**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
January 18, 2019
The Engineering Center
Baton Rouge, LA**

**BOG present:** Raymond Reaux, Kurt Evans, David Dupre, Andree Cortez, Michael Songy, Brett Bayard, Chad Bacas, Bob Boagni, Andy Craig, Michael Thomassie, Craig Campbell, Alison Catarella-Michel, Don Arrington and Lisa Cookmeyer

**BOG with prior engagements:** Nathan Junius, Micha Duffy and Sherri LeBas

**STAFF:** Doreen Brasseaux and Janet Tomeny

**Additional Guest(s):** John Basilica, Kent Poyser and Tom Hunter

Chairman Reaux called the meeting to order.

Mr. Campbell presented the inspirational message.

Chairman Reaux asked Secretary-Treasurer Cortez for roll call. Quorum established.

Chairman Reaux called for approval of the December 13, 2018 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Cortez. Motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Ms. Cortez presented the December 2018 financials. (Attached) After review and comments, a motion was made by Ms. Cookmeyer and seconded by Mr. Craig to accept financials presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

Chairman Reaux reported:

* ACECL Committees are building momentum. The Board may want to consider giving Committee Chairs authority to proceed on certain issues without Board approval. Mr. Songy suggested Committee Chair at the minimum gain the Chairman’s prior approval. Next steps: Mr. Reaux will work with staff to draft language.
* Steven Loeb has advised that he is stepping back from his duties with Breazeale Sachse & Wilson (semi-retire) and personally introduced his colleague, Jake Roussel, to Ms. Brasseaux. After discussion of Mr. Loeb’s past dedication, wealth of knowledge, and confusion of what his role will be in the future to ACECL, it was requested that Chairman Reaux reach out to Mr. Loeb for clarification. Next steps: Mr. Reaux and Mr. Evans meet with Mr. Loeb.
* Member firm, Waldemar S. Nelson, requested ACECL’s interest in filing an amicus brief in support of their Supreme Court writ application (expert testimony is not always necessary to prove professional negligence). Ms. Brasseaux noted that it cost $4,300 to file the Savoie Amicus Brief. Next step: Have Legal counsel prepare a white paper advising if ACECL should intervene with an Amicus Brief at this stage in the case.

**National Directors Report:**  Mr. Evans reported on the state of the nation with the government shutdown and encouraged the Board to signup on a national ACEC committee.

**President & CEO Report**:

Ms. Brasseaux reported:

* President/CEO 45-day update presentation (powerpoint attached) showcasing information learned and path forward.
* The Savoie decision by the Court of Appeals lower court ruling that overturned the denial of a summary judgment in favor of Mr. Savoie by the Ethics Adjudicatory Board. The Court of Appeals remanded the case back to the Board of Ethics to hold a hearing on the facts of the case. Mr. Savoie asked if ACECL would be willing to write a letter to LAPELS asking them to communicate to the Ethics Boards that they (LAPELS) oversee the professional ethics of engineers. After discussion, it was determined that the Board did not feel it was a LAPELS issue. Next steps: Brasseaux email decision to all Board Members and ACECL will continue to develop possible statutory language to better define “governmental function” and “public employee.”

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Bacas reported Alex Carter with OCD, presented on the La. watershed initiative on January 14. Next meeting March 11.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Poyser reported Paul Rainwater spoke at the January 10 luncheon and spoke on the NOSWB issues, including payment of invoices. Next meeting March 14 with Derek Boese.

**Lafayette:** Mr. Bayard reported a joint meeting with IEEE to be held on January 30th with Eric Ponti presenting on the LCFOR initiative.

**Shreveport:** No report.

**Monroe:** Mr. Arrington reported that Shreveport firm members met with Ms. Brasseaux on November 27 wherein she presented an update on ACEC current initiatives/issues.

**Lake Charles:** Ms. Tomeny reported the next Lake Charles luncheon is scheduled for February 28, 2019 with Kevin Melton, Chennault Airport, as speaker.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** Report Attached.

Mr. Dupre disbursed “retention” and “potential member” spreadsheets which were sorted by Chapters (attached). Board members broke-off in their respective Chapters and discussed how to connect with member firms who have not engaged in ACECL events and contacting prospective members.

**Continuing Education:**

Critical Issues – Ms. Cortez reported Critical Issues is February 14-15, 2019 to be held at the Baton Rouge Hilton Downtown and registration is open.

Annual Conference - Washington, DC (May 5-8, 2018)

Business Forum - Mr. Evans reported he is working on the 2019 program with Ms. Brasseaux and Ms. Tomeny.

Deep South – Mr. Reaux reported that he and ACEC staff held a conference call with AL, MS and AK leadership to discuss 2019 program. The topic of increasing registration fee for better quality speakers was discussed and concurred with.

EEA Awards Program – Mr. Craig reported that he and ACECL staff will attend the Arkansas ACEC awards banquet in March. Ms. Brasseaux advised she would reach out to Mr. Ralph Junius with the possibility of the Past Presidents Council and Emerging Leader alumni to partner in serving on the EEA Awards Committee.

**Public Relations:** Ms. Cortez presented attached committee report.

**Legislative Committee:** Mr. Thomassie advised Legislative Committee will meet on January 23 (conference call) to discuss the potential public employee legislation to be filed. Ms. Brasseaux advised that Senator Cortez is holding a bill for the public employee issue and she will develop potential language to present to the Committee.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:** Mr. Basilica presented his report noting that DOTD is okay with the Transportation Committee’s 2019 goals and objectives as evidenced by Mr. Wedge’s proactive work as noted in report. Next committee meeting is scheduled for February 14 and a DOTD Roundtable meeting is being planned in conjunction with Critical Issues on Friday, February 22nd.

Ms. Michel presented the attached report summarizing the January 16, 2019 Traffic Transportation Subcommittee meeting and advised that Ms. Diane Hammonds has agreed to attend a meeting with DOTD representing ACECL.

**Ports, Airports, Rail, Multi-modal**Mr. Hunter presented the attached committee report and advised that he, Ms. LeBas and Mr. Basilica agreed to incorporate the Multi-modal subcommittee meetings with the Transportation Committee meetings.

**Water Resources:** Ms. Cookmeyer presented attached committee report noting the committee’s phone conference discussing contract and payment issues with the NOSWB.  Next step: put together a coalition to meet with the Mayor of New Orleans.

**Facilities:**Mr. Campbell’s written report was introduced by Ms. Brasseaux as Mr. Campbell was meeting with the Architect Licensing Board. AIA/ACEC joint meetings with FP&C will commence shortly.

**LES/Lapels:**Ms. Michel advised she is planning to attend the LAPELS meeting on January 22, 2019. LES is holding their annual meeting in Lafayette on January 22-24.

**AGC/AIA:**  Mr. Songy reported he and Ms. Brasseaux met with Mr. Ken Naquin. Mr. Naquin has a wealth of association knowledge and is a great mentor for Ms. Brasseaux.

**General Counsel:** No report.

**National PAC:** No report.

**New Business:** No report.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be held on February 21, 2019 from 9:00 am - 11:30 am, the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Hotel.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Cortez to adjourn the meeting.