

**American Council of Engineering Companies  
of Louisiana  
Board of Governors' Meeting  
March 18, 2016  
AECOM  
Baton Rouge, LA**

**BOG present:** Tony Arikol, Brad Graff, David Dupre, Andy Craig, Craig Campbell, Lynne Roussel, Bob Schmidt, Kurt Evans, Ryan Spillers, Raymond Reaux, and Allison Catarella-Michel

**BOG with prior engagements:** Steve Robertson, Andree Cortez, Laurence Lambert, Jim Martin and David Leslie.

**STAFF:** Dan Mobley and Janet Tomeny

**Additional Guest(s):** Duane Cowart, Mason Dupuy, Phil Graham, Steven Loeb and Mark Lambert

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

President Arikol called for the approval of the February 18, 2016 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Craig and seconded by Mr. Evans that the minutes be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Arikol advised that the ACEC/L lobbyist, Duane Cowart, will be attending today's meeting in order for the BOG to personally meet as everyone has not had the opportunity to work with them.

President Arikol asked for a motion to approve his nomination of Bob Schmidt to chair the 2016-2017 BOG nominating committee. A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Dupre. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Graham reported that he has reviewed the February 2016 financials with Mr. Reaux and Mr. Mobley and reported that year to date ACEC/L is \$9,967.00 ahead of projection. Mr. Reaux reported that the 2016-17 projected budget will be presented at the May BOG meeting. A possible 2% increase for 2016-17 dues was discussed and President Arikol asked Ms. Tomeny to review the 2015 BOG minutes to determine if the latest approved 2% increase was for year 2015-16 only.

President Arikol asked for a motion to approve the February 2016 financials. A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** Mr. Evans distributed the updated listing of newly registered engineering firms in Louisiana for the month of March. Ms. Tomeny distributed a list of DOTD consultants, who are not ACEC/L members, and advised an invitation of membership will be mailed and asked for BOG participation.

**Continuing Education:** Mr. Schmidt reported that the ACEC Legislative Conference to be held in Washington, D.C. is approaching and Ms. Tomeny reported that Capitol Hill appointments are being coordinated. Mr. Mobley will send the national ACEC white papers to the BOG. The Deep South Convention rooms are booking quickly and the program has been finalized. Mr. Mobley also reported that Mr. Girau is working on the Cuba trip and has met with the Cuban Embassy.

**Public Relations:**

Mr. Lambert reported that a letter will be going out on Monday to all Zurich Classic volunteers. Mr. Ledet asked Mr. Lambert to inquire if a round of golf can be thrown in for the volunteer efforts of ACEC/L.

Mr. Lambert advised after a lengthy discussion on transportation funding by the BOG, that it was agreed by all industry parties to delay the public opinion poll on transportation funding due to there being little or any chance of a favorable response during this Special Legislative. Now with new information on another Special Session in June and a new favorable poll reported by media, President Arikol asked for a motion for approval to move forward with the opinion poll survey if the other industry partners agree. A motion was made by Ms. Catarella-Michel and seconded by Mr. Spillers. Motion passed unanimously.

**Legislative Committee:** Mr. Mobley reviewed the legislative tracking system in which he monitors during legislative session.

Mr. Evans reported that an ACEC/L Legislative Committee meeting will be set up soon in order to review all bills filed and determine ACEC/L's position. Also, Miles Williams with LES reached out to ACEC/L in partnering to oppose SB 59, Sen. Martiny's bill to waiver the fundamentals testing for an engineer, and the BOG agreed to oppose.

**CLIENT COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:** Mr. Schmidt advised Mr. Coward that there is talk of another Special Session after the Regular Session, and ACEC/L would like to see on the "call" the examination of additional funding for transportation. Mr. Coward believes the Governor is committed to transportation funding, but also believes there may be an increase on the excise tax on over the road motor/diesel fuels which will go to the general fund. ACEC/L does not object to a sales tax as long as a percentage is dedicated to transportation. Mr. Coward advised that it will take a large united front with LAGC, ABC, truck drivers, Good Roads, concrete and pavement, to name a few, to move forward and a meeting should be set up with the Governor within the next 4-5 weeks.

Mr. Lambert advised that a coalition group has been put together with close to \$25,000 committed to doing a public poll survey, with the assistance from PAR, to engage public support for dedicated transportation funding. It was agreed a couple of weeks ago that this endeavor should be postponed until after summer. Mr. Coward advised that the Advocate reported this week of a survey noting record high unfavorable legislator rankings and the Governor's numbers are climbing upward. Also indicated there is a mood for additional revenues in order to get the state moving forward. Mr. Coward believes this is the time to move forward.

Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Reaux advised that the DOTD Procurement Plan is still being reviewed and member comments have been sent to DOTD. Mr. Mobley will send the comments electronically to all BOG members.

Mr. Mobley reported that DOTD was hit with another \$18 million in budget cuts from the TTF in the Special Session which totals \$70 million in FY 2015-16.

**FP&C:** Nothing to report.

**Fire Marshal:** Mr. Mobley reported that LAPELS visited the Fire Marshal's Office to review plans and Mr. Savoie reported that pursuant to the law, the Fire Marshal is only to accept a set of plans from an architect or civil engineer. Mr. Campbell reported that he has submitted plans as the professional of record in many cases and this interpretation only applies to building plans. President Arikol reported that he would talk to Joe Harmon to see if he has the same interpretation.

**CPRA:** Mr. Ledet advised that the ACEC/L committee met with more than 20 persons in attendance. Mr. John Basilica gave a presentation outlining ACEC/L's partnership with DOTD as a potential model. The committee concluded that ACEC/L should open the door to CPRA and go into discussions. Mr. Mobley and Mr. Ledet have set up a meeting with Mr. Chatellier to discuss.

**DEQ:** Nothing to report.

**Department of Health & Hospitals:** Nothing to report.

## **INDUSTRIAL & FEDERAL AGENCIES COMMITTEES**

**Corps of Engineers:** Nothing to report.

**USDA Rural Utilities Services:** Nothing to report.

## **LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**AIA:** Nothing to report.

**LAGC:** Nothing to report.

**LES:** Ms. Roussel reported that she has made contact with LES in hopes to have participation and support at the LAPELS meeting next week on ACEC/L's Petition for Declaratory Order on QBS.

**LAPELS:** Mr. Reaux reported that LAPELS has granted ACEC/L an opportunity to comment on our Petition for Declaratory Order at their board meeting to be held on Monday. After a lengthy discussion on the presentation format, it was agreed to have a more detailed discussion with Mr. Loeb after today's BOG meeting to plan strategy. Mr. Loeb also stated that he has found a new statute and interpreting it to read that a licensee has to avoid participating in an illegal solicitation which should be helpful.

**ASCE:** Nothing to report.

## **General Counsel Report:**

Mr. Loeb, pursuant to Mr. Mobley's request, reviewed SB 354 (DOTD provision: recovery of delayed damages) and found this will not affect engineers. Also, the Attorney General released an opinion that *Hire New Orleans* is illegal. Also, Mr. Loeb has looked into the dual role of a particular engineer who is acting as the St. John Parish Engineer and doing private work and has determined this is illegal.

## **National Director's Report:**

Mr. Graff distributed the ACEC Board Meeting agenda to be held in Washington, D.C. wherein there will be vote on the three-year budget which reflects no fee increase, other than the D.C. area cost of living increase of 2%. President Arikol requested a motion to approve Mr. Graff to vote in favor of the ACEC budget that will be presented. A motion was made by Mr. Spillers and seconded by Mr. Craig. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Chapter Presidents' Report:**

**Baton Rouge:** President Arikol reported that Steve Bonnet was the speaker on March 14<sup>th</sup> and the next speaker will be Livingston Parish President Layton Ricks.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Evans reported that the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting had Steven Loeb speak on CM@R. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14.

**Lafayette:** Mr. Campbell reported a joint meeting with AIA was held on March 16<sup>th</sup> with newly elected Mayor Joel Robideaux with 44 in attendance.

**Shreveport:** President Arikol reported that Mr. Leslie is trying to schedule Representative Alan Seabaugh for April or May.

## **Executive Director's Report:**

Mr. Mobley advised that after the ACEC/L Legislative Committee meets, he will get together with our industry partners to review industry legislative bills. Bentley pricing has been brought up by other states and asked if anyone has experienced an unusual increase in costs.

## **Unfinished Business:**

### **New Business:**

Mr. Arikol introduced Duane Cowart and Mason Dupuy and acknowledged their hard word for ACEC/L. Mr. Cowart presented his background and experience, along with Mr. Dupuy's. Mr. Cowart advised that a bill tracking report is kept by the firm in addition to Mr. Mobley's tracking report. Senator Martiny's bill, giving LAPELS authority to exempt an individual from taking the fundamentals testing, was discussed and Mr. Cowart advised that he has spoken to the Senator and explained ACEC/L's position, to no avail, and will follow the bill closely. He suggested that a couple of BOG members should possibly visit with him and the Senator. Other bills being monitored are SB 160, RFP and RFQ process running concurrently on design build projects & gives DOTD authority to issue a single RFQ for multiple projects; SB 195, in addition to design build, gives DOTD authority to enter into public-private partnership contracts and not reside with LTA as current law states.

A motion for final membership approval for Coastal Engineering Solutions was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Ms. Catarella-Michel. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion for preliminary membership approvals for Southern Earth Sciences and Halff Associates was made by Mr. Dupre and seconded by Ms. Catarella-Michel. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be held at the Engineering Center in Baton Rouge, on Friday, May 20th at 10:00 a.m.

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