**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
May 21, 2021
The Engineering Center/ZOOM**

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

**BOG with prior engagements:** Nathan Junius and Micha Duffy

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

**Additional Guest(s):** N/A

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. Poyser and seconded by Mr. Guidry. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dupre called for approval of the March 26, 2021 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Craig and seconded by Mr. Bacas. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Brasseaux presented the March 2021 financials noting the total checking/saving account balance of $274,183. After discussion and overview, a motion was made by Mr. Poyser and seconded by Mr. Guidry to accept financials presented.

Ms. Brasseaux noted the healthy checking account balance and the pending $11,800 COVID tax employee credit payment forthcoming and recommended to transfer an additional $5,000 to savings. A motion was made by Mr. Guidry and seconded by Mr. Poyser to transfer $5,000 from checking to savings. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Brasseaux presented the 2021-2022 budget proposal (attached) noting a $3,499 proposed surplus. She reported the anticipated revenue on no state dues increase, national dues increase based on 1.5% CPI, expanded annual sponsorship opportunities and membership/affiliate static. Proposed new expenditures included proposed salary increases for Janet and Haleigh, salary study expense and website modernization. The Board will vote on final approval at the June 18 meeting.

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

* Bylaws Committee: Ms. Cortez advised that the Committee has reviewed and submitted proposed changes. The report is being drafted and will be presented to the Board for review and approval.
* 2021-2022 Nominating Committee Nominees: Ms. Cortez advised that the Nominating Committee comprised of herself, Ms. Ann Trappey and Mr. Kurt Evans and presented the Committee’s nominees (attached) to Secretary-Treasurer Nathan Junius pursuant to the Bylaws. She announced Mr. Chad Poche will be serving on the 2021-2022 ExComm as Secretary-Treasurer.
* 2021-2022 Chapter Election Results: Mr. Dupre reported the election results (attached) and acknowledged Mr. Kent Poyser for his two years of service as New Orleans Chapter President.
* Minuteman Funds for LCFOR: ACECL submitted a request and received $10,000 to support LCFOR in increasing Louisiana’s infrastructure funding.
* ACEC Planning Cabinet: Two ACECL members have been placed on the ACEC Planning cabinet, Mr. Kurt Evans and Mr. Kenny Smith. The purpose of the Planning Cabinet is to advise the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors on strategies and implementation steps for strengthening ACEC's governance and progress.
* RFQ Victory: A local New Orleans municipality advertised an RFQ with a price component and within hours from receiving communication from ACECL, the RFQ was revised.

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

* ACEC Annual Spring Convention: Mr. Craig thanked those who participated in the Convention and advised ACEC Chair, Robin Greenleaf, will be attending the Deep South Convention. Also, Ms. Cortez and Mr. Chad Poche will be attending the ACEC virtual Leadership Orientation on June 8-9.

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

* ACECL Member Salary Survey: Ms. Brasseaux advised she performed an informal ACECL membership poll with 28 member firms (17%) committing to participate in a Louisiana survey study, noting ACEC of Texas averages 15% firm participation. Ms. Brasseaux estimates $6,000 expense to hire consultant to perform the salary study and anticipates recouping some expense by offering the study to non-member firms and non-participant firms at a cost. After discussion, the Board instructed Ms. Brasseaux to proceed with the salary study.
* 2021 EEA Timeline: Ms. Brasseaux presented timeline (attached).
* Employee Tax Credit Refund: Anticipating receipt of $11,800 refund check.
* SBA Loan Repayment: The $35,000 low interest SBA loan has a first payment scheduled in October 2021. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Mr. Guidry to payoff the loan. Motion passed unanimously.
* Bentley Open Roads Update: Continuing to work with DOTD. DOTD has agreed to put together a small group of consultants and DOTD employees on required submissions.
* Continuing Education Report: 2021 Emerging Leaders Institute held first session with personality profiles, conflict resolution and a day at the Capitol with State Legislators. Deep South Convention registration is open and room block is filling quickly.

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Bacas reported on April 12th Ascension Parish President Clint Cointment spoke on the Parish’s upcoming sewerage tax vote. Next meeting will be held on June 14th hosting John Spain, BRAF and Mr. John Graves, family will be in attendance to receive ACECL’s Resolution.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Poyser reported on May 13th Mr. Jamie McCluskie, New Orleans Airport, spoke on the new North Terminal and future projects. Next meeting scheduled for August 12.

**Lafayette:**  No report.

**Shreveport:** Mr. Craig reported Bossier City elected a new mayor effective July 1 and a good candidate for next luncheon.

**Monroe:** Mr. Arrington invited incoming Chairman Cortez and ACECL staff to come to Monroe for an ACEC update luncheon with member firms. Ms. Brasseaux suggested hosting Congresswoman Julia Letlow in August.

**Lake Charles:** Mr. Babineaux reported a virtual meeting was held on March 31st with speakers from the Port of Lake Charles on hurricane recovery and upcoming improvements. Next meeting will be in person on June 29th hosting Kevin Melton, Chennault Airport.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** (Report attached). Mr. Thomassie reported he is proposing the possibility of having membership prospects join ACECL for a Lunch n Learn  style meeting streaming an ACEC Spring VIRTUAL Annual Convention session.

**Legislative Committee:**  (Report Attached) Ms. Brasseaux reported the Legislative Session has three weeks remaining and there are several bills which have advanced in the process that increase revenues for roads and bridges in one way or another including shifting the 0.45 cent temporary tax to the TTF Sub-fund. The Board of Ethics initially opposed ACECL’s Ethics Bill but withdrew their opposition with the addition of amendments that further limited the exception to only those spouses who were employed prior to the contract. The bill then passed through Committee and next step is House Floor. The QBS bill has advanced out of committee. On the House Floor, land surveying was added.  The bill is pending final passage on the Senate Floor, the last stop.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:**  (Report attached) Mr. Boagni presented Chairman Basilica’s Transportation Committee report noting DOTD is working with LTRC on training DOTD employees on the negotiates process based on best practices . After discussion, ACECL will organize a new working group to submit a white paper on the negotiation process. Also, DOTD has not received any feedback from DOA or Treasurer’s Office on how to handle PPP loans relative to overhead rates. ACEC is continuing to seek a Congressional fix. Next Committee meeting is scheduled for May 25.

**Water Resources:** (Full Report attached). Ms. Cookmeyer reported next Committee meeting scheduled for June 17 and ACECL supported the CPRA Industry Day at the State Capitol on May 19.

**Facilities:**  Mr. Poche reported Chairman Campbell advised nothing new on the incidental engineer/architect Task Force. Also, Mr. Jason Sooter has been named Director of Facility, Planning & Control. Mr. Mark Moses is continuing service as Assistant Commissioner.

**LES/Lapels:**  Report attached advising of newly appointed LAPELS members James Chustz and Janice Williams.

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

**Unfinished Business:** No report.

**New Business:** No report.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2021.

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