**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
September 18, 2020
The Engineering Center/ZOOM**

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

**BOG with prior engagements:** Sherri LeBas

**STAFF:** Doreen Brasseaux, Haleigh Gray and Janet Tomeny (Zoom)

**Additional Guest(s):** Kenneth Smith (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 noting the National Director’s report will be heard first. A motion was made by Mr. Bacas and seconded by Mr. Poche. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dupre called for approval of the July 24, 2020 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Craig and seconded by Mr. Bacas. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Junius presented the July/August 2020 financials noting $50,482 in accounts receivables and dues/revenue continue to be stable. After review and discussion of financials submitted, a motion was made by Mr. Bacas and seconded by Mr. Guidry to accept. Motion passed unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** (D. Dupre)

* Chairman Dupre noted at last Board Meeting the need to review the ACECL Bylaws and asked Ms. Cortez, Bylaws Committee Chair to give an update. Ms. Cortez advised she has reached out to up and coming leaders, along with Andy Craig and Chairman Dupre to sit on the Committee and welcomed any Board Members who would like to participate to please advise. Ms. Cortez will setup a virtual meeting to start the review process.
* Chairman Dupre announced the 2020 ACECL awards to be given out at the Fall Conference, along with submission due dates.

**National Directors Report:** (A. Craig/K. Smith)

* Mr. Craig reported that the ACEC VIRTUAL Fall Conference will be held on October 28-30 with the Board of Governor’s meeting to be held on October 27.
* Mr. Smith, ACEC Board reported: ACEC Board met on August 18 and reported that ACEC membership is steady; ACEC is financially solid ending with FY with a surplus; the ACEC EEA program will go virtual, along with the Fall Conference; the ACEC advocacy team is working diligently on the PPP loan issues including how it affects the federal overhead rates and extending the reporting period up to 24 weeks and to ensure forgiven expenses are taxable with the IRS. Also, ACEC has developed the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

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

* ACECL has until October 3rd to apply for the 2.75% SBA loan. Still waiting on Congress to pass another PPP package and if non-profits will qualify. If not prior to October 3rd, loan application will be made and monies issued will be placed in a separate banking account per Phil Graham’s advice.
* Have conferred with ACECL’s payroll tax advisor, Shelby Calahan, and ACECL may also apply for the employee retention tax credit.
* The ACECL EEA received 14 submissions. Ms. Brasseaux recommended that the EEA Gala be postponed until the Spring. Also, she advised the Board that AGC would like to join the Gala in 2020 for their inaugural awards celebration. This event may be in conjunction with the Critical Issues Summit. After discussion, the Board approved the EEA being postponed and to continue to communicate with LAGC on bringing their awards celebration with ACECL.
* Ms. Brasseaux recommended and the Board concurred that the 2020 Fall Conference be held in Baton Rouge on November 5th at the Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel. She has confirmed speakers with DOTD, CPRA, FP&C, FHWA, Corps and Congressman Graves. She has also invited the Ports to lead a panel discussion. The Board suggested having LAPELS present the one-hour Ethics presentation.
* ACECL has filed the Amicus Brief in the City of Walker vs. LDOTD lawsuit and no movement to report.
* ACECL has reached out to Sherie Burton to get an estimate on revamping recruitment materials.
* ACECL will present a one-pager Annual Report at the Fall Conference.
* ACECL has reached 50% of its ACEC PAC goal. An ACEC PAC Fishing Charter Sweepstakes fundraiser ($100 ticket) will be held in the Winter and event sponsors are needed. Also, ACEC PAC Fall Sweepstakes was distributed to the Board.
* ACECL has reached out to Lake Charles area firms offering any assistance after Hurricane Laura. ACECL will coordinate a relief jambalaya dinner to our firms, families, first responders, along with distribution of gift cards. Mr. Duffy advised he can reach out to La Seafood Market to assist with cooking.
* Continuing Education: Ms. Tomeny reported on all webinars hosted by ACECL in August/September and also noted an ACECL Business Forum webinar series is being planned for early December to include Operational, Human Resources and Business Development components.
* Ms. Brasseaux asked the Board if they consider surveying a design service? Is it a subject to QBS? Do we want to open up the Hammett Act to include the definition of design service? Should design service be changed to design professional? She advised this should be thought out and discussed in the near future.

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Bacas reported the next meeting (virtual) is scheduled for October 5th with Daniel Layzell, LSU Executive V.P. and CFO to speak on the LSU Lakes Project and facilities.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Poyser reported Ms. Mary Kincaid spoke at the August 13th (virtual) meeting on sustainable infrastructure. Next meeting will be November 12.

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Guidry reported the next meeting (virtual) is scheduled for September 22 with Mayor-President Josh Guillory.

**Shreveport:** Mr. Duffy reported he will schedule a luncheon hosting Congressman Mike Johnson in early October (7th or 8th)

**Monroe:** No report.

**Lake Charles:** Mr. Babineaux reported the Lake Charles Chapter meeting scheduled for September 27th with Mayor Nic Hunter was postponed due to Hurricane Laura. He will reschedule.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** Mr. Thomassie reported he has submitted his Membership goals to Chairman Dupre and will distribute at next Board meeting. Ms. Brasseaux also advised that she, Mr. Thomassie and Mr. Bacas will meet with Jacobs Engineering in the upcoming week and Hunt Guillot submitted two (2) EEA submissions. Mr. Thomassie also reported he is actively recruiting Civil Solutions.

**Legislative Committee:**  Ms. Brasseaux indicated a Special Session may be called in October; LCFOR met and are very optimistic about a gas tax for 2021 as they believe they have a powerful legislative leader who may author the Bill, along with the state business association giving support. Also, Tripp McCormick is working with ACECL to create a Risk Management Committee on liability issues including protection of civil engineering and possible certificate of merit legislation.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:**  Full detailed committee report attached and presented by Mr. Boagni.

**Water Resources:** Report attached. Ms. Cookmeyer advised that a fall meeting with the Water Institute to open source modeling is being scheduled. Ms. Brasseaux also noted that member firms need to identify what issues they may have with CPRA and she is also working on coordinating a CPRA Industry Day.

**Facilities:** Report attached**.** Mr. Poche reported the main goal for the committee is to continue to go through the FP&C policy manual. Ms. Brasseux advised that the Incidental Working Committee will meet again on October 7.

**LES/Lapels:**  Mr. Bayard reported that LAPELS has not received an update from the Governor’s office on the pending board appointments. LAPELS will be sending out letters to LES and LSPS next month on 2021 vacancies, one for PE in Government and one for PLS. If the 2020 appointments are not made soon, there may be 4 new members at one time.

**AGC/AIA:**  Mr. Songy reported that the regularly scheduled meetings with LAGC commenced once again, first since COVID, and Mr. Naquin advised that the construction outlook looked promising noting the hurricane storm boost.

**Unfinished Business:** N/A

**New Business:** Mr. Junius inquired if others were having difficulties with the New Orleans Residence Inspection Services noting the City is going to go with one firm - discussion on reaching the DBE 35% goal. After discussion it was brought that maybe an Attorney General’s letter on the MWH program may help.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2020. Mr. Craig asked if the meeting could be rescheduled to November 6 in conjunction with the Fall Conference. Ms. Brasseaux advised we will contact the hotel to see if they can accommodate and will send out a notification.

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