place.

In addition to tours and social events, Mr. Bank's team organized monitors for the conference. The monitors arrive for day one training on Sunday, Jan 30 at 7 a.m. outside the Speaker's Lounge.

7. 2022 Annual Conference, Toronto

Ms. Kristen Cetin updated CEC on planning for the 2022 Annual Conference in Toronto, ON, Canada, June 25-29, 2022. 83 papers are currently in the approval process. Final decisions are due on Feb. 18. She thanked the Conference Paper Review Chairs for reviewing and announced that notification for final reviews would be sent the week of Feb. 7.

Extended abstracts are due on Feb. 17. Program submissions are also due on the 17th.

Ms. Cetin will schedule track chair training within the next few weeks to review the submitted programs and start forming conference tracks.

Action Item 1: Ms. Cetin to schedule track chair training for the 2022 ASHRAE Annual Conference.

Mr. Doug Cochrane, General Chair of the Toronto Host Committee, gave a presentation on what to look forward to in Toronto. He said he is looking forward to hosting the 2022 ASHRAE Annual Conference in conjunction with the Toronto Chapter's 100th anniversary.

He gave a detailed overview of the entertainment plans:

- o June 24, 2022, will be a 100th Anniversary Party. The party is planned on Friday night so that attendees from the ASHRAE Ventilation 2022 Conference can attend. The Ventilation Conference proceeds the Annual Conference taking place June 22-24.
- o The Welcome Party is planned for June 25 at the CN Tower. No contracts have been signed but the space is on hold.
- o Women in ASHRAE Happy Hour will be at The Porch on June 27.
- o Members' Night Out will be at the Sheraton on the 28th with entertainment by the British Band Invasion.
- o Technical/General Tours:
 - Enwave Deep Lake Water Cooling: June 27
 - Sheraton Centre Hotel: June 26
 - ScotiaBank Arena: Not yet scheduled, in process.
 - Niagara Falls Day Tour: June 28
 - Distillery District Water Tour: June 27
 - Bata Shoe Museum: June 26

The host committee is working to make the tours in Toronto more economical to attend by utilizing public transportation when possible.

The Omicron wave is currently decreasing in Toronto. Restaurant and entertainment venues plan to reopen to 50% capacity in early February with the hopes to be back to 100% by the end of March 2022

8. 2023 Winter Conference, Atlanta

Mr. Gary Debes reported on planning for the 2023 ASHRAE Winter Conference in Atlanta.

Overview of tracks and track chairs:

1. **Fundamentals and Applications:** Anoop Peediayakkan
Fundamentals are the foundation for understanding applications in engineering. Key components of ASHRAE fundamentals include thermodynamics, psychometrics, fluid and mass flow. This track provides opportunities for papers and presentations of varying levels across a large topic base. Concepts, design elements and shared experiences for theoretical and applied concepts of HVAC&R design are included.
2. **HVAC&R Systems and Equipment:** Billy Austin
HVAC&R systems and equipment are constantly evolving to address the changing requirements of the built environment. Papers and programs in this track focus on the development of new systems and equipment, improvements to existing systems and equipment and the proper application and operation of systems and equipment.
3. **Refrigeration and Refrigerants:** Brian Fronk
Refrigeration systems generate and use cold for a range of processes, from food preparation and conservation to vaccine preservation, to long-term protection of fragile ancient inks of historic documents and others. Differences in technologies and equipment, performances, refrigerants, etc., may hide synergies from which both industrial and commercial systems might benefit, also, but not only, from the points of view of reducing direct and indirect GHG emissions.
4. **Grid Resilience and Thermal Storage:** Nohad Boudani
Resilience is a highlighted aspect of the current ASHRAE strategic plan. Methods of designing buildings and HVAC&R systems with resilience in mind is paramount to our long-term success. Coupled with energy efficiency, this track is designed to highlight the advancements in grid resilience and thermal storage systems and how they are tied to resilience and energy conservation efforts.
5. **Pathways to Zero Energy Emissions and Decarbonization:** Som Shrestha
Climate change and the impact of carbon emissions on our environment has been recognized globally as a high priority. ASHRAE is taking a leading position in the advancement of carbon neutral, net zero energy, and decarbonization strategies in building and HVAC&R design. This track will highlight methods being developed to reduce carbon impact on the global environment and the efforts ASHRAE and its members are taking to advance these efforts.
6. **Multifamily and Residential Buildings:** Lina Maged Hashem
Multifamily is one of the fast growth building sectors but has been underserved. Multifamily buildings present challenges and opportunities on energy codes requirements, energy efficiency opportunities, ventilation and air tightness balance, and equality to address low-income multifamily buildings. This track covers programs and papers on best practices, utility and above-code incentive programs, field studies, and codes and standards requirements. This track also welcomes programs and papers for single family housing and other residential buildings.

7. **Operations and Maintenance:** Suzanne LeViseur
 Making sure that the design intent of these more complicated HVAC systems is understood by all team members and building operators is key to the building's success. This track will address an array of topics including lessons learned, improvement of process and team communications and effort to improve the installation, startup, O&M and commissioning of HVAC systems.
8. **Building Simulation and Virtual Design in Construction:** Alekhya Kaianathbhatta
 The practices of energy modeling and building performance simulation using existing simulation tools, software development and future simulation research and applications is ever evolving. The papers and programs in this track will inform designers, engineers, building energy simulation modelers, and energy consultants and practitioners in the use of various strategies methods for building simulation and virtual design in construction.
9. **Mini Track – Innovative Responses to Supply Chain Challenges**
 2021 brought many challenges. One that was highlighted was the fragile status of the global supply chain. This mini track is intended to help members plan for the future disruptions and develop resiliency plans around supply chain by highlighting effective and innovative strategies to mitigate supply chain challenges.

Atlanta Winter Conference Deadlines

Tuesday April 5, 2022 – Conference Paper Abstracts, Technical Papers, and Paper Session Requests Due

Tuesday April 26, 2022 – Conference Paper Abstract Accept/Reject Notifications

Monday July 25, 2022 – Conference Papers Due – Submitted for Review

Tuesday August 9, 2022 – Debate, Panel, Seminar Form, Workshop Proposals Due

Monday August 15, 2022 – Conference Paper Abstract Accept / Revise / Reject Notifications

Monday August 29, 2022 – Revised Conference Papers, Technical Papers Due

Friday September 23, 2022 – Conference Paper Accept / Reject Notifications

Monday October 10, 2022 – Debate, Panel, Seminar, Forum Workshop Accept / Reject Notifications

Action Item 2: Mr. Debes to contact individual track chairs and assign a chair to the mini track.

9. Subcommittee Reports

a. CEC Executive Committee

Mr. Aute gave a high-level overview of the 2022 Winter Conference budget. The initial budget was created in Fall 2020. Revenues are at about 60% of budget due to lower in-person registration. Expenses are about 10-12% above budget, because of hybrid expenses and expenses related to the hotel. The projected deficit for the Winter Conference is \$500,000.

Mr. Dimitris Charalambopoulos presented background on the Building Decarbonization Conference set to take place Oct. 6-7, 2022 in Athens, Greece. Mr. Tom Phoenix and Mr. Don Colliver in collaboration with the Hellenic Chapter decided it would benefit ASHRAE to host a conference. The Hellenic chapter decided to organize it with the Task Force for Building Decarbonization. The organizers believe it is essential to have papers since it is a scientific conference, and there will be invited presentations. He said he seeks to make this an international conference and cited that the European Commission has signed on and intends to involve the Region-at-Large.

CEC ExCom discussed the conference and the precedent that the paper review will be conducted outside of CEC's operating procedures for reviewing papers. ASHRAE will publish the approved papers in a conference proceeding. ExCom approved the conference; it is now a Society-level conference with appropriate measures to be put in place as with other Society-sponsored conferences.

Mr. Aute informed Mr. Charalambopoulos of ExCom's decision. He informed the group that an official announcement, a more formal response, would be sent shortly.

Action Item 3: Mr. Aute to send a formal response to the Hellenic Chapter regarding the approval of the Building Decarbonization Conference.

b. Topical Conferences Subcommittee

Topical Conferences in Process:

- a. May 4-6, 2022, IAQ 2020, Athens, Greece, co-organized by ASHRAE and AIVC.
- b. June 22-24, 2022, Ventilation 2022 Conference, Toronto, Canada. This conference will immediately precede the 2022 Annual Conference. Both conferences will be held at the same venue.
- c. October 6- 7, 2022 – Building Decarbonization, Athens, Greece
- d. October 20-21, 2022 – Efficient Building Design, Beirut
- e. December 5-8, 2022, Buildings XV, Clearwater Beach, Florida
- f. March 6-8, 2023 – Cold Climate Conference, Anchorage, AK

A total of 600-800 papers are currently being processed. CEC is looking to assign a committee member to each topical conference and reconstitute the Topical Conference Subcommittee. If interested in volunteering, contact Mr. Aute and Ms. Reinders-Caron.

c. Event Sponsorship Subcommittee

Mr. Billy Austin gave an overview of the Event Sponsorship Subcommittee. The overall goal for the conference was \$63,000 with a net goal of \$50,000. The committee brought in a net total of \$49,250.

The following companies sponsored the 2022 Winter Conference:

- GPS
- Climate Control Group
- Turntide
- Particle
- Bell & Gossett
- Dewalt

d. Joint Exposition Policy Committee

Mr. Aute presented the report on behalf of Bill Harrison, Chair of the Joint Exposition Policy Committee.

1. As of January 20, 2022, IEC reports that 443,769 Net Square Feet of space has been sold for the Las Vegas Expo. The show has 1,589 exhibitors, down from 1,988 exhibitors in Orlando in 2020. There are 281 international exhibitors, down from 577 in Orlando.
2. The 2021 AHR Expo Mexico was held September 21-23 at the Cintermex in Monterrey, Mexico. Attendance was 7,893 and exhibitors were pleased with the turnout. The Monterrey ASHRAE Chapter conducted 40 sessions at the adjoining Technical Conference with 1,200 people attending. 2022 AHR Expo Mexico will be held in Guadalajara on September 20-22, 2022.
3. A draft version of the Expo contract has been approved by ASHRAE and AHRI and forwarded to IEC for their feedback and approval.

e. Operations Subcommittee

Ms. Reinders-Caron said the subcommittee is focused on the following four items:

- Complete work on reference guides and review prior to the ASHRAE Annual Conference in Toronto.

- Review requirements to help increase engagement, including new chair guidelines.
- Automating the paper and presentation review process. Mr. Aute is working to set-up a proof of concept for the full committee.
- Applying DEI initiatives in conjunction with the DEI BOD advisory committee.

10. New Business

a. ASHRAE-UNEP Cooperation

Mr. Ayman Etalouny presented on the ASHRAE-UNEP cooperation. ASHRAE and UNEP have partnered on multiple projects for the past 15 years including 20 international functions. Many of the projects have been with CEC through topical conferences. UNEP working with ASHRAE has brought important niche topics to focus such as offshore fisheries and marine technologies. The topics have often covered district cooling and developing economies. In these efforts, UNEP has provided a gateway to governance and ASHRAE has provided a gateway to the market.

UNEP wants to partner with ASHRAE to have a global event every three years that delivers the impact of industry to government. The event would be multi-topic, not scientific and include professionals and government. UNEP would like to look at ways to take concrete action with ASHRAE.

Action Item 4: Organize an Advisory Committee comprised of UNEP, Research Activities Committee and CEC to discuss the international event.

The committee also suggested the idea of including one to two sessions in an upcoming conference to test content.

b. Building Decarbonization Referrals from Members Council

Member's Council referred motions from chapters to CEC to create a track to focus on Building Decarbonization in Las Vegas. The motion was presented too late to make changes to the announced tracks, but Mr. Simonetti accommodated multiple sessions in the overall program. The 2022 Annual Conference Chair decided that the topic was broad enough to be incorporated over multiple tracks in lieu of a special track, but kept the option open to create such a track from the accepted programs. The 2023 Winter Conference will include a track on building decarbonization entitled "Pathways to Zero Energy Emissions and Decarbonization."

c. Increasing Paper Submissions and Engagement

Mr. Aute said an email was sent to select members of CEC on what can be done to increase overall paper submissions and engagement. The committee meeting on January 5 reviewed the paper submission history for Winter and Annual Conferences over the last five years based on historical data. The consensus of the data was that conference papers don't appear to be decreasing as much as technical papers. Decline over the last couple of years could be related to the pandemic.

The committee discussed that there is less benefit in submitting conference papers to ASHRAE conferences than papers submitted to journals. Mechanical engineers are deterred by the submission process, the lengthy timeline and lack of prestige. It was mentioned that many associate professors participate in ASHRAE funded research projects so they're unlikely to submit a conference paper. ASHRAE publication doesn't benefit tenure or promotion. ASHRAE papers are not easy to find in citation services and universities value federal money and large-scale proposals more than they do professional society money. There is no incentive for academics to submit conference papers because they are motivated to submit papers to share their work with the community and/or to build up their CV.

The ad hoc group agreed that the publication path is confusing and needs to be better defined and visible for authors. This would build upon recent improvements, such as conference papers are now being indexed, a broader pool of reviewers to review papers and introducing extended abstract format. The ad hoc will look at extending extended abstract submissions beyond just the research summit and the option to accept and publish papers without requiring them to be presented at a conference. Other changes include revising the publication timeline and review process. Also, it was noted that highlighting various awards would serve as incentive. Authors may not be aware of the potential to win awards.

The next steps will be for the full committee to provide feedback. A compressed schedule will be introduced for the 2023 ASHRAE Winter Conference. Lessons learned will be implemented to future publication schedules.

The committee will continue discussing the rigorous review process for technical papers and if it is worthwhile to continue the submission type. The committee will also review STBE as a possible area to help increase overall value.

It was also discussed to review what works best and focus on it. If research papers are not hugely popular, it could be focused on one day of the conference and not spread out over four days or, as an alternative, only include papers at one conference annually instead of at both Winter and Annual conferences.

Action Item 5: Gather more data on submissions and set a meeting to discuss paths forward.

d. Technical Activities Committee Member Introduction

Mr. Corey Metzger and Mr. Larry Smith introduced themselves as members of the Technical Activities Committee and to discuss communication between the two committees. The goal is that the committees maintain strong communication. Mr. Smith offered TAC's help whenever needed. He suggested including chairs and section heads in all review emails to help get higher overall responses. TAC has 16 members, and the section heads may be able to redirect questions that are not being responded to. All questions for TAC can be submitted to asktac@ashrae.net.

11. 2021-2022 MBOs (Attachment A)

12. Next Meeting

June 25, 2022

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Aute at 11:50 a.m. PST.

Committee Objectives
 Committee: Conferences and Expositions Committee
 Year: 2021 – 2022
 Chair: Vikrant Aute
 Vice Chair: Christine Reinders-Caron

Objective	Planned Completion Date	Status	Fiscal Impact	Responsible Party	Cost Budgeted
1. Implement Hybrid Format for 2021 BPAC and 2022 Winter and Annual Conferences	6/30/2022	Open	None	ExCom, BPAC Steering Committee and Staff	None
2. Streamlining/automating review process for papers and presentations	6/30/2022	Open	None	Operations Subcommittee and Staff	None
3. Apply DEI Initiatives to conference programs	6/30/2022	Open	None	Operations Subcommittee	None
4. Increase session chair engagement via new chair guidelines	6/30/2022	Open	None	Operations Subcommittee and Staff	None
5. Increase Conference Paper submissions and visibility	6/30/2022	Open	None	ExCom, Conference and Track Chairs and Staff	None
6. Select 2024 Winter and Annual Conference chairs	6/30/2022	Open	None	Aute and Reinders-Caron	None
7. Increase CEC membership on the Topical Conference Subcommittee	6/30/2022	Open	None	Topical Conference Subcommittee Chair	None