**American Council of Engineering Companies**

**of Louisiana**

**Board of Governors’ Meeting**

**March 16, 2018**

**Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson Law Firm**

**Baton Rouge, LA**

**BOG present:** Kurt Evans, Bob Schmidt, Raymond Reaux, Michael Songy, Alison Catarella-Michel, David Dupre, Andree Cortez, Andy Craig, Craig Campbell, Michael Thomassie, Lisa Cookmeyer, Bob Boagni, Lynn Roussel, Steve Robertson, and Nathan Junius

**BOG with prior engagements:** Brad Graff and Ryan Spillers

**STAFF:** Dan Mobley and Janet Tomeny

**Additional Guest(s)**: Phil Graham, Steve Loeb, Mark Lambert and Fannie Marcotte-Bennett

President Evans called the meeting to order with Mr. Robertson giving the inspirational moment.

President Evans asked Mr. Dupre for roll call. Quorum established.

President Evans asked for approval of the Agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Ms. Cortez to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

President Evans called for the approval of the February 1, 2018 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Craig and seconded by Mr. Robertson. Motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** (Financials Attached)

Mr. Graham presented the January & February 2018 financials including balance sheets and checking journals. President Evans asked for a Motion to approve financials as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Mr. Reaux. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**: President Evans reported that the next President’s message will include the “member firm spotlight” benefit available to member firms; the Executive Committee met prior to the Board meeting to discuss internal planning; and he appointed President-Elect Reaux to chair the 2018-2019 Board Selection Committee. Mr. Reaux requested that the Board approve Mr. James Ledet and Mr. Tony Arikol to serve on the Committee. A motion to approve appointments was made by Mr. Robertson and seconded by Ms. Michel. The motion passed unanimously.

**National Director’s Report:**  Mr. Schmidt reported that ACECL sponsored the Project Needs Session at the Louisiana Transportation Conference and Matt Reiffer, ACEC Transportation Lobbyist, spoke on the Trump Infrastructure plan. Mr. Schmidt also advised that the ACECL Executive Committee will be visiting Capitol Hill while attending the Annual Convention in April. Also, Mr. Kenneth Smith, T. Baker Smith, has been asked to consider applying for the ACEC Executive Committee.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

Mr. Mobley advised that the newly hired ACEC CEO will be announced at the April Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.

**Chapter Presidents’ Report:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Thomassie reported Mr. Ken Naquin, LAGC was the March 12, 2018 speaker. Mr Adam Knapp, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, will be the speaker on April 9th. Mr. Reaux also noted that LAGC may be a good candidate to join in partnership with AIA and ACECL on the Emerging Leaders Program. Ms. Tomeny noted she would contact LAGC.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Junius reported that Rep. Falconer spoke at the March 8th luncheon and Katie Dignan with the City of New Orleans will speak on April 12th (Report Attached). Also, Mark Chenevert with LDOTD will do a 24-102 training on March 20th in New Orleans.

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Campbell reported Melissa Newell with Plan Acadiana spoke on traffic incidents/safety on March 14th. Mark Dubroc, Lafayette Public Works Director will speak on May 9th.

**Shreveport:**  Mr. Craig reported that Mark Chenevert, LDOTD, will do a 24-102 training in Shreveport on March 22nd and a Chapter luncheon will follow with President Evans attending.

**Monroe Area:** Mr. Mobley advised that the ACECL staff and President Evans will be attending a Monroe area luncheon on March 21st.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:**  Mr. Reaux reviewed the February 2018 membership firm/employee counts chart (attached), along with ACECL past retention rate. Mr. Reaux recommended that a retention percentage rate be implemented in the Strategic Plan. After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Michel and seconded by Mr. Robertson to implement a 90% retention rate into the strategic plan.

**Continuing Education:** Mr. Dupre reported on future events (report attached). President Evans advised that the Business Forum is set up for May 17th with the Board Meeting to be held on the morning of May 18th. Sponsorships are available and online registration is now open. Ms. Tomeny reported that the Deep South Convention programming is being finalized which will include an Executive Committee Roundtable, along with a member firm roundtable moderated by Peter Strub and Steve Hall. Also, registration is open for the Emerging Leaders Institute.

**Public Relations:** Ms. Cortez reviewed the committee report (attached) noting the release of the engineering magazine with President Evans on cover. Ms. Bennett also reported that an update is needed from the Transportation Committee for submission in the newsletter. Mr. Schmidt & Mr. Boagni will submit an article for publication. Mr. Schmidt recommended pictures be included in the newsletter with Mr. Robertson in agreement.

Mr. Lambert reported that he released an invitation to members to volunteer for the Zurich Classic Golf Tournament. ACECL has already donated more than 1,000 man hours to the ForeKids Foundation. President Evans asked that members and the public be advised of ACECL’s volunteerism record.

**Legislative Committee:** Ms. Michel reported that each Board member has a listing of Bills that ACECL will be monitoring. The Legislative Committee will meet on March 19th to review said listing in detail. Also, HB59 has been postponed. Mr. Reaux advised that Ken Naquin with LAGC advised him that he has heard there is some talk about lowering the floor to $1M on the CMAR legislation, which LAGC opposes, so we need to monitor the Bill closely.

Mr. Mobley reported that there are two bills authorizing a regional gas tax for transportation funding (HB 178 & 179, Rep. Steve Carter) noting that DOTD is against said bills and the Baton Rouge Chamber is supporting. After discussion on ACECL’s position, President Evans asked for a motion to submit a green card during Committee hearing to support House Bills 178 & 179. A motion was made by Ms. Michel and seconded by Mr. Reaux. The Board voted unanimously.

**Client Liaison CommitteeS**

**Transportation:** Mr. Schmidt reported that John Basilica led a Transportation Committee on March 15th with Chief Engineer Chris Knotts attending and Ed Wedge reporting on the ACECL/LDOTD initiative. Topics of conversation were overhead rates, procurement process changes (firm size pertaining to staff augmentation) and next steps on documentation of LDOTD processes. Also, LAGC called a meeting on March 8th with contractors, LDOTD, and invited ACECL to participate. Discussions at the meeting were the dissatisfaction of Design Build being used on all the latest GARVEE Bond projects and, noting that the current process needs to be improved. After discussion on transportation issues, it was agreed that Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Boagni will draft an ACECL white paper (Resolution) outlining ACECL’s top priorities on transportation matters.

**Water Resources:** Ms. Cookmeyer presented the Committee’s report (attached).

**Facilities:** Mr. Mobley reported that FP&C will be using a new 24-102 by March 20th and he will disburse the new form next week to membership. Mr. Robertson reported that Mr. Moses was in Shreveport and announced that the State is looking into doing energy performance contracts.

**LES/LAPELS:** Ms. Roussel reported that LES will take the led on the Public Records legislation and that the LES and ACECL Baton Rouge Chapters are planning a joint meeting in May.

**AGC/AIA:**  Mr. Campbell reported that the ACECL & AIA working groups are continuing to work with both licensing boards for an agreeable definition of “incidental” and have been reviewing other state’s definitions. Talks are currently at the maximum occupancy of 49 persons; once occupancy at 50, project considered no longer incidental. Everything above the threshold of 49 would require an architect, and same for engineers. Mr. Loeb inquired if this will be done by statute, rules or regulations. Mr. Campbell advised this has not been defined. Next meeting is scheduled for April 11 and the deadline is July 9th to get an agreeable definition.

**General Counsel Report:** Nothing to report.

**National PAC Update:** President Evans announced the Spring ACEC PAC Sweepstakes. ACECL will once again hold a drone raffle, contributed by T. Baker Smith. Ms. Cortez and President Evans will discuss a plan of action for the drone drawing and the Public Relations Committee will promote through social media.

**Unfinished Business:**

President Evans presented the red-lined proposed Bylaws revisions, along with Board comments received. The Board went through the entire red-lined proposed Bylaws, section by section, discussing all proposed changes.

After discussions, President Evans asked for a Motion to accept the agreed upon Bylaws changes. **(Updated red-lined changes attached to these Minutes**). A motion was made by Ms. Michel for approval. Mr. Dupre asked when the Bylaws would go into effect. After discussion, Mr. Reaux suggested an amended motion be made to accept the agreed upon Bylaws changes effective July 1, 2018. An amended motion was made by Mr. Robertson and seconded by Ms. Michel. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:** None reported.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be held on May 18, 2018 at the Baton Rouge Renaissance Hotel at 8:30 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Ms. Michel to adjourn the meeting.