

**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors' Meeting
May 20, 2016
The Engineering Center
Baton Rouge, LA**

BOG present: Tony Arikol, Brad Graff, David Dupre, Andy Craig, Craig Campbell, Lynne Roussel, Bob Schmidt, Kurt Evans, and Raymond Reaux

BOG with prior engagements: Steve Robertson, Ryan Spillers, Andree Cortez, Alison Catarella-Michel, Laurence Lambert, Jim Martin and David Leslie.

STAFF: Dan Mobley and Janet Tomeny

Additional Guest(s): Chris Knotts, 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 March 20, 2016 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Mr. Evans that the minutes be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Arikol asked Bob Schmidt to present the recommendations of the 2016-2017 BOG nominating committee which comprised of Messrs. Schmidt, Mumphrey & McGaugh. Mr. Schmidt distributed the recommendations for submittal to membership. Mr. Arikol also announced that Mr. Graff will take over the Shreveport Chapter; Nathan Junius will be the New Orleans Chapter President and Michael Thomassie will be invited to take the Baton Rouge Chapter President position.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Financials Attached)

Mr. Graham reported that he has reviewed the March and April 2016 financials with Mr. Reaux and Mr. Mobley and reported that the balance sheet reflects a total of \$208,455 in checking and savings and liabilities are consistent. A deficit of \$7,800 is being projected for the 2015-16 Budget.

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

Mr. Mobley presented two (2) 2016-17 budget proposals (attached); one with a 2% increase for Louisiana dues (\$19,400 deficit) and one without any type of dues increase (\$24,982 deficit). He also reminded the BOG that National dues for the year will be increasing by 1.8%.

After discussion, it was agreed to increase Louisiana dues by 2% for 2016-17. President Arikol asked for a Motion to accept the 2016-17 budget presented with a 2% increase. A motion was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Mr. Evans.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Mr. Evans distributed a current list of DOTD contract firms, who are not ACEC/L members, and the Membership Recruitment & Retention Report for FY 16 received from ACEC. The Board was asked to approach any vendors whom they would see fit for Affiliate membership.

Continuing Education: Mr. Schmidt reported the Deep South Convention is approaching. Mrs. Tomeny advised that rooms are sparse and distributed registration forms for BOG members. Also discussed was the possibility of having to move future meetings from the SanDestin due to limited July dates available and advised that other properties are being evaluated.

Public Relations:

Mr. Lambert reported that the Newsletter will be completed and distributed next week. Also, the Zurich Classic was successful with ACEC/L contributing to 48 shifts. 768 total man hours have been donated by ACEC/L over the last 4 years. Mr. Lambert would like to go bigger next year and has additional ideas and incentives.

The Louisiana Engineer & Surveyor Journal May issue was mailed last week. Mr. Mobley advised that ACEC/L spends \$3,200.00 yearly on this Journal and he feels we are not getting a good ROI. Mr. Mobley asked the Board if they would consider not being a part of the Journal and bettering the ACEC/L Newsletter, along with increasing the number of issues. After discussion, it was recommended to bring this item to the strategic planning session.

Mr. Lambert advised that he is working on the public poll/survey questions and upon completion will send to Mr. Mobley for the Board's review. He is anticipating the survey to be released in the Fall. Mr. Lambert advises that he is of the opinion that the Special Session will not include any transportation funding. Mr. Mobley advised that there is a meeting next week with the Governor to discuss possible infrastructure funding with ACEC/L attending along with other industry leaders/partners. Also, Acadiana One reached out to Mr. Lambert advising they are working on an economic analysis of infrastructure/transportation funding.

Also, ASCE Louisiana Section is doing an update to the infrastructure Report Card and Jan Evans will be leading the effort.

Legislative Committee: Mr. Mobley reviewed the legislative tracking system (attached) in which he monitors during legislative session. ACEC/L is watching 65 bills; 36 have never moved; 10 considered "hot"; 3 have died in Committee; and 5 are on the Governor's desk. ACEC/L will stay neutral on Senator Thompson's bill (SB 419) requesting that FP&C look at regions for selection. Sen. Cortez's bill (SB 195) allowing DOTD to enter into public-private partnerships is moving towards passage.

CLIENT COMMITTEES

Transportation: Mr. Mobley advised that Secretary Wilson called to inquire ACEC/L's opinion on allowing districts the option to do a separate tax and the money going to DOTD for transportation. Secretary Wilson advised that they may bring a Bill at the 2017 Session. After discussion, it was determined that the idea would be supportive but will need safeguards such as will the money stay in the District and these additional funds will increase funding and not replace current funding and/or moving current funding somewhere else. Also distributed was the tentative LDOTD FY 16-17 budget partition.

Mr. Mobley also reported that Secretary Wilson inquired ACEC/L's thoughts on having a firm submit a proposal on the same project as both prime and also a sub under another prime. After discussion, the BOG did not have any objections as long as the same yearly employee count reported is used for both, as stated in LDOTD policies.

FP&C: Nothing to report.

Fire Marshal: Mr. Campbell reported that he met with LAPELS staff on their meetings with the Fire Marshal on stamping issues. Fire Marshal office advised that they get approximately 400 plans a week and approximately 100 would be of interest to LAPELS. The next phase of the Fire Marshal's super computer will be implemented soon where both LAPELS and AIA licensing office will have direct access to all plans and there will be an avenue for those submitting plans to report the engineer on project. Next steps will be to educate both engineers and architects through the licensing boards.

CPRA: Mr. Mobley and Mr. Ledet met with Maury Chatellier & Jerry Carroll wherein they advised that they were bringing in a facilitator to review current procedures and after the review, CPRA will meet back with ACEC/L. Mr. Mobley also advised that he received an email from CPRA advising that they are putting out RSIQs and asked if we wanted to send out to membership. Mr. Mobley will send out to membership and will contact CPRA after legislative session for an update.

DEQ: Nothing to report.

Department of Health & Hospitals: Nothing to report.

INDUSTRIAL & FEDERAL AGENCIES COMMITTEES

Corps of Engineers: Mr. Dupre advised there is a new Commander at the Corps and he will be a good future speaker for the New Orleans luncheon.

USDA Rural Utilities Services: Nothing to report.

LIAISON COMMITTEES

AIA: Nothing to report.

LAGC: Nothing to report.

LES: Mr. Reaux suggested doing a cooperative endeavor in the future with LES including input on LAPELS appointments. In order to build a better relationship between LES and ACEC, Ms. Roussel presented the idea of possibly engaging with our younger membership to join LES as they are always looking to expand much needed membership. President Arikol stated that we should make an effort to attend the next LES board meeting.

LAPELS: Mr. Reaux reported that LAPELS board member, Chris Knotts, will be attending today's meeting to give an overview of the LAPELS' board meeting held wherein they dismissed ACEC/L's Petition for Declaratory Order on QBS. Mr. Reaux distributed potential language that Mr. Knotts recommends which may have a possibility of approval in the future. Mr. Reaux noted that next steps ACEC/L could pursue are: going back to the LAPELS board; getting an opinion from the Attorney General's Office; introduce legislation which modifies the Hammett Act; or drop the issue altogether.

President Arikol introduced Chris Knotts. Mr. Knotts briefed the BOG on the LAPELS meeting wherein the majority of LAPELS Board Members did not want to discipline the LA licensee when the Hammett Act reads that the agency is breaking the law; not the engineer who responds. Mr. Knotts suggested, as a path forward, that with three (3) new LAPELS board members this year, there may be an opportunity with the new leadership to get something passed. Mr. Knotts stated that the Board is very supportive of QBS and the Hammett Act.

After discussion, the BOG decided the next step to have Mr. Mobley set up a meeting with the Attorney General's new Civil Division attorney for opinion of current Hammett Act and then reevaluate with new LAPELS Board and possibly bring in LES for support. Revising the current law through legislation should be the last course of action.

ASCE: Nothing to report.

General Counsel Report:

Mr. Loeb, pursuant to Mr. Mobley's request, reviewed the new Fair Labors Standards Act and will give a complete report at the July BOG meeting. The professional exemption rule was changed from \$23,660 to \$47,476. Those employees under the \$47,476 threshold will be entitled to overtime pay. Mr. Loeb will present the minimum standards training for surveyors at the Deep South Convention in July.

National Director's Report:

Mr. Graff advised that the projected three-year budget was passed at the ACEC Board Meeting and ACEC/L meet with Peter Strub at the leadership breakfast and was introduced to our new ExCom representative, Satch Pecori with Hanson Inc. (Chicago).

Also, meetings with the LA Congressional delegation were had with the exception of Cedric Richmond. Capitol Hill was very active with the Aviation and WRDA bills being heard.

Chapter Presidents' Report:

Baton Rouge: President Arikol reported that Congressman Garret Graves was speaker at the May 9 luncheon. Next luncheon will be held in August.

New Orleans: Mr. Evans reported that Maury Chatellier was the speaker at the April 14 meeting and Joe Becker at the May 12 meeting. June meeting will host Cathy Dunn, Port of New Orleans.

Lafayette: Mr. Campbell reported that Secretary Shawn Wilson will be the speaker for June 15.

Shreveport: Mr. Graff reported that a meeting has not been held since last board meeting.

Executive Director's Report:

At the request of ACEC Pennsylvania, ACEC/L was invited to give a presentation at their Executive Retreat held in New Orleans requesting information on levees and transportation. Representing ACEC/L were Messrs. Mobley, Schmidt, Evans & Dupre. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Mr. Mobley distributed two (2) QBS violations brought to his attention and after ACEC/L notification, both requests for proposals were withdrawn/amended. Ms. Tomeny advised that she has not heard from the LA Municipal Association about the possibility of Mr. Arikol and Mr. Loeb to present on QBS at their summer convention.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Mr. Reaux brought to the BOG's attention the idea of having a strategic planning session with the 2016-17 BOG. After discussion, President Arikol asked for a motion to schedule a one-day strategic planning session tentatively on Thursday, August 18, 2016. A motion was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Mr. Evans. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion for final membership approval for Alliance Transportation Group was made by Mr. Reaux and seconded by Mr. Evans. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Tomeny presented Sergio Girau's application for ACEC College of Fellow for the Board's approval to submit to ACEC, along with the \$200 application fee. President Arikol asked for a motion to submit the COF application. A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Dupre. Motion passed unanimously.

President Arikol requested Mr. Mobley to get the requirements of being seated on the ACEC Ex. Committee as ACEC/L would like to recommend Kenny Smith to serve.

Deep South Convention PAC raffle tickets were distributed to all and President Arikol asked for all board members to consider giving.

Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held at the SanDestin Resort in Destin, FL, on Thursday, July 21st at 3:00 p.m.

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