

**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors' Meeting
September 23, 2016
The Engineering Center
Baton Rouge, LA**

BOG present: Bob Schmidt, Brad Graff, Ryan Spillers, Andree Cortez, Alison Catarella-Michel, David Leslie, Andy Craig, Lynne Roussel, Kurt Evans, Nathan Junius and Michael Thomassie

BOG with prior engagements: Raymond Reaux, Tony Arikol, Steve Robertson, David Dupre, Laurence Lambert, and Craig Campbell

STAFF: Dan Mobley and Janet Tomeny

Additional Guest(s): Steven Loeb and James Ledet.

President Schmidt called the meeting to order and approval of the Agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Catarella-Michel to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

President Schmidt called for the approval of the July 21, 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 Schmidt expressed his appreciation to the Board for participating in yesterday's Strategic Planning. He also noted that committee chair assignments will be assigned after receiving Ms. Davis-Kelley's report due to the need to re-evaluate ACECL committees.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Financials Attached)

Mr. Craig advised that he and Mr. Mobley had a conference call with Phil Graham, CPA, on the July and August 2016 financials and noted that current liabilities are at \$183,002. Annual meeting expenses have not been reconciled as we are waiting on the State of Alabama to provide the hotel expenses. A motion was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve July and August, 2016 financials. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Ms. Tomeny distributed a monthly membership report noting 146 member firms and 22 affiliate members. Also noted are firms currently being recruited. Ms. Catarella-Michel will contact Karen with Providence; Carmelo Gutierrez with ITS and Tony Tramel. Mr. Craig will speak with Mr. Hoover about ATC joining. Mr. Evans will contact SOL Engineering as they are a Mississippi firm but now moving into the New Orleans market. President Schmidt also expressed that new membership goals will be forthcoming.

Continuing Education: Mr. Evans reported that the ACEC Fall Conference will be held October 18-20 in Colorado Springs. Project Outlook is set for November 17th at the Baton Rouge Renaissance and distributed the program with confirmation of speakers. Critical Issues will be held on February 16-17, 2017.

Public Relations:

Ms. Tomeny reported that she and Mr. Mobley met with Mark Lambert with scheduling of newsletters and magazine articles. Mr. Schmidt also encouraged all to review their ACECL certification to see that pertinent persons with firms are receiving public relation articles and luncheon invites.

Legislative Committee: Mr. Evans advised that he will set up a meeting with the Legislative Committee and meet with LES and ASCE legislative liaisons prior to Session.

CLIENT COMMITTEES

Transportation: The schedule for the statewide Governor's Transportation Task Force meetings was distributed and a discussion on possible means of financing, including potential gas tax increases. Mr. Mobley advised that ACECL will need to partner with Driving LA Forward, as we did in 1989, in raising funds for a public relations campaign if a tax goes before the people. The monies raised can be matched by the Minuteman Fund.

Mr. Mobley reported that he will invite Mr. Ed Wedge and Mr. Bob Boagni to the October 14th BOG meeting to get the DOTD plan finalized.

Mr. Mobley reported that an Ex Comm conference call was had and it was unanimously agreed that a \$2,000 donation be made to the DOTD Employee Flood Assistance Fund which is administered by BRAF. National ACEC also asked for all engineering companies nationwide to make a donation in their weekly newsletter.

Also discussed was DOTD Traffic Division holding up projects. FHWA pulled a meeting together with consultants and noted that this is a widespread complaint among many. As this matter appears to be a personnel matter, it is not an easy fix with civil service rules and regulations. Other options discussed could be a public information request. FHWA's next step was to meet with Mr. Wedge and Mr. Mobley advised that he is not aware of any outcome. President Schmidt advised that FHWA was to also look into other DOTD practices and was going to meet with project managers across the state as well. President Schmidt asked Mr. Mobley to contact FHWA to get a status on these meetings. Also discussed was the possibility of a training seminar between Project Managers and consultants with a third party facilitator. Mr. Mobley will contact Jeff Burst.

FP&C: Nothing to report.

Fire Marshal: Mr. Mobley stated that the "plan stamping" initiative with the Fire Marshal needs to be finalized.

CPRA: Mr. Ledet advised that Mr. Reaux recently met with CPRA and had the opportunity to ask about a possible ACECL/CPRA initiative on contracting services/procurement. A meeting request has been requested and still waiting on date. Mr. Evans advised that he too met with CPRA and had the same conversation. He also recommended that CPRA look at the Port of New Orleans scoring methods. It was also suggested to invite CPRA to a Board Meeting.

DEQ: Ms. Cortez advised that the meeting scheduled was cancelled due to the flood and will be rescheduled within the next few weeks.

Department of Health & Hospitals: Mr. Evans advised that the user loan interest rates have gone down to 1.5%.

INDUSTRIAL & FEDERAL AGENCIES COMMITTEES

Corps of Engineers: Nothing to report.

USDA Rural Utilities Services: Nothing to report.

LIAISON COMMITTEES

AIA: Mr. Mobley advised that he and Lynn Robertson, AIA, discussed starting up meetings again between the two organizations.

LAGC: Nothing to report.

LES: Ms. Roussel advised that LES has requested ACECL to partner on summer conference.

Mr. Loeb advised that he has heard that LES may be bringing up the public employee issue in the legislative session. Mr. Mobley stated he will call Miles Williams to inquire.

LAPELS: Mr. Mobley advised that Mr. Reaux has asked Dr. Mumhrey's of any interest in possibly serving on the LAPELS Board with an academia seat available in 2019.

ASCE: Nothing to report.

General Counsel Report:

Mr. Loeb advised that LAPELS is moving into the direction of possibly adopting a rule that expert testimony is considered the practice of engineering and therefore will need to be licensed in Louisiana.

St. Tammany is continuing to ignore the Hammett Act and Mr. Loeb asked the BOG if they are ready to bring to the courts and estimates legal costs to be approximately \$20,000. Mr. Mobley advised that the Minuteman Fund can be used for half the costs. After discussion, it was agreed to have Mr. Loeb, Mr. Mobley, and possibly AIA, to meet with the St. Tammany Parish Attorney prior to filing suit.

National Director's Report:

Nothing to report.

Chapter Presidents' Report:

Baton Rouge: Mr. Thomassie advised that the September 12th meeting hosted Jay Hardman, Port of Baton Rouge. The October meeting will have General Basilica updating on the Governor's Task Force on Transportation Infrastructure.

New Orleans: Mr. Junius reported Walter Brooks was the speaker on August 11th and Norma Jane Mattei will be speaking on September 13th.

Lafayette: Mr. Mobley advised that he will contact Mr. Campbell on scheduling the next meeting.

Shreveport: Mr. Graff reported on October 12th a joint meeting was held with LAGC wherein Steven Loeb presented new case law.

Executive Director's Report:

Mr. Mobley contacted Secretary Wilson to inform that ACECL is not great fans of design build after he reported the I-10 widening project in Ascension Parish would be design build. Secretary Wilson advised that they felt the project would move faster as a design build and is wanting to do a CMAR project.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Ledet advised that Louisiana is currently at \$13,400 of its \$23,822 PAC goal (56%) and encouraged the Board to participate in the Fall Sweepstakes.

New Business:

President Schmidt commented that the delivery methods available to DOTD (CMAR, Public-Private Partnerships, and Design Build) do not have any structure in the DOTD organization for planning and delivery. He suggested ACECL may want to inquire what DOTD's future plans are. Mr. Mobley recommended that we invite Secretary Wilson to a Board Meeting to discuss after Project Outlook.

Ms. Tomeny presented the survey results from the Deep South Convention noting the majority voted to have beach location; rotate location of conference; and continue to partner with other a/e/c organizations. LES has contacted ACECL inquiring of any interest in partnering with them. After discussion of concerns, President Schmidt advised that a decision would not be made this date but will be brought up again and he will schedule lunch with the President of LES. Mr. Mobley advised that 2017 is confirmed at SanDestin.

A motion for preliminary membership approval for McManus Consulting was made by Mr. Spillers and seconded by Ms. Catarella-Michel. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held at the offices of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson on Friday, October 14th beginning at 11:00 a.m.

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