

**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors' Meeting
February 6, 2017
The Baton Rouge Renaissance**

BOG present: Bob Schmidt, Ryan Spillers, Raymond Reaux, Andree Cortez, David Leslie, Andy Craig, Lynne Roussel, Kurt Evans, Tony Arikol, Steve Robertson, David Dupre, Brad Graff, Craig Campbell, Nathan Junius, and Alison Catarella-Michel.

BOG with prior engagements: Michael Thomassie and Laurence Lambert.

STAFF: Dan Mobley and Janet Tomeny

Additional Guest(s): Mark Lambert, Phil Graham and Steven Loeb.

President Schmidt called the meeting to order and approval of the Agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Graff to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Schmidt advised that the January 13, 2017 minutes (draft attached) are not complete and are deferred for Board approval at the March board meeting. Mrs. Michel noted her absence at the January 13, 2017 board meeting, but noted her concern that the Board approved DOTD's changes to the procurement policy without submitting approval to entire ACECL membership. Mr. Mobley advised of the numerous opportunities for ACECL membership to participate in discussions.

President Schmidt distributed the January 13, 2017 Strategic Plan retreat notes drafted by Angele Davis Kelley identifying the 5 strategic goals and actions (attached). A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Arikol to adopt the format of the action plan and goals. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Tomeny will assist in coordinating the five Task Force members and schedules and will reach out to board members to serve.

President Schmidt advised that he is no longer employed by AECOM.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Financials Attached)

Mr. Craig advised that he and Mr. Mobley reviewed the attached financial report with Mr. Graham and noted that January runs a \$15,000 deficit which is consistent for January with in-out billings. Mr. Graham reported on the January 2017 financials noting that current cash on hand of \$224,889, noting \$19,000 ahead in income category. Mr. Graham reviewed the Profit & Loss worksheet and the checking account registry. A motion was made by Mr. Arikol and seconded by Mr. Reaux to approve the January 2017 financials. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Ms. Tomeny advised that Peter Strub, ACEC, will be visiting Louisiana in April for recruitment of ENR500 firms. Also, Brown & Brown Insurance have joined as Affiliate members.

Continuing Education: Mr. Evans reported that 230 are in attendance for Critical Issues; April 23-26 will be the annual trip to Washington, D.C. to visit Capitol Hill; Deep South Convention July 27-30; and the ACEC Fall Convention in Orlando and the study tour to Spain will be overlapping.

Mr. Evans also reported that he and Mr. Mobley have approached the Water Institute in possibly partnering with ACECL in offering education in coastal modeling and coastal design. The Water Institute is looking at membership with ACECL and working with ACECL in submitting RFQ's for engineering work.

Public Relations: Mr. Craig reported that President Schmidt is on the cover of Louisiana Engineer & Surveyor magazine. Mr. Lambert reported that he distributed a media advisory of the Governor's attendance at Critical Issues.

Legislative Committee: Mr. Evans reported that he and Mr. Reaux are working with LAGC on the possibility of lifting the floor on the CMAR pilot program. He will ask Senator Smith to author bill. Mr. Reaux will draft language to bring to the Board at the March 17th meeting.

CLIENT COMMITTEES

Transportation: Mr. Mobley reported that ACEC released a University of NY study in the fall wherein it was reported that in Louisiana it is almost the exact cost (cost per man hour) for DOTD to do a project in-house as contracting out. Mr. Mobley asked for volunteers to work with Steve Hall to review the numbers, as the survey indicated most states showed the cost to be considerably higher for the transportation department to do in-house. President Schmidt, David Dupre and David Leslie will serve on a task force to work with ACEC on researching the data.

Mr. Mobley distributed the DOTD Shade Tree meeting schedule and advised that LAGC asked that ACEC participate in these meetings.

Mrs. Michel reported a DOTD Traffic Engineering meeting will be held on March 21 to discuss the new standardize report format and DOTD requesting that no recommendations to be attached to traffic findings. Ms. Roussel advised that geotech has the same situation with clients not taking professional recommendations.

FP&C: No report.

Fire Marshal: Mr. Robertson stated that the Fire Marshal has met with Richard Savoie and is now stating that drawings are considered confidential (proprietary) and has ceased pulling for LAPELS to review, per his attorney. Mr. Campbell noted that that the Fire Marshal does not want to be the enforcer and now the attorneys are talking with one another. Also, Mr. Campbell noted that the State Fire Marshal is now rejecting plans submitted by mechanicals stating that plans over \$125,000 must be submitted by civil engineers even though mechanical is prime. This matter will be discussed with Mr. Loeb and placed on next month's Board agenda.

CPRA: Mr. Ledet advised the CPRA Master Plan is on their website and all should review. Nothing new to report on the procurement partnership.

DEQ: No report.

Department of Health & Hospitals: No report.

INDUSTRIAL & FEDERAL AGENCIES COMMITTEES

Corps of Engineers: No report.

USDA Rural Utilities Services: No report.

LIAISON COMMITTEES

AIA: No report.

LAGC: No report.

LES: Ms. Roussel stated she asked for the LES Board agenda to review if the LAPELS nominations were being voted. She did not see the item on the agenda. Mr. Mobley advised that they were voted by LES Board at their Lafayette Board Meeting.

LAPELS: Mr. Reaux reported that several ACECL members submitted applications to LES to be considered by the Governor as an appointee to the LAPELS Board and none were sent forward by LES. Also, Mr. Reaux noted that ACECL may want to consider going forward with legislation to allow ACECL to submit names or take other steps. Mr. Mobley suggested we may want to consider adding additional seats rather than take seats away from LES. Mr. Schmidt will setup a meeting between ACECL ExCom and LES ExCom to discuss procedures.

ASCE: No report.

General Counsel Report: Mr. Loeb reported that he and Mr. Mobley met with engineers, and their attorneys, on the lawsuit filed by the City of Denham Springs, City of Walker and Livingston Parish. The \$2-\$3 billion class action lawsuit pertains to the effect of the I-12 median wall in connection with the August flooding. There are 12 ACECL member firms named as defendants. The meeting was held to see what ACECL can do for members, possibly information sharing, document exchange, and Minuteman funding. Just going through the procedures of this lawsuit could bankrupt companies. In 30 days a status conference shall be held with the Judge. President Schmidt asked Mr. Mobley about the use of Minuteman funds for both the class action suit and the public campaign for transportation funding. After discussion, it was agreed that a Minuteman request for Transportation Funding, if need, will be made in the Spring and a Fall request for the class action lawsuit in the Fall.

Mr. Loeb advised that there is a December Judgment in St. James Parish wherein the Judge agreed that an architect was not complying with state law in stamping a set of plans for construction of a building.

National Director's Report:

Mr. Arikol advised that he will be attending the National Board Meeting in Washington. Mr. Arikol suggested that during the strategic planning process that the National Director position be reevaluated as possibly extending the term from one year.

Chapter Presidents' Report:

Baton Rouge: Ms. Tomeny reported there was no February Chapter meeting and Mr. Thomassie is working on a speaker for the March 14 meeting. Ms. Roussel noted that Mr. Thomassie is also working with LES to do a joint meeting in May with Mayor Weston-Broome.

New Orleans: Mr. Junius reported that Representative Cameron Henry spoke at the February 9th luncheon and is searching for a March speaker.

Lafayette: Mr. Campbell reported that Ed Wedge spoke on February 15th and Mr. Reaux recruited Brett Fayard with Mader Engineering to serve as Vice-President of the Lafayette Chapter.

Shreveport: Mr. Graff reported that next week the Shreveport Chapter will host at the McNeil Street Pump Station Museum

Executive Director's Report:

Mr. Mobley reported that Bruce Adams requested a meeting with Mr. Mobley, wherein Mr. Adams requested that ACECL assist in the NO Sewerage & Water Board procurement process procedures. A small task force will be formed to assist in the process and to notify Mr. Mobley if you would like to sit on the task force.

Mr. Mobley reminded the Board that there is a \$1,000 fundraiser for Governor John Bell-Edwards tomorrow morning and Senator Gary Smith next week. Mr. Mobley is working on the IRS designation for the state PAC.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Ledet advised that the ACEC PAC reached their 2016 \$1 million goal but Louisiana did not reach its goal. He also suggested that during the Strategic Planning Process consideration may be given to have Board Members to pledge \$1,000 each to PAC. Mrs. Michel expressed her disapproval with a PAC donation being criteria for sitting on the Board but does believe it should be encouraged. Mr. Evans noted he sits on other volunteer boards and is expected to make contributions. Mr. Arikol noted we may only suggest, but agreed we should suggest a dollar figure. President Schmidt noted this would be a good strategic planning topic.

New Business:

A motion was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Mr. Arikol for preliminary membership approval to W. F. Baird & Associates Ltd. Engineering, LLC. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Evans for preliminary membership approval to NOLA Engineering, LLC. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dupre noted that he received a Port of New Orleans submittal request wherein they asked for man hours, which seems to be another way to get around asking for pricing. Mr. Mobley advised this will be discussed during the task force's meeting with the Port on procurement. No sealed envelopes should be request.

Mr. Dupre also reported that he, Mrs. Michel and Mr. Arikol will be meeting with St. Tammany Parish in early March to discuss QBS issues.

Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held at the Engineering Center on Friday, March 17, 2017 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Mr. Evans. President Schmidt adjourned the meeting without objection.