**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
February 5, 2021
The Engineering Center/ZOOM**

**BOG present:** David Dupre, Andy Craig (ZOOM), Nathan Junius (ZOOM), Bob Boagni (Zoom), Chad Bacas, Kent Poyser, Andree Cortez (Zoom), Chad Poche, Sherri LeBas, Butch Babineaux (Zoom), Brett Bayard, Michael Thomassie, Colby Guidry, and Don Arrington (ZOOM)

**BOG with prior engagements:** Micha Duffy, Michael Songy, and Lisa Cookmeyer

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

**Additional Guest(s):** Chase McNeely (Zoom) and Bryan Jones (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. Bayard and seconded by Mr. Poche. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dupre called for approval of the December 17, 2020 minutes. A motion was made by Ms. LeBas and seconded by Mr. Bacas. Motion passed unanimously.

**Secretary/Treasurer Report:** (Financials Attached)

Ms. Brasseaux presented the December 2020 financials noting the $201,757 checking/saving account balance. Ms. Brasseaux noted a transfer of $5K was moved from checking to savings to start replenishing the withdrawal made in December 2018 to accommodate two Executive Directors on payroll during transition. The Long-Term Liabilities represents the two SBA loans, $3,000 EIDL (forgivable) and $35,000 (low interest unforgivable with first payment due in late 2021). After review and discussion of financials submitted, a motion was made by Mr. Bacas and seconded by Mr. Poche to accept. Motion passed unanimously.

A draft of the 2021-2022 proposed budget will be presented at the March Board Meeting.

**Chairman Report:** (D. Dupre)

* Bylaws Committee: Ms. Cortez noted the Committee is continuing to meet and go through the ACECL Bylaws. The Committee anticipates a written recommendation report will be presented to the Board in late Spring/early Summer.
* Committee Goals: Chairman Dupre asked that all Committee Chairs/Laisons step back and review their yearly goals to ensure each Committee is active.

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

* ACEC Election of Officers: Mr. Craig reported that he cast the ACECL vote for election of the National ACEC officers. Mr. Kurt Evans was interviewed by the nomination committee and unfortunately was not nominated for placement on the ballot.
* 2020 PAC Goal: The ACEC PAC advised they were contributing additional monies in the name of ACECL to achieve its 2020 PAC Goal given the fact that Louisiana had its fair share dealing with multiple hurricanes the past year.

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

* Annual Sponsorships: Ms. Brasseaux reported that ACECL restructured its Annual Sponsorship packages and collected $56,000 in 2021 compared to $13,500 in 2020. Even though these sponsorships included annual events, event sponsorships throughout the year will still be offered.
* ACEC Economic Contribution Study: The ACEC Research Institute has released an Economic Contribution Study and Ms. Brasseaux advised she will distribute/use the information during the year including Engineering Week media posts.
* Engineering Week: Events scheduled include a DOTD Chief Roundtable tentatively scheduled for February 24, being offered both in-person (limited to 35 persons) and virtual; and the USACE invited ACECL to participate in a Future of the Workplace Post COVID Virtual Panel. Ms. Brasseaux, Nathan Junius and Dan Grandal (Stantec) will sit on the discussion panel.
* DOA meeting follow-up: Ms. Brasseaux reported she is working with Pat Forbes, DOA, on the Office of Community Development advertising HUD funded watershed initiative contracts, asking for price when the scope of work is not entirely design services. She advised they must follow the Hammett Act and ACECL will continue to monitor.
* SBA Loan – First payment ($100 monthly installment) of the $35,000 unforgivable loan is due October 2, 2021. A decision will need to be made to either pay back the $35,000 or hold the low-interest monies.
* EEA Gala – The Gala is scheduled for March 25 at the Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel. The event is for the 2020 award winners and needs to commence either as a luncheon or dinner. The hotel advised with COVID safety protocols we can host up to 180 persons. After discussion it was agreed an evening event was appropriate and each of the award recipients will be surveyed of their interest in attending.
* Continuing Education Report: Critical Issues will be held virtual on March 3-4, 2021; The 2021 Emerging Leaders Institute will commence with its first session held on May 11th and registration is now open; ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit will be held virtual on April 26-28. ACECL will setup virtual appointments with Louisiana Congressional delegation.

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Bacas reported Jay Hardman with the Port of Greater Baton Rouge Executive spoke on January 11th. Next meeting scheduled for March 8th.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Poyser reported Joseph Stebbins and Mark Heck will present at the February 11th luncheon on the Charity Hospital Redevelopment. Ms. Brasseaux noted ACECL and LAGC are drafting a letter to the Mayor of New Orleans offering support and requesting a seat at the table in selecting the new Public Works Director. Also, a lengthy comment document has been sent to N.O. on their RFQ (pre-qualified list) for A/E services.

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Guidry reported a February 18th luncheon is planned with an update on the I-49 Connector.

**Shreveport:** No report.

**Monroe:** Mr. Arrington advised he would like to host a Spring meeting with Chairman Dupre and ACECL staff in attendance.

**Lake Charles:** Mr. Babineaux reported a virtual meeting was held on January 20th hosting Mayor Hunter on hurricane recovery efforts and how it effects infrastructure. Next meeting in April with possible speakers from the Port of Lake Charles and Chennault Airport.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** (Report attached). Mr. Thomassie reported that the Membership Committee met on January 6th reviewing the Top Recruitment List and set action items for each. Board Members were urged to personally push out to potential members the newly created membership brochure. Mr. Thomassie will send email language to all Board Members. Committee will meet prior to the March Board Meeting updating action items and will present an updated recruitment list at the March Board Meeting.

Ms. Brasseaux also informed the Board that ACEC will be emailing to membership a poll on the current dues structure and possible restructuring. Ms. Brasseaux expressed her concerns of ACEC collecting dues from Louisiana firms.

**Legislative Committee:**  (Report Attached) Chairman Bryan Jones reported the Committee met on December 18th with recommendations to move forward with the Amendment to the Ethics Code to codify an exception that provides, under limited circumstances, for a contractual agreement between a public employee’s agency and their spouses’ employer and amending the Hammett Act to replace “design services” with “A/E services” (see full Report) . After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Guidry and seconded by Mr. Poche for preliminary support to move forward with the proposed 2020 legislation recommended by the Legislative Committee with the final drafted Bills to be presented for final vote. Motion passed unanimously.

April 21 is Fix our Roads Day at the State Capitol; LCFOR has collected $400,000 with an additional $200,000 in commitments with funds being used for marketing and public relations. LCFOR has hired consultants with relations to Legislators, including the Black Caucus and Democratic Party, media, and business & industry. Chance Neely added that a digital marketing campaign is being rolled out with short videos/banner ads tailored to individual legislative districts.

A motion was made by Mr. Poche and seconded by Mr. Bayard to send a Resolution to the family of Steve Carter honoring and acknowledging his contributions to infrastructure funding. Motion passed unanimously.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:**  (Report attached) The Transportation Committee met on January 14, 2021 and report was presented by Mr. Boagni. Ms. Brasseaux also noted the last two Consultant Outreach Group (COG) meetings were cancelled by DOTD and DOTD informed her these meetings will be conducted quarterly in the future. She has a meeting scheduled with Mr. Wedge to discuss the schedule changes.

Next Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for March 11, 2021.

**Water Resources:** (Report attached). Ms. Brasseaux reported continuing to work on organizing an Industry Day and a new issue of DOT timesheets requirements for the Watershed Initiative is being reviewed.

**Facilities:** Mr. Poche reported no new updates have been received from Chairman Campbell on FP&C issues. Ms. Brasseaux noted that meetings with AIA need to be rescheduled with regards to Fire Marshal plan stamping.

**LES/Lapels:**  (Report Attached)

**AGC/AIA:**  ACECL continues to have regular breakfast meetings with LAGC (Ken Naquin).

**Unfinished Business:** Ms. Brasseaux reported she has reached out to some Lafayette member firms to obtain feedback on the Lafayette Parish School Board (LPSB) proposed selection process procedures. Next steps: If/when a consensus is reached, ACECL will draft a letter to LPSB. Ms. Brasseaux also noted she may extend an invite to the LPSB to speak at the Lafayette Chapter luncheon on February 18.

**New Business:** A motion for final membership approval for GIS Engineering and Fairway Consulting & Engineering was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Mr. Bacas. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Thomassie advised that the EBR Parish Planning Commission may be making selection process changes and this should be on ACECL’s radar.

Ms. Brasseaux advised that an ACECL donation was made to the LSU Foundation, School of Engineering, in memory of John Graves. A motion was made by Mr. Guidry and seconded by Ms. LeBas to send a Resolution to the family of John Graves honoring and acknowledging his contributions to the engineering community.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2021.

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