**American Council of Engineering Companies**

**of Louisiana**

**Board of Governors’ Meeting**

**September 21, 2017**

**The Engineering Center, Baton Rouge, LA**

**BOG present:** Kurt Evans, Bob Schmidt, Raymond Reaux, Michael Songy, Brad Graff, David Dupre, Andree Cortez, Andy Craig, Ryan Spillers, Alison Catarella-Michel, Craig Campbell, Bob Boagni, Lisa Cookmeyer, and Michael Thomassie

**BOG with prior engagements:** Lynn Roussel, Steve Robertson, and Nathan Junius

**STAFF:** Dan Mobley and Janet Tomeny

**Additional Guest(s)**: Mark Lambert, Fannie Marcotte-Bennett, Kylee Lewis, Whitney Watson and Sherrie Burton

President Evans called the meeting to order. Mr. Craig gave the inspirational moment – The Value of Friendship

President Evans asked Mr. Dupre for roll call. Quorum established. President Evans introduced new Board Members and the Public Relations Committee.

President Evans asked for approval of the Agenda. A motion was made by Ms. Michel and seconded by Mr. Spillers to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

President Evans called for the approval of the August 18, 2017 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Graff. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**: President Evans asked for a motion to vote Mr. Bob Boagni on the 2017-18 Board of Governors. A motion was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Mr. Dupre. Motion passed unanimously.

President Evans gave an update on the Business Forum noting that ACECL will be one of only three MO’s with such a program (ACEC Indiana Forum white paper attached). The Past Presidents Council has approved both the announcement and survey questionnaire to be distributed to membership.

President Evans distributed an article in which BGR asked the NO Mayoral candidates questions on professional services contracting. The previously scheduled NO Mayoral Forum is rescheduled for October 16 with the runoff candidates.

Listing of ACECL Committee members were distributed and President Evans asked Committee Chairs to reach out to members. Also, ACECL and the Public Relations Committee will have an exhibit booth at the La Civil Engineering Conference to be held at the Pontchartrain Center on September 27-28, 2017.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** (Financials Attached)

August financials were not submitted to the Board for approval.

**National Director’s Report:**  Mr. Schmidt advised that his goal is to leverage the strength of ACECL into a larger role at the national level by building relationships and encouraged all Board members to sign up on a national ACEC Committee.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

Mr. Mobley advised that he has received 5 “ghost” resumes applying for the LDOTD Chief Engineer as he is sitting on the Selection Team. He is to grade and send back to LDOTD no later than Friday, September 22, 2017. Also, Mr. Mobley asked all to encourage their staff to apply for the Robby Cangelosi Award.

**Chapter Presidents’ Report:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Thomassie reported that he held a very productive breakfast meeting with a few Baton Rouge Chapter members, along with Mr. Mobley and Ms. Tomeny, to discuss future speakers and other possible events. On September 11th, President Evans reported to the Chapter ACECL Strategic Plan initiatives and the feedback was very positive. One topic of concern was the Water Institute and Mr. Evans advised that he has been in contact with Mr. Justin Ehrenwerth on transparency issues. Mr. Reaux also advised that the Water Institute will be applying for ACECL membership and the Board will have the opportunity to vote. The next Chapter meeting will be held on October 9th with Fred Raiford, EBRP Public Works, as speaker.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Dupre, reporting for Mr. Junius, announced the New Orleans Chapter hosted Kenner Councilman Dominick Impastato on September 14th. Mr. Evans reported that Mr. Junius is working on a speaker from the Port of New Orleans for the October 12th meeting.

**Lafayette:** Mr. Campbell announced the next meeting will be scheduled for September or October. Mr. Campbell is considering a joint meeting with AIA and having Mr. Richard Savoie report on LAPELS recent pulled metro code plan violations. President Evans stated that this would be a great discussion with all Chapters including going to Lake Charles, Alexandria and the Northshore.

**Shreveport:**  Mr. Graff reported that the Shreveport Chapter will host Charles Coyle, LAPELS Board Member, concentrating on trends of LAPELS violations, on September 22nd.

**Monroe Area:** Mr. Spillers reported that he will reach out via email to all Monroe area members asking for any concerns prior to next Board Meeting. President Evans advised that he would like to do a Monroe luncheon in the near future.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:**  Mr. Reaux reported that the Membership Committee met on September 12th and agreed that first steps for membership recruitment is to have each Board Member, per the Strategic Plan, to take one (1) potential member on the recruitment list (attached) to personally contact for membership. Mr. Reaux asked each Board member to notify Ms. Tomeny of the firm in which they wish to recruit. Recruitment packets with appropriate membership literature were given to each Board member. Also, each ExCom Board member will also take a strategic firm for recruitment. Membership Committee will meet again in December or January with hopes of having board assignments complete.

**Continuing Education:** Mr. Craig reported the ACEC National Fall Convention will be held in Orlando in October and eight (8) will be attending from Louisiana. The Project Outlook 2017 outline was distributed noting speakers for the November 16th event to be held at the Baton Rouge Renaissance.

President Evans advised that he is working with the Water Institute in hopes of partnering to form a coastal training certificate program to be offered by CPRA to enable Louisiana firms to qualify for coastal work.

**Public Relations:** Ms. Cortez reported that the Public Relations Committee met on September 7th and meeting minutes are attached. The Public Relations Committee presented a Prezi presentation outlining ACECL’s new communications plan aligned with all strategic goals, including social media, public relations and website. (attached)

Mr. Lambert advised that State Treasurer candidate, Angele Davis, spoke at the Good Roads meeting and she reported that she is in favor of increasing transportation funding but against any gasoline tax with her feeling that citizens will not support such a tax. She would also like to see $100 million placed into the Infrastructure Bank even though she is not sure where the monies would come from. Also, the Trump Infrastructure Plan will be a huge boom for Louisiana’s economy and she also encouraged public/private partnerships.

**Legislative Committee:** President Evans reported that he spoke with Committee Chair Bryan Jones and he will call a Legislative Committee meeting prior to the upcoming Legislative Session with CMAR and the Public Employee issue as potential legislation.

**Client Liaison CommitteeS**

**Transportation:** Mr. Schmidt reported that Mr. Basilica and Mr. Arnold will hold a face-to-face Transportation Committee meeting with the newly signed up members prior to next Board Meeting.

President Evans asked Mr. Boagni to give an update on the DOTD/ACECL Contract Consultants Initiative. Mr. Boagni reported that he and Mr. Basilica have supplied Mr. Wedge with a listing of those initiatives approved and next step is setting up a meeting with the Steering Committee. Mr. Boagni stated this should be completed sooner than later with Mrs. Janice Williams retiring by the end of the year. After discussion of next steps, President Evans asked for a motion to send DOTD a letter of support with the caveats of the Transportation Committee to continue to be involved during the implementation process and keeping it transparent and public to our general membership. A motion was made by Mr. Schmidt and seconded by Mr. Reaux. Motion passed unanimously. President Evans advised he would have others who worked on the initiative to review the letter prior to sending.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Matt Reiffer, and possibly Steve Hall, will speak at the LA Transportation Conference in February on Trump’s Infrastructure Plan and how it will benefit Louisiana. Also, ACEC will present a session on CMAR with Mr. Reaux and Mr. Loeb and possibly a session on mega projects.

Mrs. Michel reported that DOTD has placed traffic engineering forms, along with comments on their website for implementation.

**Water Resources:** President Evans presented Mr. Delaune’s report stating that there was a conference call with Committee Members on September 11th identifying subcommittee chairs and updates. President Evans, Mr. Delaune and Ms. Cookmeyer will meet next week to discuss the mission of the Committee including CPRA selection process; identifying LDEQ and DHH municipal funding and regulations; NOSWB and the US Army Corps of Engineers flood protection.

**Facilities:** Mr. Campbell reported that we will need to engage once again with the State Fire Marshal. Mr. Savoie presented to the LAPELS Board a stack of plans showing proof how easily architects are practicing engineering especially in the areas outside of Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Shreveport. Mr. Savoie reported that the LAPELS Board wants to get the Architects Licensing Board “on board” with enforcing. Mr. Savoie asked for more time to get with AIA and the Architects Licensing Board. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Mobley would invite LAPELS Chairman Huval and Kathy Hillegas, Executive Director, Louisiana Architects Licensing Board to the November 17 Board meeting to discuss.

**LES/LAPELS:** Mr. Evans presented Ms. Roussel’s report. (attached). Mr. Mobley advised that Mr. Savoie stated he would come to a Board Meeting to discuss the “supervising engineer” definition and concerns. President Evans asked Mr. Mobley to invite Mr. Savioe to speak on the matter at the November 17 Board meeting.

**AGC/AIA:**  Mr. Songy reported that he will connect with the Committee members and will ask them to bring any issues to his attention.

**General Counsel Report:** No report.

**National PAC Update:** Mr. Mobley reported that we have met 50% of goal. President Evans asked all Board Members to participate in the PAC.

**Unfinished Business:**

President Evans advised that he is working on a Strategic Plan implementation matrix and is waiting on the other four (4) team leaders with their comments and will submit to Board after completion.

President Evans advised that Dr. Mumphrey has selected the Executive Director Search Committee members to include Ann Trappey, Tony Arikol, Brad Graff, Jimmy Ledet and Raymond Reaux. President Evans will serve as ex-officio member. A motion was made by Mr. Craig and seconded by Mr. Dupre to accept Dr. Mumphrey’s recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Reaux reported on the September 13th Best Practices in Public Contracts Committee. The Committee will accumulate what other states are using to deliver public contracts and draft a matrix advising when each delivery method should be used. The Committee will meet again in November and January, with a report due date of February 15.

President Evans called preliminary membership approval of Thompson Engineering. A motion was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Ms. Michel. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

Mr. Mobley advised that he received a phone call from a member firm asking for assistance. The firm received a task order under a retainer contract from DOTD and after putting together a submittal, was informed too expensive. Is this considered bidding? After discussion, it was determined this is not bidding but is the negotiation phase after being selected for the contract by qualifications.

Ms. Michel asked Mr. Mobley to give the DOTD hold harmless language to Attorney Loeb for his review and comment.

Mr. Dupre was asked by Board member Nathan Junius to request a motion for Mr. Mobley to send out a letter to the NOSWB to stop request price on RFQ submittals namely, the root cause analysis advertisement currently out. Mr. Evans advised that he reviewed the root cause analysis RFQ and determined it was not an engineering project. Ms. Cookmeyer also reviewed and advised she determined the same.

A motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Mr. Spillers. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned by President Evans.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be held at the Baton Rouge Renaissance Hotel on November 17th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.