**American Council of Engineering Companies**

**of Louisiana**

**Board of Governors’ Meeting**

**November 17, 2017**

**The Baton Rouge Renaissance Hotel**

**BOG present:** Kurt Evans, Bob Schmidt, Raymond Reaux, Michael Songy, Brad Graff, David Dupre, Andree Cortez, Andy Craig, Ryan Spillers, Craig Campbell, Bob Boagni, Lisa Cookmeyer, Lynn Roussel, Steve Robertson, and Nathan Junius

**BOG with prior engagements:** Michael Thomassie and Alison Catarella-Michel

**STAFF:** Dan Mobley and Janet Tomeny

**Additional Guest(s)**: Phil Graham, Mark Lambert, Fannie Marcotte-Bennett, Bryan Jones, John Basilica, Sergio Girau, Richard Savoie and Charles Gozdziewski

President Evans called the meeting to order with Mr. Dupre giving the inspirational moment on reviewing your priorities.

President Evans asked Mr. Dupre for roll call. Quorum established.

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

President Evans called for the approval of the September 21, 2017 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Mr. Spillers. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Dupre advised the Board that after noting a discrepancy in the cash balance and account receivables between past reports, he asked Mr. Graham to review and report reasoning. Mr. Graham presented his findings noting that all financials were in order and the reasoning were data posting time issues. The difference in the amounts shown one month over another was the fact that firms are invoiced for the Minuteman fund and when a firm choices not to participate, the amount must then be cancelled from the original invoice thereby causing a timing discrepancy. Mr. Graham informed the Board that going forward Minuteman non-payments will be posted as a credit.

Graham presented the September and October 2017 financials including balance sheets and checking journals. President Evans asked for a Motion to approve September and October 2017 financials as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Mr. Craig. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**: President Evans introduced Mr. Charles Gozdziewski, ACEC Board Vice-Chair. Mr. Gozdziewski gave an ACEC National update including the PAC, BIT changing administrators, Executive Director search and current advocacy issues including tax reform.

**National Director’s Report:**  No report.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

Mr. Mobley advised that the Business Insurance Trust (BIT) is changing administrators effective January 1, 2018, from Marsh to Greyling. All existing participants will receive an authorization letter from Greyling and Mr. Mobley advised that all should move over to the new administrator because ACECL receives royalty revenue. Mr. Mobley asked ACEC to ensure this transition is done smoothly.

Mr. Mobley advised that ACECL is one of the sponsors to the La Highways & Transportation Hall of Honor and the Governor has asked ACECL to support the naming Mr. Robert Boh as a new inductee to the Hall of Leaders. President Evans asked for a motion of support. A motion was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Ms. Cortez. Motion passed unanimously.

**Chapter Presidents’ Report:**

**Baton Rouge:** No report.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Junius announced that the New Orleans Chapter hosted Mark Wingate, USACE, on November 9th and the Annual Holiday Dinner will take place on December 5th at Ralphs on the Park.

**Lafayette:** Mr. Campbell is working on scheduling Melissa Newell with Plan Acadiana for a possible December meeting.

**Shreveport:**  Mr. Graff reported that the October Shreveport Chapter was held with Charlie Coyle speaking on supervising professional is working on getting the Shreveport Chief Engineer. Also, Mr. Graff reported that he met with Mr. Underwood and Mr. Robertson to start discussions for a Shreveport Chapter President replacement for next term.

**Monroe Area:** Mr. Spillers reported that he will work with President Evans and ACECL staff to setup a luncheon in Monroe.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:**  Mr. Reaux reported that our goal of 153 firms for 2017 to sustain 5% growth, is currently 5 short but three (3) new members will be voted on this meeting. A matrix will be added to the Board Agenda noting the growth goals and current numbers. Also asked all Board Members to advise Ms. Tomeny of the firm they will recruit.

**Continuing Education:** Ms. Tomeny reported that the 2017 Project Outlook registrations were up by 15 attendees and sponsorships were up by $1,000.00. President Evans advised that the Business Forum planning is moving forward with a tentative date of March 22 and presented the results from the survey poll.

Mr. Craig distributed a written report on the possibility of supporting an ACECL STEM Grant for funding to school systems. President Evans advised that the Continuing Education Committee write the criteria for submittal. Mr. Ricky Simon with Terrecon has volunteered his assistance. Ms. Roussel stated she will get copies of grants from Exxon and Dow. Mr. Lambert also noted that he can share contact information from the Louisiana Stem Initiative and recommended that engineers personally go into the schools.

**Public Relations:** Written report attached. Ms. Tomeny reported that the email database is being updated and Mr. Lambert advised he would send an updated legislative list. Mr. Lambert reported that a media advisory was sent on Project Outlook and Mr. Sentell from the Advocate was in attendance for Secretary Wilsons’ comments and wrote a small article.

**Legislative Committee:** Mr. Jones reported that he will meet with Mr. Mobley and then call a committee meeting prior to the Christmas Holidays. He is also hearing that there will be a special session before the 2018 Legislative Regular Session.

**Client Liaison CommitteeS**

**Transportation:** Mr. Basilica reported that he will setup a committee meeting before the December meeting. Next steps to reset: What to pursue for 2018? What subcommittees are needed? Tracking the new consulting services initiatives after 6 months; After Action Review and infrastructure revenue increase. Other concerns brought up were backlog reporting; field/home office overhead rates. After discussion, as soon as LDOTD’s memorandum is released to consultants of new changes/instructions, a Transportation Committee meeting will be called to come up with a series of questions/concerns to present to LDOTD.

Mr. Basilica also recommended and volunteered to do an infrastructure revenue increase After Action Review (ACR) and after discussion it was agreed to do an ACECL Resolution stating ACECL continues to support transportation infrastructure and funding resources to support.

Mr. Schmidt presented Mr. Hunter’s report (attached).

**Water Resources:** Ms. Cookmeyer presented Committee’s report (attached).

**Facilities:** Mr. Campbell reported that LAPELS pulled 59 sets of plans in which 23 where in violation. Mr. Savoie has championed in assisting ACECL with the architect/engineering plan stamping issue with the Fire Marshal’s Office. Mr. Savoie gave an update on LAPELS public record requests and advised that the Fire Marshal’s Office is not cooperating due to their attorney advising information is proprietary and they cannot turnover plans, even some public projects. Mr. Savoie advised that the LAPELS Complaint Review Committee (CRC) will meet on December 8th and their first round of case reviews will include expire practices; unlicensed practices and web advertising engineering work without a license. He is hopeful that in February 2018, the CRC will review the 23 violations mentioned, after LAPELS has put them on notice and they have 30 days to respond. LAPELS is continuing to work with the Architect Board on this matter. Mr. Savoie asked if ACECL has any knowledge of municipalities who place permit drawings on their website or any other any other avenues to review plans, to notify him.

Also, Mr. Savoie reported that the Fire Marshal is intending to open his law (elevator inspector license) during the legislative session and this may be the time to have dialogue, with the support of LES, to include language to enable licensing boards to pull plans. Mr. Browning believes this should be inserted in the Public Request Law. A meeting is set for November 28th to discuss legislation agenda for 2018. Mr. Campbell noted that ACECL would like to be proactive and assist LAPELS with new legislation and education. He requested joint meetings next year be setup with LAPELS and the Architect Licensing Board around the state for educational purposes.

President Evans asked for a motion to have Mr. Loeb draft legislation that would fit inside the State Fire Marshal’s rules and regulations to allow access by LAPELS and the Architect Board to review document plans. A motion was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Mr. Campbell. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Evans asked Ms. Roussel to reach out to LES for their support.

**LES/LAPELS:** Ms. Roussel reported that Tyson is leaving LAPELS and moving to the Architect Board. Ms. Roussel will continue to communicate with LAPELS and LES on the Fire Marshal issue.

**AGC/AIA:**  No report.

**General Counsel Report:** Mr. Loeb recommended that when drafting legislation relating to the State Fire Marshal releasing documents to the Licensing Boards, add clear language when a PE stamp is required, i.e., over 10 tons over 20 amps. Also, Mr. Loeb is willing to do joint educational seminars across the state on stamping plans, CMAR and public employee. President Evans asked the Education Committee to work with Mr. Loeb. Mr. Loeb reported that the I-12 case is not moving as it is delayed in the Court of Appeals.

**National PAC Update:** President Evans asked the Board to assist in achieving the PAC goal with 100% participation by the Board. Mr. Evans announced that a drone was donated by T. Baker Smith and will be raffled by ACECL in December. Each person who purchases the ACEC PAC Last Chance Contest ($100 ticket) will get one raffle ticket for the drone drawing. Mr. Girau, PAC Co-Chairman, added the importance of being able to advocate to our federal congressional delegation and asked for all to contribute and assist in reaching out to other ACECL members the importance of the PAC.

**Unfinished Business:**

President Evans asked if there were any revisions to the draft of the Strategic Plan Implementation Matrix and Mr. Reaux recommended due to time constraints at this Board Meeting, to revisit at the December or January Board Meeting.

Mr. Evans advised that Dr. Mumphrey and Committee has drafted advertising language and a timeline for the Executive Director search. Mr. Reaux thought the timeline of advertising in January 2018 is a little early. After discussion, a Motion was made to start advertising on March 1st with all applications due on April 30, 2018. Motion was made by Mr. Robertson and seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Motion passed unanimously.

After advertisement and applications/resumes received, the Selection Committee will review and choose three (3) applicants to be interviewed by the Board.

**New Business:**

President Evans called for final membership approval of The Water Institute of the Gulf. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Motion passed unanimously.

President Evans called for Preliminary Membership for Acadian Structural Solutions. A motion was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Mr. Reaux. Motion passed unanimously.

President Evans called for Preliminary Membership for Waldemar S. Nelson & Co. A motion was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Mr. Schmidt.

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

**Next Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be held at the Engineering Center on December 14, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m.