**American Council of Engineering Companies**

**of Louisiana**

**Board of Governors’ Meeting**

**February 1, 2018**

**The Capitol Hilton, Baton Rouge, LA**

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

**BOG with prior engagements:** Bob Boagni

**STAFF:** Dan Mobley and Janet Tomeny

**Additional Guest(s)**: Phil Graham, Steve Loeb, Mark Lambert and Fannie Marcotte-Bennett

President Evans called the meeting to order with Mr. Graff giving the inspirational moment.

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

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

President Evans called for the approval of the December 14, 2017 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Craig and seconded by Mr. Robertson. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**: President Evans reported that the January President’s message included a “Did You Know” message. President Evans also reported that the Business Forum has been rescheduled to May 17, 2018 to be held at the Baton Rouge Renaissance with all speakers confirmed and is anticipating a budget of $13,000 needed for 100 anticipated participants. Past Presidents Meeting Minutes will be included in Board Packets for informational purposes.

**National Director’s Report:**  Mr. Schmidt reported that an ACEC PAC Louisiana fundraising call was held on January 23rd to discuss possible fundraising event ideas. Mr. Schmidt requested Ms. Tomeny to disburse PAC literature received to Board members.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

Mr. Mobley advised that Sherri Lebas will be a nominee for a Baton Rouge Report 2018 Influential Women in Business award and ACECL will send a letter of support.

**Chapter Presidents’ Report:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Thomassie reported Mr. Justin Ehrenwerth, the Water Institute of the Gulf, was the January 8, 2018 speaker. There will be no meeting in February and he is working to schedule a Baton Rouge Chapter event to tour the Water Institute of the Gulf/River Model Facility. Next meeting: March 12, 2018.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Junius reported that Rep. Stephanie Hilferty was speaker at the January 11, 2018 meeting. March 8th meeting will host Rep. Reid Falconer. Mr. Mobley suggested doing a hard hat tour at the New Orleans Airport for the New Orleans Chapter members. Also, Mr. Dupre expressed an interest in doing a DOTD 24-102 workshop in the New Orleans area. Mr. Mobley suggested teaming up with SMPS.

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Campbell reported that Brett Bayard is working on scheduling Melissa Newell with Plan Acadiana for a possible February/March meeting.

**Shreveport:**  Mr. Graff reported that he and Shreveport members have recruited Micha Duffy, Coyle Engineering, to accept the 2018-19 Shreveport Chapter President position. Mr. Mobley suggested that Mark Chenevert, DOTD, come to North Louisiana to do a workshop on the new 24-102’s.

**Monroe Area:** Mr. Spillers advised that he will set up a Monroe area luncheon. President Evans and ACECL staff will provide convenient dates.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:**  Mr. Reaux reviewed the January 2018 membership firm/employee counts chart (attached). Also noted were the number of firms considered to be at risk for dropping membership. Mr. Mobley will provide the ExComm with the at risk firms to enable them to contact firms directly for retention purposes. Mr. Reaux advised that a listing of members who are not actively involved with ACECL should also be comprised in the future. Mr. Reaux asked those Board Members, who have not informed Ms. Tomeny of the firm they would like to recruit for membership, to do so.

**Continuing Education:** Mr. Craig and Mr. Dupre reported status of future events (report attached). A discussion of potential partnership with LES and WTS on the Stem Initiative Program. Also noted was the possibility of Mr. Loeb doing a statewide tour after the Legislative Session.

**Public Relations:** Ms. Bennett reviewed the committee report (attached) noting the Winter Newsletter shall be released in a few days; membership satisfaction survey to be distributed soon; and the membership spotlight campaign. Also, the email distribution database is continuing to be expanded with the recent addition of contractor contacts, with transportation and water resources to follow. Also, Mr. Lambert reported that ACECL co-sponsored the Highway Hall of Fame induction of Mr. Robert Boh.

President Evans asked Ms. Bennett to get out an announcement to membership on DOTD’s new procurement questions and answers timeline.

**Legislative Committee:** Ms. Michel reported that a Legislative Committee meeting was held on January 15, 2018 with Chairman Bryan Jones. Lobbyist Cowart reported on the state’s budgetary cliff along with briefing of drafted ACECL supported legislation for 2018 Session. CMAR proposed revisions (attached) were discussed by the Board and a motion was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Ms. Michel to introduce legislation as drafted with Rep. Reid Falconer as author. Motion passed unanimously.

LES will carry and ACECL will support the Public Records proposed legislation (attached) giving needed authority to LAPELS and the Architectural Examiners Board to have access to State Fire Marshal documents.

The Public Employee legislation will be introduced with Senator Gary Smith as the author. The same legislation will be introduced in 2018 as in 2014. Mr. Reaux also advised that any revisions to the Hammett Act will be undertaken in the next Legislative Session.

President Evans asked Mr. Mobley to invite Mr. Duane Cowart to present at the March 16th Board Meeting on the upcoming Legislative Session.

**Client Liaison CommitteeS**

**Transportation:** Mr. Schmidt noted that President Trump announced in his State of the Union address a $1.5 Trillion Infrastructure Plan; Mr. Jim Bernhard is spearheading a campaign to pass a gas tax in 2018; Chairman Basilica will schedule a committee meeting with DOTD Chief Engineer Chris Knotts; Mr. Matt Reiffer, ACEC, will speak at the Louisiana Transportation Conference along with ACECL hosting an exhibitor booth; and Mr. Tom Hunter’s Multi-Modal Committee Report will be sent to Board via email.

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

**Facilities:** Mr. Campbell reported that FP&C, AIA and ACECL will begin to host discussions again on FP&C concerns.

**LES/LAPELS:** Ms. Roussel reported that LES is holding their Board Meeting in Lafayette during the LES Joint Conference this date and will get a detailed report.

**AGC/AIA:**  Mr. Campbell reported that he, Mr. Bren Kramer and Mr. Mobley met with AIA and the Architectural Examiner Board Executive Director to discuss the issue of architects stamping engineering plans. LAPELS recently sent 60 letters to architects and engineers in the Lafayette area with stating possible violations of practicing without a license. AIA’s Attorney, Dale Clarity, requested LAPELS to hold off 6 months in order to define incidental in which LAPELS agreed. The working group is reviewing New Mexico’s handbook, along with researching other states’ definition. Mr. Loeb recommended to do definition in the licensing boards’ regulations instead of introducing legislation. Next meeting to be held in 2 weeks. Mr. Songy will be added to the working group.

**General Counsel Report:** Mr. Loeb advised he will be speaking on the Legal Panel at Critical Issues.

**National PAC Update:** President Evans announced the Spring ACEC PAC Sweepstakes. ACECL will once again hold a drone raffle, contributed by T. Baker Smith. The Public Relations Committee will do social media to promote the raffles.

**Unfinished Business:**

President Evans advised he received no revisions to the draft of the Strategic Plan Implementation Matrix he presented and asked Ms. Tomeny to send to the Board via email.

Pursuant to the current ACECL Bylaws, President Evans presented a working draft of potential changes to the current ACECL Bylaws for review prior to vote at the March 16 board meeting (attached). President Evans advised that the “Maintain a Highly Effective Board & Committee Structure” Strategic Planning Team presented the suggested changes and were then reviewed by President Evans and the ACECL staff. The suggested changes consist of housekeeping items; changing titles of Board members and executive staff, and Board term limits. After discussion, it was agreed that the document needed to be cleaned up and presented to the Board via email, along with the Board term limits flow chart prepared by Tony Arikol; board comments are to be emailed to Janet Tomeny; and, due to some items being classified as highly sensitive and time consuming, all suggested revisions did not have to be voted upon at one time, namely at the March 16, 2018 Board Meeting.

**New Business:**

President Evans called for preliminary membership approval of Design Office, LLC. A motion was made by Ms. Michel and seconded by Mr. Robertson. Motion passed unanimously.

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

**Next Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be held on March 16, 2018 at the Offices of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson beginning at 10:00 a.m.