**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
December 17, 2020
The Engineering Center/ZOOM**

**BOG present:** David Dupre, Andy Craig (ZOOM), Nathan Junius (ZOOM), Bob Boagni (Zoom), Micha Duffy (Zoom), Chad Bacas (ZOOM), Kent Poyser, Andree Cortez (Zoom), Chad Poche, Sherri LeBas, Michael Songy (ZOOM), Butch Babineaux (Zoom), Brett Bayard, Lisa Cookmeyer (ZOOM) and Michael Thomassie

**BOG with prior engagements:** Colby Guidry and Don Arrington

**STAFF:** Doreen Brasseaux and Janet Tomeny (Zoom)

**Additional Guest(s):** Chase McNeely (Zoom)

Chairman Dupre called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Junius for roll call. Quorum established.

Chairman Dupre called for approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Poche and seconded by Mr. Poyser. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dupre called for approval of the November 6, 2020 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Poyser and seconded by Mr. Poche. Motion passed unanimously.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT:** (Financials Attached)

Ms. Brasseaux presented the November 2020 financials noting the $214,605 checking/saving account balance which includes the $35,000 SBA loan monies received. Non-budgeted income of $7,000 for the 2020 Virtual Business Forum and $600 for the Ethics Webinar has been received. After review and discussion of financials submitted, a motion was made by Mr. Thomassie and seconded by Mr. Poyser to accept. Motion passed unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** (D. Dupre)

* Chairman Dupre updated the Board on the Bylaws Committee, chaired by Ms. Cortez, noting the Committee is actively meeting and going through the ACECL Bylaws. The Committee anticipates a written recommendation report will be presented to the Board in late Spring.
* ACECL is $2,500 short of the 2020 PAC Goal of $24,000. Mr. Dupre encouraged all to participate in supporting the PAC.
* Chairman Dupre reported the COVID19 vaccine is now being distributed and asked thoughts if engineering firms should be placed in the higher phase of distribution as an essential worker. Ms. Brasseaux will stay in touch with State agencies regarding any vaccine restrictions, along with other A/E/C associations.

**National Directors Report:** (A. Craig)

* Mr. Craig reported the EEA was held virtual on December 2.
* Ms. Brasseaux advised that Mr. Kurt Evans had applied and interviewed for the ACEC National board but, unfortunately, was not selected for the next term.

**President & CEO Report**: (Brasseaux)

* Ms. Brasseaux reported that Sergio Girau with Linfield Hunter & Junius was the PAC Fishing Excursion raffle winner. ACECL sold $6,800 in Fishing Excursion Sweepstake tickets. Any future ideas on PAC fundraising are welcome.
* Ms. Brasseaux advised she will meet with DOA Commissioner Dardenne and staff regarding the Office of Community Development advertising HUD funded watershed initiative contracts, asking for price when the scope of work is not entirely design services. ACECL may need to look at the need to better define ‘design services’ in the QBS law.
* The 2021 ACECL Annual Sponsorship Program now includes two levels of sponsorship opportunities at the cost of $2,000 or $5,000. Informational flyer distributed to all members.
* The ACECL EEA gala will be held at the Baton Rouge Marriott on Thursday, March 25th assuming COVID-19 enables safe social distancing practices. The Ethics Commission rendered an opinion to ACECL allowing public clients to attend the EEA with ACECL inviting the client.
* The Critical Issues Summit will be held on Feb 24 and 25 [note the wrong date was reported during the meeting. The correct dates are March 3 & 4] using a virtual platform, $75 Registration fee.
* ACECL met with AIA on planning the 2021 Emerging Leaders Institute. Ms. Tomeny noted that the registration packet will be released in January, with Session I to be held on May 11-12, 2021. Only 20 participants will be accepted in the Institute.
* The four-part virtual Business Forum Webinar Series was held the first week of December with income of $7,000.
* The virtual Ethics Webinar presented by Donna Sentell, LAPELS, had 12 participants.

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Thomassie reported for Mr. Bacas that an in-person meeting (maximum of 30 persons) will be held on January 11th with Port of Greater Baton Rouge Executive Director Jay Hardman speaking on future infrastructure including the possibility of a renewable fuel production facility.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Poyser reported Matt Jewell, St. Charles Parish President spoke at the November 12th luncheon. Next meeting is scheduled for February 11th and recommendation of update on Charity Hospital as potential topic. Ms. Brasseaux also noted that ACECL is continuing dialogue with the City of New Orleans Public Works on fee structure and ACECL has signed an engagement letter with Attorney Mike Sherman to assist with all ongoing contract issues.

**Lafayette:**  No report.

**Shreveport:** Mr. Duffy reported he will work on a January meeting, possibly newly elected U.S. Congressman Luke Letlow. Also, Mr. Duffy and Mr. Craig are reviewing the City of Shreveport’s selection criteria. Mrs. Brasseaux will send over other municipality criteria for their review. Also, the need for a Lake Charles jambalaya fundraiser is still needed and Mr. Duffy will continue to work on scheduling, possibly in the Spring.

**Monroe:** No report.

**Lake Charles:** Mr. Babineaux reported next virtual meeting will be held on January 20th hosting Mayor Hunter on hurricane recovery efforts and how it effects infrastructure.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** (Report attached). Mr. Thomassie reported that the Membership Committee will meet on January 6th at 12:30 p.m. and all Board members are welcome to participate. Ms. Brasseaux presented the final draft of newly created membership brochure and asked all board members to give feedback within the next few weeks. This brochure can be sent electronically for recruitment purposes and will also have printed for handouts at events. Top recruitment firms are HGA, GIS and Jacobs.

**Legislative Committee:**  Ms. Brasseaux introduced Mr. Chance McNeely, Premier Policy Solution, ACECL’s newly engaged policy advisor. Mr. McNeely has met with Ms. Brasseaux, Mr. Junius and Mr. Jones discussing legislative strategy over the next few years. Mr. McNeely expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with ACECL and looks forward to identifying and approaching solutions to any problems in the engineering profession. Mr. McNeely is also engaged with LCFOR on the gas tax initiative and will also represent ACECL’s interests. Next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on December 18.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:**  Detailed committee report attached and presented by Mr. Boagni noting both old business and new business. Mr. Boagni expressed the continued great communication between DOTD and ACECL. Ms. Brasseaux suggested having ACEC Steve Hall report at the next Transportation Committee meeting on federal infrastructure.

Ms. Brasseaux reported that fundraising for LCFOR is still crucial and needed. ACECL firms have contributed $15,500 to date to the ACEC Minuteman Fund since May 2019, the date of last Minuteman funds received by ACECL in the amount of $20,000. Ms. Brasseaux asked for the Board’s approval to allow her to request another Minuteman Fund contribution from ACEC in the amount of $10,000 to support the LCFOR campaign. A motion authorizing ACECL to submit a $10,000 Minuteman request was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Mr. Duffy. Motion passed unanimously. A motion authorizing no more than $5,000 for LCFOR expenses from ACECL’s operating fund was made by Mr. Poche and seconded by Mr. Poyser. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. LeBas noted that Good Roads is contributing $5,000 to LCFOR.

Ms. LeBas reported on the Multimodal issues/concerns: John Spain with the BR Foundation is advocating for 1 penny of increased gas tax for a NO-BR passenger rail; DOTD Multimodal Commissioner Renee Lapeyrolerie indicated no funding level changes for airport/port priority program; and LMTA has a new Executive Director, Renee Amar, who expressed market concerns and supply chain challenges due to COVID-19 noting truck driver shortage, the return of cruise lines to the Port of New Orleans and airport passenger travel.

Next Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for January 14, 2021.

**Water Resources:** Report attached. Ms. Brasseaux advised she and Committee Chairman Brenton Jenkins are continuing to work with CPRA and the possibility of planning a virtual Industry Day with Levee Districts. Ms. Brasseaux will also setup a meeting with CPRA to discuss their selection process including no advance notice of projects to be advertised.

**Facilities:** No report.

**LES/Lapels:**  Mr. Bayard reported LES has started selling online webinars.

**AGC/AIA:**  ACECL continues to have regular breakfast meetings with LAGC (Ken Naquin). Last meeting entailed discussions and concerns of future construction revenue and planning of the Critical Issues Summit. Ms. LeBas recommended ACECL should study the trend of DOTD construction money for new projects (Priority A & Priority B) in the Highway Priority Transportation Plan to retain our engineering expertise and having designed projects on the shelf waiting for future construction funding. Ms. Brasseaux noted she will place on the next Transportation Committee for discussion. Mr. McNeely noted he will pull the DOTD budget partition and Ms. LeBas offered her assistance with research.

**Unfinished Business:** Ms. Brasseaux reported that ACECL & AIA received member complaints in June on the Lafayette Parish School Board assignment of projects under $400,000. ACECL & AIA sent a joint letter offering assistance to the new School Superintendent and School Board members and later met with the CFO and Superintendent in October giving advice and best practices. A follow-up ZOOM meeting was held discussing a draft of proposed selection criteria rules and regulations and currently awaiting an updated draft. Once received, the updated version will be sent to the Lafayette Chapter delegation for input.

**New Business:** Nothing to report.

**Next Meeting:** Future Board meetings are scheduled for February 5th, March 26, May 21, and June 18.

A motion was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Mr. Thomassie to adjourn the meeting.