**American Council of Engineering Companies**

**of Louisiana**

**Board of Governors’ Meeting**

**May 18, 2018**

**The Baton Rouge Renaissance Hotel**

**Baton Rouge, LA**

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

**BOG with prior engagements:** Craig Campbell and Nathan Junius

**STAFF:** Dan Mobley and Janet Tomeny

**Additional Guest(s)**: Phil Graham, Duane Cowart, Steve Loeb, Mark Lambert, Bren Kramer & Michael Palamone

President Evans called the meeting to order with Ms. Cortez 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 March 16, 2018 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Robertson and seconded by Ms. Catarella-Michel. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Graham presented the March 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 Ms. Cortez. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mobley presented the 2018-2019 proposed budget which includes a 2% membership dues increase. After discussion of budget changes/corrections, including an additional $27,000 for overlap of two (2) Executive Director’s on payroll, a copy of the amended proposed budget will be emailed to Board members for review to bring before the Board for final vote at the June 15, 2018 board meeting.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**:

President Evans requested any comments on the Business Forum to be emailed to him. Presentations will be placed on the website.

President Evans advised he will submit an end of year summary at the June meeting and asked for any accomplishments to be emailed to him for inclusion. President Evans also announced that Andrew Woodruff has submitted for the ACEC Young Professional of the Year Award.

President Evans requested that President-Elect Reaux report on the 2018-2019 Board Selection Committee’s nominees. Mr. Reaux submitted the Selection Committee’s candidates (attached) and pursuant to the Bylaws, the nominee list will be submitted to ACECL principals for consideration and formal request for any other nominations for vote. President Evans asked for a motion to accept the nominating committee’s nominees. A motion was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Mr. Robertson. Motion passed unanimously

President Evans advised that he has asked President-Elect Reaux to consider asking the Chair of the Past Presidents Council to attend board meetings in an advisory role to create connectivity between the Council and the Board.

Mr. Reaux also advised that he would be forming new 2018-2019 committees namely, Lake Charles, Monroe & Alexandria and would also welcome feedback on existing committees.

**National Director’s Report:**  Mr. Schmidt reported that the ExComm visited Capitol Hill during the Annual Convention on April 17-18 and lobbied for additional infrastructure and water resources funding. Also, at the ACEC Board Meeting, it was announced that the search for a new ACEC CEO/President has been delayed as the candidate unanimously chosen decided to withdraw unexpectedly. The search process will re-engage and Dave Raymond has agreed to stay on board until a replacement is found.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

Nothing to report.

**Chapter Presidents’ Report:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Thomassie reported Adam Knapp with BRAC spoke on April 9th. On May 24th there will be a joint meeting with LES and ASCE hosting Chris Knotts, LDOTD Chief Engineer. The Chapter approved Mr. Chad Bacas, Forte & Tablada, as 2018-2019 Chapter President and Kimberly McDaniel, CobbFendley, as Vice-President.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Evans reported that Katie Dignan with the City of New Orleans spoke on April 12th. Next meeting will be held on June 14th.

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Reaux reported Mark Dubroc, Lafayette Public Works Director spoke on May 16th. The Chapter approved Brett Bayard, Mader Engineering, as the 2018-2019 Chapter President.

**Shreveport:**  Mr. Graff reported that Mark Chenevert with LDOTD held a 24-102’s workshop with a business meeting lunch following on March 22nd. Micha Duffy, Coyle Engineering, has been approved for the 2018-2019 Shreveport Chapter President.

**Monroe Area:** Mr. Spillers advised that the ACECL staff, along with President Evans attended a Monroe area luncheon on March 21st.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:**  Mr. Reaux reviewed the March & April 2018 membership firm/employee counts chart (attached). Ms. Tomeny reported that annual membership certification is ongoing and should be completed by June 15.

**Continuing Education:** Mr. Dupre reported on future events (report attached). Ms. Tomeny advised all to register for the Deep South Convention and to book hotel rooms as they are quickly filling-up.

**Public Relations:** Ms. Cortez reported that Membership Spotlights have been implemented on social media and next week the satisfaction survey should be released to all members. President Evans also advised the Spring Newsletter will be released soon.

Mr. Mobley reported that Mr. Lambert released a news release on the Business Forum and it was picked up in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport. Ms. Cortez suggested that we showcase the success of the Business Forum at the Deep South Convention.

**Legislative Committee:** Mr. Duane Cowart presented a detailed overview of the 2018 Legislative Session including the expectation that the Regular Session will conclude this day and a 2nd Special Session to commence on May 29th. HB 1 has been sent to the Governor for his signature, but there are no expectations that the Governor will sign the Bill as is. Also, HB 208, ACECL’s CMAR legislation, is on the Governor’s desk for signature which included an unexpected amendment stating a project costing between $5 million and $15 million will need to go before the House & Senate transportation committees for review and approval.

SB 133 (Senator Hewitt) giving LAPELS and the State Board of Architectural Examiners access to the Fire Marshal’s information management system for access to plans & drawings is expected to pass this day.

The Public Employee Bill (SB 376) quickly ran into serious opposition from the Board of Ethics and PAR. After discussion on language changes, President Evans asked for a Motion to change the language in SB 376 to read “engaged in the performance of a governmental function”. A Motion was made by Mr. Songy and seconded by Mr. Craig. Motion passed unanimously.

**Client Liaison CommitteeS**

**Transportation:** Mr. Mike Palamone, Urban Systems, advised the Board that he was informed by LDOTD that they now have a directive stating if a firm does not currently have a field overhead rate, LDOTD will calculate contract fees based on a statewide average (currently at $167 hour) until the firm gets said field overhead rate. Mr. Palamone expressed that this is a serious problem as some firms will never have a field overhead rate. After discussion and acknowledgment that office/field rates are a high Transportation Committee priority, a quick solution is not expected as we rewrite and define rates with LDOTD. Following are ACECL action items to be taken: (1) get copy of LDOTD’s directive; (2) look into the possibility of hiring an outside national accounting firm to report what Louisiana’s FAR rates are compared to other states, noting ACEC may be able to offer assistance; and (3) engage the Transportation Committee by forming a subcommittee on overhead field rates.

Ms. Catarella-Michel reported that LDOTD is cancelling the annual Traffic Engineering meeting and is instead holding a 4-session training to a small number of invited attendees in order to get guidance/consistency on the process and reporting forms. Ms. Catarella-Michel will make a report back to the Board as she will be in attendance. Ms. Catarella-Michel also expressed her concerns that LDOTD is trying to dictate our product and take away our expertise as a consultant.

Mr. Schmidt reported that there was an Infrastructure Summit held at the Port of New Orleans with J. Basilica and T. Arnold having speaking roles. Mr. Schmidt will get a full report prior to next board meeting. Also, DOTD is moving forward with the first public private partnership project (Belle Chasse Bridge)

**Water Resources:** Ms. Cookmeyer presented the Committee’s report (attached). Also, Rob Delaune will be stepping down as Committee Chair for 2018-2019.

**Facilities:** Mr. Bren Kramer presented two (2) summary reports on the progress of the task force working with AIA on the potential rule language/definition of architecture incidental to the practice of engineering (attached). Once both licensing boards, LSBAE and LAPELS, agree to a definition, each would then file a rule change which would be made available for public comment.

Mr. Kramer also spoke on the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council (report attached) and expressed his concern on the lack of design professionals sitting on said Council. Mr. Mobley advised that he and Lynn Robertson, AIA, will seek a meeting with the Commissioner of Administration to discuss concern.

**LES/LAPELS:**

**AGC/AIA:** (See Facilities report)

**General Counsel Report:** Mr. Loeb reported on the Savoie lawsuit which is currently on Motion for Summary Judgment in the First Circuit Court of Appeals. After discussion, Mr. Loeb recommended that ACECL file an amicus brief, stating members of our association support clarity in the law of governmental function. Mr. Loeb estimated that the cost would be $5,000 - $6,000 if he “farmed” out. President Evans asked for a motion to support ACECL writing an Amicus Brief on the Savoie case for the budgetary cost of $5,000. A motion was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Mr. Craig. Motion passed unanimously.

**National PAC Update:** ACECL will once again hold a drone raffle, contributed by T. Baker Smith. President Evans asked for 100% Board participation.

**Unfinished Business:**

President Evans reported that Tony Mumphrey, Chair of ACECL Executive Director Search Committee, advised that there have been over 100 resumes received, with only 12 completed packages submitted. Next steps: Search Committee will review all 12 packages received and choose the five (5) top candidates to be interviewed via telephone or in person by the Committee; the top three (3) applicants will be chosen by the Committee; and then the top (3) will be interviewed by the entire Board.

**New Business:**

Mr. Reaux brought up a concern that with the new CMAR legislation to include a Selection Committee to be appointed from a non-involved agency, what actually is the definition of a non-involved agency. Should ACECL ask for an Ethics Board opinion? After discussion, Attorney Loeb advised that an opinion request should not be asked.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be held on June 15, 2018, 10:00 a.m., the Engineering Center.

A motion was made by Mr. Robertson and seconded by Mr. Reaux to adjourn the meeting.