**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
March 26, 2021
The Engineering Center/ZOOM**

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

**BOG with prior engagements:** Andree Cortez, Nathan Junius and Micha Duffy

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

**Additional Guest(s):** Kenny Smith (Zoom) and Craig Campbell (ZOOM)

Chairman Dupre called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Tomeny for roll call. Quorum established.

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

Chairman Dupre called for approval of the February 5, 2021 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Poyser and seconded by Mr. Bayard. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Brasseaux presented the January/February 2021 financials noting the total checking/saving account balance of $254,772.24. Motion was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Mr. Arrington to accept financials presented.

Ms. Brasseaux noted the healthy checking account balance and the pending $15,000 credit payment from the employee tax credit and recommended to replenish the savings account. A motion was made by Mr. Poche and seconded by Mr. Craig to transfer $5,000 from checking to savings and to deposit the $15,000 employee tax credit into the savings account, a total of $20,000. Motion passed unanimously.

The $35,000 low interest SBA loan received has a first payment scheduled in September 2021. Mr. Dupre advised that after the proposed Budget for 2021-22 is presented at the May board meeting, the Board will decide whether to keep the monies or pay back.

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

* PAC Coordinating Committee – Mr. Kenny Smith reported that the idea of creating a PAC Coordinating Committee was to assist in fundraising for both the state and national PAC efforts, including getting the Chapters involved by setting goals. The first Committee meeting was held via ZOOM on February 19th. Mr. Smith presented a PAC Coordinating Committee Charter for the Board’s review. Ms. Tomeny noted that Bylaws Committee Chair, Andree Cortez, will incorporate the PAC Coordinating Committee into the proposed amended Bylaws as an ACECL standing committee. Next step: call next meeting and set Chapter goals.

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

* ACEC Annual Spring Convention: Mr. Craig reported the 2021 Annual Spring Convention will be virtual on April 26-28. The ACEC Board meeting will commence on Sunday, April 25th with one item for vote. All Board members were invited to sign up and will be reimbursed by ACECL.
* Update on two (2) ACEC PAC Sweepstakes; ACECL Cocodrie Fishing Sweepstakes & ACEC Spring Raffle.
* Mr. Kenny Smith reported that ACEC is continuing to advocate and is making headway with regard to the federal FAR credit clause in reference to the PPP loans. Also, anticipating a $3 trillion Biden Infrastructure Bill, followed by a Tax Bill. ACEC finished the FY sound and purchased a townhouse right behind the U.S. Capitol for lobbying efforts.

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

* EEA Recap: 160 attendees at the 2020 EEA Gala honoring 14 award winning projects. After discussion, it was determined to continue hosting the Gala in the Spring and the Call for Entries will be amended to reflect the spring event. Ms. Brasseaux also noted a larger venue is needed for the future.
* Oil & Gas Leasing and Drilling Moratoriums: Ms. Brasseaux advised ACEC is working on this issue and continuing to advocate for our membership in the oil & gas industry.
* ACECL Member Salary Survey: The HR Council, along with members, have recently inquired if ACECL has a salary survey. ACECL of Texas contracts with a firm to gather and compile an annual report including salaries of all positions and benefits for a fee of $6,000. The salary survey report will be made available to members at a cost, offering a discounted cost for those firms who participate in the survey. Ms. Brasseaux will send out a survey to membership asking if there is an interest and if members would participate in such a salary survey. To offset costs, may consider asking our southern state partners, Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi to participate in a regional report.
* City of Baton Rouge: sent a letter to U.S. DOT supporting the INFRA 2021 grant application for North Baton Rouge.
* Calcasieu Parish School Board QBS advocacy: successfully able to change advertisement of material testing & inspection services for their school campuses.
* Baton Rouge Ethics Engineering Contract Amendment: communicated with the City of BR notifying ACECL’s concern of ethic code language provisions in the MOVEBR amended contract including requiring 1 hour training for public contractors. Kathleen Allen, Board of Ethics, does not interpret the law the same as the City of BR. Ms. Allen is going to discuss with the Board of Ethics the possibility developing guidance that would outline the prohibited activities for private contractors. Next step: schedule a virtual meeting with BR & Board of Ethics.
* Steve Carter Resolution: present to Carter family at the Baton Rouge Chapter luncheon on April 12.
* John Graves Resolution: present to Graves family at the Baton Rouge Chapter luncheon on June 14.
* Bentley OpenRoads: Bentley is requiring DOTD to move from InRoads to OpenRoads software and will not be supporting InRoads. DOTD has advised it will take 18 months to convert. Other state DOT’s have already converted to the new software with no issues.
* Continuing Education Report: 2021 Emerging Leaders Institute will commence with its first session held on May 11-12 and the ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit will be held virtual on April 26-28. ACECL will possibly setup virtual appointments with Louisiana Congressional delegation. Deep South Convention to be held on July 22-24 at the SanDestin Resort and Ms. Ann Trappey has generously offered her home to host the Breazeale Sachse & Wilson sponsored Louisiana delegation cocktail event.

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Bacas reported Sen. Rick Ward spoke at the March 8th luncheon. Next meeting scheduled for April 12 with Ascension Parish President Clint Cointment.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Poyser reported next meeting is scheduled for April 8 with Ghassan Korban, NOSWB, as speaker. Ms. Brasseaux advised the City of NO has extended their deadline once again.

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Guidry reported Secretary Wilson & Tim Nickel spoke on the I-49 connector at the March 17 luncheon.

**Shreveport:** No report.

**Monroe:** No report.

**Lake Charles:** Mr. Babineaux reported a virtual meeting will be held on March 31st with speakers from the Port of Lake Charles on hurricane recovery and upcoming improvements.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** (Report attached). Mr. Thomassie reported that the Membership Committee met on March 18th reviewing and updating target recruitment lists, including pushing out the digital membership brochure. ACECL welcomes (2) two new firms, GIS Engineering & Fairway Consulting. Ms. Brasseaux reported that The Water Institute has dropped membership. Mr. Thomassie will forward to each Board member the electronic brochure and asked each Board member to communicate to him any firm contacts they may have to assist with recruitment. Next steps will be inviting target members to upcoming luncheons. Ms. Brasseaux noted that the affiliate membership brochure will be completed and asked the Board to keep in mind companies to offer affiliate membership whom they do business.

**Legislative Committee:**  (Report Attached) Ms. Brasseaux reported ACECL’s Ethics Bill has been filed by Senator Sharon Hewitt; Rep. Foy Gadberry informed that the QBS Bill has been dropped; and the GRIT Act (Gas Tax) has surprisingly been pulled, but the author is not opposed to looking at other recurring revenue. The Legislative Committee will meet in the next couple of weeks to review Bills to be monitored.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:**  (Report attached) Mr. Boagni reported that the Transportation Committee’s March 10 meeting was cancelled and the DOTD Chief Engineer Roundtable was conducted on February 24, 2021 (see notes in Committee report). ACECL requested the next Consultant Outreach Group (COG) to meet in May, and the next Transportation Meeting is scheduled for May 13.

**Water Resources:** (Report attached). Ms. Cookmeyer reported the Committee met on February 18 and next meeting is scheduled for April 15. Continuing to coordinate with CPRA and Coastal Builders on a potential May 19 Industry Day at the Capitol and including the Levee Districts. Coordinating with the Water Institute on a Public Model Repository roundtable. Ms. Cookmeyer also announced that Gen. Supt. Bob Turner resigned from the SWOB and Ron Spooner is now Acting Supt. Also, Ms. Brasseaux reported that a national ACEC Task Force has been formed and is working with the US Corps to streamline IDIQ selection process.

**Facilities:**  Mr. Craig Campbell updated the Board on Incidental Practice Committee noting after ACECL and AIA agreed on proposed language and LAPELS approved said language, LSBAE’s attorney interpreted the old Attorney General’s Opinion to reflect that architects can do whatever engineering they feel comfortable. LAPELS attorneys disagree with LSBAE’s interpretation. LSBAE now has advised that they are not going to ask for a new Attorney General’s opinion. The ACECL-AIA working committee will commence next month to re-evaluate the original definition and determine what needs to be amended to satisfy both the engineering and architect boards and the Fire Marshal’s Office. The Fire Marshal advised they will support if both associations are in agreement.

Ms. Brasseaux noted if incidental language legislation is being considered, she is concerned AIA may want to put civil exception language in any proposed legislation. Next steps could possibly be creating a Task Force between LAPELS and LSBAE to review plans and discipline architects/engineers who are violating plan stamping.

Ms. Brasseaux advised comments were received from the Facilities Committee on the FP&C Procedural Manual on procedure changes, noting that in 2019 ACECL sent comments on rule changes. These procedural comments will be presented to FP&C.

**LES/Lapels:**  No report.

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

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:** A motion for final membership approval for Bonton Associates and Halff Associates was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Ms. LeBas. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made for reinstatement of membership to Jonathan M. Coates, P.E., LLC. A motion was made by Mr. Thomassie and seconded by Mr. Bacas. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Arrington and seconded by Mr. Craig to adjourn the meeting.