**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
September 20, 2019
The Engineering Center
Baton Rouge, LA**

**BOG present:** Andy Craig, Raymond Reaux, Michael Thomassie, Sherri LeBas, Andree Cortez, David Dupre, Nathan Junius, Charles Adams, Kent Poyser, Colby Guidry, Brett Bayard, Bob Boagni, Micha Duffy, Lisa Cookmeyer and Don Arrington.

**BOG with prior engagements:** Chad Bacas and Michael Songy

**STAFF:** Doreen Brasseaux and Janet Tomeny

**Additional Guest(s):** Brenton Jenkins

Chairman Craig called the meeting to order and introduced Brenton Jenkins, the 2019-2020 Water Resources Committee Chair.

Mr. Arrington presented the inspirational message.

Chairman Craig asked Mr. Thomassie for roll call. Quorum established.

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

Chairman Craig called for approval of the July 11, 2019 minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Cortez and seconded by Mr. Dupre. Motion passed unanimously.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Mr. Thomassie presented the July & August 2019 financials noting the Deep South Convention financials have been reconciled and our projected income is $500 short due to low Louisiana registrations. Ms. Brasseaux also advised that electronic billing went into effect on July 1st, along with options of annual, quarterly or monthly invoicing. After review and comments, a motion was made by Ms. Cortez and seconded by Mr. Reaux to accept financials presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** (A. Craig)

* Fibrebond, a manufacturing company located in Minden, LA, proposing to leave Louisiana with its 750 employees, due to road/bridge conditions. ACECL sent a letter to the Governor asking to deploy all efforts to ensure Fibrebond’s facility remains. Also, a letter was sent to Graham Walker, CEO of Fibrebond, offering support. (letters attached).
* Seven (7) Board meetings scheduled for the 2019-20 term and encouraged Board Members to make every effort to attend.
* K. Evans will lead a Strategic Plan follow-up meeting at the December 12 Board meeting.

**National Directors Report:**  (R. Reaux)

* ACEC Fall Conference will be held in Chicago on October 13-16. Mr. Reaux will be in Chicago three days prior as he sits on the 2020-2022 ACEC Board Nomination Committee wherein they will be interviewing for the Chair and Vice- Chairs positions.

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

* Update report on the EEA: 13 EEA submissions received; Judges Panel announced (attached) and Master of Ceremonies, Robert Burton.
* QBS Champion Award(s) nomination forms will be distributed to membership by the Chapter Presidents seeking to recognize public agencies that make exemplary use of QBS. The Award(s) will be presented at the Fall Conference awards luncheon.
* Ms. Tomeny reported that A.E. Wilder award submission cutoff date is today and the deadline for receiving applications for the Robby Cangelosi Award is October 1st.
* Represented the engineering community on LPB’s Louisiana Public Square: RESET Louisiana. The program was focused on infrastructure funding and will air on Thursday, September 26.
* With Board approval, ACECL has hired Attorney Jimmy Burland to organize and setup the ACEC state PAC. President with board approval will set up banking account with two required signatures. Chairman Craig appointed Kurt Evans to head-up a committee to setup the PAC. Mr. Evans and Ms. Brasseaux reached out to a group of 10 to seed the first $20,000 ($2,000 each) successfully. Communication will be sent to membership advising of the newly created state PAC and invoices in January should reflect a voluntary dues contribution. 5% would raise $57,000 over a 4-year period & 10% would raise $115,00 over a 4-year period (if 100% participated). Next steps: Meet with Mr. Burland & 10-member support group and the Board to vote in December on percentage of voluntary contribution to place on invoice. Mr. Junius recommended that he and Ms. Brasseaux also review the ACEC of Houston PAC as they have a strong presence.
* DOTD contract change approvals: At ACECL’s request DOTD approved additional language to the indemnity provision and the Scope of Services provisions of the standard contract providing clarification on the obligations of the engineer.
* Calcasieu Parish Police Jury took out contract provisions that protected engineers and ACECL requesting that they add language back. Waiting to hear from their attorney on adding the concessions to our requests.
* Continuing to work with the City of New Orleans and the NO Sewerage & Water Board on outstanding invoices. Good communication & relationship.
* Met with OCD relative to Watershed Initiative Program Management contract selection expressing displeasure of selection process, i.e., trend being set selecting multiple firms and how it changes negotiations.
* Continuing Education: Fall Conference agenda presented focusing on both the business climate and clients with three panels and a luncheon speaker, Maura Donahue, US Chamber. The ACEC Business of Design Consulting conference will be held in New Orleans on March 4-7, 2020. This is an opportunity for our members to participate in a high-level business level national conference. Working on ACECL’s sponsored panel for the Louisiana Transportation Conference to be held on March 1-4, 2020.
* Bronze sponsor at LMA Conference in Monroe and, presenting an overview of QBS with Tony Arikol at the La. Parish Engineers Association conference in Charendon, La. on October 3.
* New board member orientations completed and 2019-2020 Board binder inserts distributed to Board members.

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Ms. Tomeny reported Rudy Simoneaux, CPRA, will be speaker on October 14.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Poyser reported Pat Brister, St. Tammany Parish Police Jury President and the ACEC Trusts presented at the August 8 meeting. Mr. Dan Borne, past president of the La. Chemical Association will speak at the October 10 luncheon.

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Guidry reported Lafayette Parish President candidate Carlee Alm-Labar spoke at the July 30 meeting and will schedule an October meeting. Frank Kolwe,T. Baker Smith, is the Chapter Vice-President.

**Shreveport:** Mr. Duffy reported he and Ms. Brasseaux were working with LAGC on fish fry event with LAGC and looking at an October 2nd meeting updating the Chapter on board actions. Also, he presented a list of potential speakers to Chairman Craig gearing up for first Wednesday of the month meetings, with the exception of December.

**Monroe:** Mr. Arrington to partner with LAGC on a Monroe fish fry evening event and offer a lunch and learn the following day. LAGC is also trying to put together a traffic class for North Louisiana.

**Lake Charles:** Mr. Reaux reported that the next Lake Charles luncheon will be held on October 30 hosting Senator Ronnie Johns.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** Mr. Dupre reported he met with the Membership Committee (Chapter Presidents) prior to today’s meeting on recruitment efforts (Report attached). Currently ACECL has 132 firms. The current strategic goal is to increase membership by 5% each year which is very difficult. Mr. Dupre would like to recommend the goal be at a 2% yearly increase, in alignment with ACEC national’s goal. As a Board member, Mr. Dupre expressed that one’s duty is to actively recruit members for the organization. A potential recruitment listing of members was distributed and each Board member was asked to identify at least one (1) firm to recruit and notify him. Also, Ms. Brasseaux and staff are actively recruiting from a Top 20 strategic recruitment listing, which are those firms who have engaged with ACEC.

Ms. Brasseaux reported she is working on retention efforts with a personal goal of office visits with 33% of membership firms each year. To date she has visited with 26 of the 44 firms in 2019. Also, updating recruitment materials.

**Public Relations:** Ms. Brasseaux reported that Whitney Watson has agreed to Chair the Committee with Amy Wold and Sherie Burton serving. She will schedule to meet with Ms. Watson next time she is in New Orleans.

**Legislative Committee:**  LCFOR produced a position paper to distribute to candidates asking for a needed 2020 Special Session on Infrastructure. ACECL 2020 Legislative agenda may include public employee and strengthening indemnification.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:**  Mr. Boagni reviewed the September 20, 2019 Transportation Committee monthly report (attached). Next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for September 23. ACECL’s performance evaluation overview was also distributed for Board input. Mr. Bayard suggested changing first word under “additional discussion items”, from “Would” to “Recommend”.

**Water Resources:** Mr. Jenkins presented the Committee Report (attached) noting the 9/13/2019 committee meeting and key ongoing initiatives.

**Facilities:**  No report.

**LES/Lapels:** No report.

**AGC/AIA:**  Ms. Brasseaux & Mr. Songy continue to have monthly breakfast meetings with LAGC.

**New Business:** A motion for final membership approval for ECS Southeast and Lancon Engineers, Inc. was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Mr. Reaux. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Reaux brought to the Board’s attention the South Central Planning and Development Commission, a non-profit serving as the reviewing agency for municipalities but are not a registered firm with LaPELS. After discussion, Ms. Brasseaux will attempt to get more information on their role.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be held on December 12 from 9:00 – 12:00 at the Engineering Center in Baton Rouge, with a Christmas luncheon to be held at Portobello’s Grill immediately after.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomassie and seconded by Ms. Lebas to adjourn the meeting.