

**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors' Meeting
July 21, 2016
The SanDestin Resort
Destin, FL**

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

BOG with prior engagements: David Dupre, Laurence Lambert, Craig Campbell and Michael Thomassie.

STAFF: Dan Mobley and Janet Tomeny

Additional Guest(s): Steven Loeb, Peter Strub and Shawn Wilson.

Mr. Arikol called the meeting to order and expressed his appreciation to the 2015-2016 Board. Mr. Arikol announced the 2016-2017 Board of Governors and passed the gavel to newly elected President Schmidt.

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

President Schmidt called for the approval of the May 29, 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 Schmidt expressed his aspiration to continue to move forward with initiatives and would like to focus on three goals; (1) need for additional infrastructure funding and requesting from the legislature; (2) develop a strategic plan to use for following years to come; and (3) continue the DOTD/ACECL initiative with hopes to conclude this year. Also, the Committee Chairs will be assigned next board meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Financials Attached)

Mr. Reaux reviewed the June 2016 financials with the Board reporting that the balance sheet reflects a total of \$162,000 in checking and savings, with \$15,000 more revenue than expenses due to \$9,500 collected from the Emerging Leaders Program. President Schmidt asked for a motion to approve the June 2016 financials. A motion was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Mr. Arikol. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Mr. Reaux advised that he will work on membership goals. Ms. Tomeny noted the ACEC Membership Recruitment & Retention Report through June 30, 2016 showing Louisiana employee counts up 2.3%. Mr. Evans advised that the Port of New Orleans showed interest in becoming an affiliate member and has asked ACEC/L to assist in their selection process.

Continuing Education: Mr. Mobley advised that Project Outlook is set for November 17th at the Baton Rouge Renaissance and he will work with Kurt Evans on organizing a program planning committee.

Public Relations:

Mr. Craig reported that the Summer Newsletter was distributed on June 15th to 1,200 recipients with a 32% open rate. Also, Mr. Lambert will send out a press release announcing the 2015-16 Board of Governors.

Legislative Committee: Mr. Evans reported that the few bills opposed by ACEC/L in the 2016 Legislative Session did not pass and that the taxes passed by the Administration during the Special Session are only through 2018. Mr. Reaux reported that he will work with LAGC on drafting legislation for the 2017 Legislative Session in doing away the pilot program on CM@R.

CLIENT COMMITTEES

Transportation: President Schmidt advised that Secretary Wilson addressed transportation infrastructure investments and recommended that ACEC/L should form a small committee, suggesting the ExCom and Sheri Lebas, to work with members of the newly formed Transportation Task Force in order to get ACEC/L's input. Ms. Catarella-Michel stated she would like to participate, if possible. After discussion, Mr. Graff brought a motion to ask General Basilica and/or Ann Trappey to come future monthly Board Meetings to give Task Force updates, which will give ACEC/L an opportunity to voice our position. Motion was seconded by Ms. Catarella-Michel. Motion passed without opposition.

President Schmidt also commented that the Board needs to articulate our position through Mark Lambert in order to get ACEC/L's message out to the public.

Ms. Catarella-Michel asked if anyone was aware of a new DOTD process when submitting multiple task orders on a retainer contract. President Schmidt advised that due to FHWA instructions to DOTD, if there are multiple task orders with the same scope of services, there must be a system in place for issuance. There will be an internal process when making decisions on awarding task orders. It is also his understanding that multiple task order proposals will not have to be submitted and, this will not be a competitive process but an internal process.

Mr. Mobley reported, as Secretary Wilson previously mentioned, that recently the same firm submitted on a DOTD retainer contractor as both sub and prime. The Secretary saw this as a problem and pulled and re-advertised. Mr. Mobley asked for the Board's view(s) on the matter. After discussion, the only issue noted was that the new rule was made after the contract was awarded.

Mr. Schmidt advised the Board of DOTD's timeframe to rollout the new consultant procurement process in hopes of the new processes to become effective in November this year: (1) proposals going to DOTD's executive committee in July; (2) ACECL for approval in August; (3) DOTD Secretary approve in September and communication out to consultants in October. DOTD has received questions and waiting on DOTD to release answers. Mr. Mobley advised that Mr. Wedge sent out answers to him and he would get clarification that he can send to the Board. Mr. Reaux asked if Mr. Mobley would also request if Mr. Wedge would be willing to sit down with ACEC/L on the answers.

FP&C: Nothing to report.

Fire Marshal: Nothing new to report.

CPRA: Mr. Ledet advised that CPRA had its Board Meeting in Thibodaux and Mr. Ellis once again reported that CPRA is still looking at its internal processes. Mr. Mobley will contact CPRA for an update and also advised that PAR has released a report, authored by Angele Davis, on the funds coming to Louisiana and requesting that CPRA be transparent.

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: Mr. Craig reported that in the 2016 Legislative Session a bill was passed moving regulation of rate changes from the Public Service Commission to the La. Rural Water Association.

LIAISON COMMITTEES

AIA: Nothing to report.

LAGC: Nothing to report.

LES: Ms. Roussel advised the new Board has been elected to LES. Mr. Schmidt advised that he received a new request from LES and due to time constraints, will be placed on next board agenda.

LAPELS: Mr. Reaux reported that LAPELS ruling on the Petition for Declaratory Order, wherein ACEC/L asked LAPELS to enforce penalties on engineers who submit pricing, has been received by Mr. Mobley and he will send out to the Board. Mr. Reaux asked the Board to think about their desire in amending the Hammett Act to read LAPELS to enforce. Mr. Mobley advised that LAPELS advised him that Alabama is enforcing because it is in Alabama's law so Louisiana should follow suit.

Due to time constraints, Mr. Reaux advised that he will discuss LAPEL appointments at next Board Meeting.

ASCE: Nothing to report.

General Counsel Report:

Mr. Loeb reminded the Board of the Cocktail reception BSW is hosting on Friday evening at Graffiti's.

National Director's Report:

Nothing to report.

Chapter Presidents' Report:

Baton Rouge: Ms. Tomeny advised that the next meeting is scheduled for August 8 and Mr. Thomassie is working on a speaker.

New Orleans: Mr. Junius reported that Walter Brooks will be the speaker on August 11 with Ben Zahn, Norma Jane Mattei and Mike Yenni to come.

Lafayette: Nothing to report.

Shreveport: Mr. Graff reported that on June 29th Mr. Mobley and Ms. Tomeny spoke at the Shreveport luncheon on what ACEC/L can do for you as a member.

Executive Director's Report:

Mr. Mobley advised that he received a call advising that some companies are putting together teams with the Water Institute as part of their team for consultant work. As the Water Institute is a registered firm to practice in Louisiana, there is nothing that can be done other than working with CPRA on processes. Mr. Mobley's concern is that they are a non-profit. Mr. Loeb will look into the structure of the Water Institute; are they a quasi-public agency competing against consultants for government work

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Mobley reported that the transportation survey has gone out.

New Business:

Dr. Shawn Wilson, Secretary, LDOTD stated that the priority of the Administration is new funding for transportation which included the reform of the Capital Outlay program. LDOTD is aggressively moving forward with federal/national entities including receiving \$60 million for I-10 expansion from BR through Lafayette. This grant will allow the state's \$60 million allocation to be moved to other projects. Secretary Wilson noted that the projects are very competitive and must be ready to go when applying for the grant. He is hopeful that by year 3 of the new federal Transportation Bill, I-49, I-10 widening of Mississippi Bridge & the Lake Charles I-10 Bridge will be ready for submittal of monies. The Governor's original plan upon taking office was to seek a sales tax for transportation but with budget in such array, sales taxes were needed for those immediate issues. The tax plan for transportation is still being pursued and the newly created Transportation Task Force will submit a report at the end of the year. The Governor is looking for a long term solution and not opposed to private/public partnerships. A 20 cent gasoline tax is being discussed and language for these monies should not include specific projects, like listed in the Timed Program. There will be regional meetings around the state with emphasis on economic development. Also the task force co-chair has been decided, but not announced by the Governor, along with the new Commissioner of the Multi-Modal department.

Dr. Wilson also stated, as most are aware, there has been turnover in the Consultant Services Department and a new director will be announced soon. Also, the department was aware of 4 major issues on a retainer contract, prior to appeal, and as they felt obligated to set a path to get it right, the proposal was pulled. He expressed to ACEC/L that he is aware of the expense and time to submit such proposals, but he does not want to put the department in any negative exposure, especially with future asking of additional transportation funding. He is aggressively working on efforts to get problems "off the table and not to let them linger" and to contact Mr. Mobley or himself with any concerns.

Mr. Peter Strub, ACEC Chairman of the Board, gave a national update including membership numbers averaging a 2% increase; governmental advocacy with the recent passage of the FAA extension, expecting WRDA bill to be on the floor in the Fall, the overtime rule went up to \$47,000 over the next three years; opposing legislation where alleged companies of negligence could be blacklisted for federal work, and the extension of the R&D (research & development) tax credits on the FAST Act. Mr. Strub also advised that the 6 month Pathways to Leadership program will begin at the Fall Conference in Colorado Springs. Also reported was the Minuteman Fund is at \$2.1 million and the PAC is at \$500,000, half way to its \$1 million goal. Also, at the fall meeting, a vote will be needed for Rhode Island to become an official MO of ACEC which represents all 50 states.

President Schmidt thanked Mr. Strub for attending and asked for any assistance ACEC could give for infrastructure funding including supporting congressional candidates that support long term funding.

Mr. Schmidt advised that a Strategic Plan Session will be held on August 18th with Angele Davis facilitating. The session will comprise of core values and focus; 10-year target; marketing strategy; three-year strategy; one-year plan; quarterly goals and obstacles.

Mr. Mobley advised that he submitted his resume to sit on Secretary Foxx's Commission on Tourism Infrastructure.

Mr. Schmidt advised that he received a phone call from LES asking about our interest in doing joint summer meetings with LES. Mr. Schmidt advised this is not of urgency and will be placed on next month's agenda.

Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held at the Engineering Center on Friday August 19th at 8:30 a.m.

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