**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
November 6, 2020
The Engineering Center/ZOOM**

**BOG present:** David Dupre, Andy Craig, Nathan Junius, Colby Guidry, Bob Boagni (Zoom), Micha Duffy (Zoom), Chad Bacas, Kent Poyser (Zoom), Andree Cortez (Zoom), Chad Poche (Zoom), Sherri LeBas, Michael Songy, Don Arrington and Butch Babineaux (Zoom)

**BOG with prior engagements:** Brett Bayard, Lisa Cookmeyer and Michael Thomassie

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

**Additional Guest(s):** Craig Campbell (Zoom)

Chairman Dupre called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Junius for roll call. Quorum established.

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

Chairman Dupre called for approval of the September 18, 2020 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Bacas and seconded by Mr. Songy. Motion passed unanimously.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT:** (Financials Attached)

Ms. Brasseaux presented the September 2020 financials noting the $133,273 checking account balance includes the $35,000 SBA loan monies, which will be shifted to a separate account; a “Accrued Salary Deferral” reporting category has been added for tracking of last fiscal year’s deferred salary of President/CEO; Deep South Convention expenses represent Board awards/gifts and Emerging Leaders expenses represent reimbursement of registration fees. After review and discussion of financials submitted, a motion was made by Mr. Arrington and seconded by Mr. Craig to accept. Motion passed unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** (D. Dupre)

* Ms. Cortez updated the Board on the newly formed Bylaws Committee comprised of Ms. Cortez, Andy Craig, David Dupre, Brian Moldaner, Kimberly McDaniel and ACECL staff. An introduction virtual meeting was held on October 22 with next meeting scheduled for November 17th to review Section 1, Officers and Board of Governors.
* Chairman Dupre reported the Fall Conference had 110 registrants with potential income of $24,000, which is $14,000 more than budgeted. Awards were presented at the Fall Conference Awards Luncheon to Sergio Girau (A.E Wilder Award) and Brian Moldaner (Robby Cangelosi Award).
* ACECL is $6,000 short of the 2020 PAC Goal of $24,000. Mr. Dupre encouraged all to participate in the Charter Fishing Excursion Sweepstakes.
* Chairman Dupre reported that after discussion with ACEC PAC Champions Kenny Smith & Sergio Girau, a suggested PAC Committee made up of members from each of the local Chapters for both the ACEC and ACECL PAC’s would be beneficial. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Craig and second by Ms. LeBas to form an ACECL Political Advocacy Committee (PAC) with Kenny Smith as Chairman and each Chapter President, or designee, to comprise of said Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

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

* Mr. Craig reported the ACEC VIRTUAL Fall Conference was held on October 28-30 with the Board of Governor’s meeting held on October 27 with two voting items: Bylaws revision of vote counters (passed unanimously) and a motion to include diversity and inclusion enhancement component to the Strategic Plan, which was objected by the State of Alabama. After discussion, the motion was deferred.

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

* Ms. Brasseaux requested the need for the Board’s approval to ratify the $3,000 SBA Emergency Advance Loan. A motion was made by Mr. Songy and seconded by Mr. Bacas. Motion unanimously approved.
* LCFOR is holding a big announcement event on November 11 to be held at LABI announcing the author for infrastructure funding legislation.
* The ACECL EEA gala dates available at the Marriott are Thursday, March 25th or Friday, March 26th. After discussion and assuming COVID-19 enables safe social distancing will be practiced, Thursday, March 25th was agreed date.
* ACECL submitted an opinion request to the Board of Ethics allowing public clients to attend the EEA with ACECL inviting the client. A formal ruling will be issued as the Board of Ethics is hearing the matter this date and expect a favorable opinion.
* 2019-2020 Annual Report (one-pager) distributed at Fall Conference and will be placed on website. Any feedback welcomed for next year’s report.
* Critical Issues will be held at the Baton Rouge Capitol Hilton on February 4-5, 2021 with the Board Meeting to be held the morning of February 4th. Sponsorships will be offered.
* A Four Part Business Forum Webinar Series is scheduled the first week of December, with registration launching November 12th.
* Maximum state dues cap may be a discussion item in the future. While recruiting large national firms, do we want to consider? Engineering Division employee count vs. entire firm?
* ACECL will reschedule the jambalaya benefit for the Lake Charles firms. Mr. Duffy advised he has a locale for our use.

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Bacas reported a virtual meeting was held on October 5th with Daniel Layzell, LSU Executive V.P. and CFO reporting on the LSU Lakes Project and facilities. Next meetings to be held on January 11th and March 8th with maximum of 36 persons in attendance.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Poyser reported next meeting is scheduled for November 12th and will be in-person. Matt Jewell, St. Charles Parish President will be the speaker.

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Guidry reported a virtual meeting was held on September 22 with Mayor-President Josh Guillory. Next meeting proposed to be in January.

**Shreveport:** Mr. Duffy reported the Chapter hosted Congressman Mike Johnson early October and will attempt to schedule a meeting in November/December.

**Monroe:** Mr. Arrington will schedule a luncheon in early Spring and will invite the newly elected Mayor.

**Lake Charles:** Mr. Babineaux reported hurricane efforts are continuing and businesses are opening slowly. The Lake Charles Chapter will plan to convene in early 2021 hoping to reschedule Mayor Nic Hunter.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** (Report attached). Ms. Brasseaux reported working on recruitment of firms including GIS, Jacobs, HGA and Submar. Mr. Thomassie met with ACECL staff on updating recruitment list and moving forward with the Board’s assistance in identifying potential firms. Contracted with consultant Sherie Burton on updating recruitment marketing materials.

**Legislative Committee:**  Ms. Brasseaux presented a Public Policy Services Proposal, prepared by Mr. Chance McNeely, Premier Policy Solutions. The proposal develops a 3-5 year legislative plan on policy issues facing the engineering industry, assists with lobbying efforts and interaction with membership and the Board. Mr. Junius advised he met with Mr. McNeely and recommends entering in a one-year contract at a cost of $2,000 monthly. Ms. LeBas also advised she has worked with Mr. McNeely in the past and he would be an asset. Ms. Brasseaux advised she and Treasurer Junius reviewed the budget and with the addition of the Fall Conference income and other non-dues revenue, ACECL is in position financially to support the contract. A motion was made by Mr. Junius and seconded by Ms. Lebas to enter in a one-year contract, with a 30 day out, with Premier Policy Solutions at $2,000 a month. Motion passed unanimously.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:**  Full detailed committee report attached and presented by Mr. Boagni. Chairman Dupre noted the Consultant Outreach Group continues to meet on the 24-102. DOTD has requested ACEC to develop a white paper on Section 13 & 14 (Firm Size). Ms. LeBas asked about the status of the negotiations process and Ms. Brasseaux advised DOTD is aware of the pending matter and waiting on DOTD employees to respond. Next meeting is scheduled for December 10th.

**Water Resources:** Report attached. Ms. Brasseaux advised she and Committee Chairman Brenton Jenkins have a lunch scheduled with Coastal Builders to plan an Industry Day with Levee Districts and CPRA. Also, regular reoccurring monthly meetings will be setup.

**Facilities:** Mr. Craig Campbell gave a brief history and update on the committee’s past work with LAPELS, AIA, and LSBAE regarding the stamping of plans by architects. After working with all parties for one year and coming to an amicable agreement, the State Fire Marshal notified that his office wants to define incidental and LAPELS is not in agreement with proposed language. The Legislative Occupational Review Committee wants AIA and ACEC to come up with a solution and the ACECL/AIA working committee is resuming meetings.

LSBAE’s attorney is interpreting an old Attorney General’s Opinion as LAPELS does not have authority to regulate architects and therefore does not see the need to define incidental. LSBAE wants to go to the Attorney General requesting an opinion, which could take up to a year.

At the recent LAPELS meeting, LAPELS voted to inform LSBAE they have no objection to requesting an Attorney General’s opinion and strongly encourages to continue moving forward with the incidental language working committee meetings. LSBAE meets next month.

Next steps: (1) Get definition of incidental defined; and (2) legislation needed for Fire Marshal to enforce.

**LES/Lapels:**  Ms. Brasseaux reported that two new LAPEL appointees are Byron Racca and Linda Bergeron.

**AGC/AIA:**  Mr. Songy reported that the regularly scheduled meetings with LAGC commenced once again and will be meeting next week with Mr. Naquin.

**Unfinished Business:** Ms. Brasseaux advised that she has been in contact with Attorney Mike Sherman, formerly with the City of New Orleans, on the possibility of engaging in work to assist ACECL with the NOLA contract issues including but not limited to liquidated damages and duty to defend issues. Ms. Brasseaux noted a white paper of issues was given to Mr. Sherman and is waiting on a flat rate fee proposal.

A motion to authorize Ms. Brasseaux to enter into a contract with Mr. Sherman, not to exceed $5,000 to deal with the City of New Orleans contractual issues, $1,000 to be paid from New Orleans Chapter account and up to $4,000 from the ACECL budgeted legal fund, was made by Mr. Junius and seconded by Mr. Poyser. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:** Nothing to report.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2020, 10:00-11:30 a.m., with a holiday luncheon to follow.

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