**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
September 17, 2021
The Engineering Center, Baton Rouge, LA**

**BOG present:** David Dupre, Andree Cortez (ZOOM), Chad Bacas, Colby Guidry, Byron Racca (ZOOM), Brett Bayard, Michael Thomassie (ZOOM), Rob Delaune (ZOOM), Nathan Junius (ZOOM), Bob Boagni, Don Arrington (ZOOM), Chad Poche, Sherri LeBas, Butch Babineaux (ZOOM), Lisa Cookmeyer (ZOOM), Brin Ferlito and Brandon Aillet (ZOOM)

**BOG with prior engagements:** N/A

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

**Additional Guest(s):** Chance McNeely (ZOOM) and Craig Campbell (ZOOM)

Chair Cortez called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Poche for roll call. Quorum established.

Chair Cortez called for approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Bacas and seconded by Mr. Racca. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Cortez called for approval of the July 20, 2021, and July 22, 2021, minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Mr. Racca. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Brasseaux presented the July/August 2021 financials noting the current total checking/saving account balance of $228,341 which reflects a $30,000 payment to ACEC of Alabama for a portion of the Sandestin Resort expenses from Deep South Convention. After discussion and overview, a motion was made by Mr. Bacas and seconded by Mr. Bayard to accept financials presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Chair Report:** (A. Cortez)

* Chair Cortez reported three (3) applicants will be interviewed by the President/CEO Search Committee on September 21, 2021. If the Search Committee recommends any or all applicants to be interviewed by the Board of Governors, this will be done at a Board Meeting on October 1st pursuant to the ACECL Bylaws. The goal is to have the new President/CEO hired and onboard in mid-October to attend for them to attend the Fall ACEC conference with Ms. Brasseaux. Chair Cortez anticipates Ms. Brasseaux’s last Board Meeting will be on November 19th.
* Chair Cortez and Ms. Brasseaux reported that Steven Loeb reached out requesting to be re-engaged with ACECL submitting a letter of engagement, along with a Scope of Services. After discussion, Chair Cortez will negotiate with Mr. Loeb on the billing rates.
* Chair Cortez reported that the Bylaws Committee has completed review and the red-lined draft is ready to be presented to the Board once Chair Cortez and Ms. Brasseaux review one final time. The proposed changes will be emailed to the Board of Governors no less than seven days prior to the November 19, 2021, Board meeting for discussion and possible vote.

**National Directors Report:** (D. Dupre)

* Mr. Dupre reported ACEC Fall Convention will be in-person at Marco Island, Florida on October 27-30, 2021, with early registration deadline of September 24th. An ACEC Board meeting will take place at the Fall Conference.
* Mr. Dupre reported on the newly released 2020-2021 ACEC Annual Report “Rising to the Challenge.” Ms. Brasseaux noted that the ACECL one-pager Annual report is being drafted for November release and may include additional “looking back” section, along with the possibility of mailing to all principals.

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

* EEA: Call for Entries submission deadline was extended to October 14, 2021. Winners will be announced at the Fall Conference Awards luncheon.
* Awards: The Robby Cangelosi, A.E. Wilder and QBS Champion awards have been advertised for submission and winners will be recognized at the ACECL Fall Conference to be held on November 18th.
* ACECL Fall Conference speakers/topics are being planned and have received confirmation from Dr. Wilson, LDOTD and Coach Paul Manieri. Other topics/speakers will possibly include the Water Sector Program, the Federal Infrastructure Bill, and Ethics. Mr. Delaune recommended DEQ’s SRF Program.
* AASHTO 2022 Spring Meeting Sponsorship: Secretary Wilson, who is serving as AASHTO Chairman, has asked ACECL to become “A Friend of AASHTO” (sponsor) in the amount of $5,000 for the May 2022 AASHTO conference to be held in New Orleans. A motion was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Mr. Babineaux authorizing ACECL to become a $5,000 sponsor. Motion passed unanimously.
* BR Drainage Issues: Instead of a previously discussed full moratorium a compromise ordinance was issued until the consultant’s study is released.
* Salary Study Update: The salary study survey was extended to October 22, 2021. Those firms participating will receive the survey at no cost. There will be a cost to firms who do not participate.
* New Orleans contract issues update: ACECL engaged Attorney Richard Cortizas with the Jones Walker Law Firm who met with the City of New Orleans relating to the city’s professional services procurement and contract issues, including liquidated damages and delayed penalties. Attorney Cortizas was encouraged with this first meeting.
* Virtual Business Forum: The first of four Business Forum webinar series will be held on September 21 with Senator Cassidy. Other webinars will include Business Development, Human Resources and Risk Management components. On-demand recording options may be available for cost.
* Land Surveying webinars will commence with the first session on September 20th and the La. Minimum Standards for Land Surveyors to be held on October 19.
* ACEC Fall Conference will be held on November 18 at the Baton Rouge Marriott. Secretary Wilson, Bren Haase and Coach Paul Manieri have confirmed attendance.
* The La. Parish Engineers & Supervisors Association (LPESA) Fall Conference will be held in Natchitoches on November 3-4. ACECL will sponsor at a Bronze ($300) or Silver ($500) level.

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Bacas reported the September 13 scheduled speaker, Jamie Seltz, cancelled at last moments notice. Bryan Jones (HNTB) and Doreen Brasseaux stepped in giving a Baton Rouge drainage report and ACECL update. Mr. Kelvin Hill is scheduled to speak at the next meeting.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Delaune reported he is working on a November 11 speaker as this is a governmental holiday (Veterans Day).

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Guidry reported that Mike DeSelle, LDOTD Region Administrator, will speak at the October 12 luncheon.

**Shreveport:** Mr. Aillet reported he is working with ACECL staff on schedules and will organize a Chapter meeting within the next few weeks.

**Monroe:** Mr. Arrington will reach out to Congresswoman Letlow to invite her to Monroe for a luncheon.

**Lake Charles:** Mr. Babineaux reported last Chapter luncheon hosted Mr. Kevin Melton, Chennault International Airport. He will work with ACECL staff on available dates for a late October/early November Chapter meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:**  June/July/August 2021 report attached noting 126 firms.

**Legislative Committee:**  Mr. McNeely noted a call to membership seeking issues/concerns for the 2022 legislative session should be implemented which will also be a helpful tool for the next President/CEO. Also anticipating numerous water and flooding initiatives in the 2022 Legislative Session.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:**  In lieu of a committee meeting, the Transportation Committee organized a Roundtable with DOTD Secretary Dr. Shawn Wilson on August 20, 2021. Full report attached.

**Water Resources:** Full committee report attached. Ms. Brasseaux reported that a list of questions will be submitted to CPRA on moving from a 3-year IDIQ solicitation every year to 1 solicitation every three years. Also, the state launched the Water Sector Program website noting due date of November 1st for submissions.

**Facilities:**  Chairman Craig Campbell presented the “Proposed Modifications to the Definition of Incidental Practice” proposed language for discussion. (attached)

The LAPELS Board will meet on October 11 to consider proposed language and Ms. Brasseaux noted the ACECL Board will need to give guidance to present ACECL’s position/objections on language when LAPELS publishes the new rule for comments.

**LES/Lapels:**  No report.

**AGC/AIA:**  No report.

**Unfinished Business:** Chair Cortez asked all Board Members to contribute to the PAC by entering the LSU Sweepstakes drawing.

**New Business:** A Motion for Preliminary Membership for Intracoastal Consultants was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Mr. Dupre. Motion passed unanimously.

**Special Announcements:** Ms. Brasseaux reported that ACECL and ACEC each donated 500 gallons of gasoline to be trucked into Hurricane Ida effected areas. This date, 500 gallons has been made available from ACECL at the Point Aux Chenes Supermarket.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2021 (President/CEO interviews) at the Engineering Center, Baton Rouge. The November 19 meeting will be held at the offices of LAGC.

A motion was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Mr. Racca to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.