**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
July 21, 2022
The SanDestin , Baton Rouge, LA**

**BOG present:** Andree Cortez, Michael Thomassie, Colby Guidry, Byron Racca, Brett Bayard, Rob Delaune, Bob Boagni (ZOOM), Bryan Jones, David Stelly, Sherri LeBas, Chad Poche, Lisa Cookmeyer (ZOOM), Brin Ferlito, Jordan Pearson, and Nathan Junius

**BOG with prior engagements:** Butch Babineaux and Don Arrington

**STAFF:** Barker Dirmann (ZOOM) and Janet Tomeny

**Additional Guest(s):** Thomas Cascino (ACEC Leadership) and S. Loeb

Ms. Cortez called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Tomeny for roll call. Quorum established.

Ms. Cortez welcomed all to the Sandestin Resort and acknowledged appreciation to the 2021-2022 Board members whom, under her leadership, took on the tasks of hiring a new President/CEO, Barker Dirmann and took a deep dive into revising the ACECL Bylaws.

Ms. Cortez reported on the election results for the 2022-2023 Board of Governors and passed the Chairman’s gavel to 2022-2023 Chairman of the Board Michael Thomassie. Chairman Thomassie welcomed the Board and all members introduced themselves.

Chairman Thomassie called for approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Ms. Cortez. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Thomassie called for approval of the May 6, 2022, and June 28, 2022, minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Ms. Cortez. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Thomassie welcomed ACEC Board Chair Tom Cascino. Mr. Cascino gave a brief overview of the ACEC Strategic Plan.

**Secretary/Treasurer Report:** (Financials Attached)

Mr. Poche and Mr. Dirmann presented the May/June 2022 financials noting the fiscal year ended with a surplus of $50,023 ($18,174 over what was budgeted) and a current total checking/saving account asset balance of $174,236. After discussion and overview, a motion was made by Ms. Cortez and seconded by Mr. Poche to accept financials presented. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Dirmann advised that he propose moving monetary assets to the reserve account at the September Board meeting for consideration and approval.

**Chair Report:** (M. Thomassie)

* Chairman Thomassie reported on his 2022-2023 Vision and Goals including revisiting the ACECL Strategic Plan; workforce obstacles including retention and recruiting for the engineering community to include STEM, along with university and technical college level; possible indemnification language legislation; continuing relations with state agencies; and implementation of IIJA.
* Mr. Thomassie announced committee assignments as follows:

Membership Development – Nathan Junius

PAC/PAC Champion (ACEC) – Chad Poche

Legislative – Bryan Jones

Transportation – Raymond Reaux & Sherri LeBas

Water Resources – Brenton Jenkins/Lisa Cookmeyer (Board Liaison)

Facilities – Craig Campbell/B. Bayard (Board Liaison)

LAPELS/LES - Byron Racca

AGC-AIA – Barker Dirmann

Strategic Planning – Brin Ferlito

**National Directors Report:** (A. Cortez)

* Ms. Cortez reported that the ACEC Southeastern Region comprising of leadership from the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee met this morning at the Deep South Convention with ACEC Vice-Chair Tom Cascino who gave an in-depth briefing on ACEC board activities, Steve Hall reporting on federal legislative initiatives, and Art Barrett reporting on the MO support initiative.
* ACEC Leadership orientation meetings will be held on August 1-2 at the ACEC offices in Washington, DC with Chad Poche & Barker Dirmann attending.
* ACEC Fall Conference to be held at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs on Oct. 16-19
* Opportunity to participate in two (2) ACEC PAC fundraisers at the Deep South Convention, the Fall Convention sweepstakes and the Deep South Sandestin sweepstakes.

**President & CEO Report**: (Dirmann)

* Strategic Plan - The ACECL Board Strategic Plan will be held at the Watermark Hotel in downtown Baton Rouge on September 15th from 1:00 pm -5:00 pm with a team building activity/dinner to follow. ACECL will provide lodging to all board members.
* EEA Gala/Business Forum – The EEA Gala and Business Forum will rotate year to year with the Business Forum to be held on March 6, 2023, at the Crowne Plaza and the EEA Gala to be held in March of 2024.
* Emerging Leaders Institute – Session 2 was held on June 16 with a 2-hour DEI session moderated by SuccessLabs, followed by a networking event of TopGolf.
* Past Presidents Committee – Committee Chair Ralph Junius called a Past Presidents Committee meeting on June 23, 2022 and the Committee proposed two recommendations to Mr. Dirmann to present to the Board of Governors after reviewing the adopted March, 2022 Bylaws; (1) removing the Strategic Planning language (Section1: Objectives) and (2) consider implementing internal policies for non-engineer Chapter officers to be approved by the Board of Governors prior to being placed on the Chapter election ballot. Mr. Dirmann advised the Board he will organize a meeting with staff and the ExCom to present recommendations at the Strategic Planning session on September 15.

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Jones reported Secretary Shawn Wilson will present his year as ASHTO President at the August 8 chapter luncheon.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Delaune reported on July 14 the New Orleans Chapter hosted St. Tammany Parish President Mike Cooper who gave an update on infrastructure projects in St. Tammany Parish. Next meeting is scheduled for September 8 and Mr. Delaune will reach out to Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Infrastructure Joe Threat.

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Stelly advised he will start coordinating the next Chapter luncheon with ACECL staff.

**Shreveport:** Mr. Pearson reported the Shreveport Chapter met on June 29th hosting State Representative Thomas Pressly whom gave a legislative session recap.

**Monroe:** No report.

**Lake Charles:** Mr. Dirmann reported that State Senators Mark Abraham and Jeremy Stine gave an overview of the 2022 Legislative Session on August 4th.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** (Report Attached) May/June 2022 report noted 128 member firms and 27 affiliates.

**Legislative Committee:**  (Report attached)

Mr. Dirmann presented a detailed analysis report of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session dated July 13, 2022.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:**  Ms. LeBas reported two issues to the Board: Certification of Inspectors – this is a difficult and challenging process in getting certifications as the cost is $800; study material is outdated; and DOTD only offers one (1) class per year. DOTD would like ACECL to come with recommendations and send two (2) persons to the November 30 meeting. Ms. LeBas also recommended communicating with LTRC Director Sam Cooper.

CEI work - DOTD has a policy noting a firm who designs work on a project it is not allowed to do the CEI (Construction & Inspection) scope of work of said project. The Federal policy allows the transportation departments to allow, with certain bylaws to conform to. Ms. LeBas recommends holding conversations with DOTD inquiring if they are planning to continue this policy.

The next COG meeting is scheduled for June 7th.

**Water Resources: (Committee report attached)**  Ms. Cookmeyer reported on the attached committee report noting the Committee is working with FP&C (Mark Moses) on public outreach in promoting the Water Sector Program and advertisements. Mr. Delaune noted the application portal will open on July 15 and close on August 31st for Water Sector Program second round applications. There will be no outreach meetings while portal is open. Also discussed was the need to reach out to the Water Commissioners in allowing requests for design extensions to be more than a two- month extensions. Next Water Resources Committee meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2022.

**Facilities:**  No report.

**LES/Lapels:**  Mr. Racca reported that the Fire Marshal’s office has started following through with the new incidental practice procedures.

**AGC/AIA:**  Mr. Dirmann reported ACECL and LAGC will work together to identify candidate criteria for the DOTD Chief Engineer future vacancy. Also, Mr. Dirmann is working with Kathleen Gordon, AIA, on the possibility of partnering with AIA on programming with the Reconnecting Unity Program (IJJA).

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:** St. Tammany Parish School Board QBS violation– LAPELS is not going to cite or litigate. After discussion, Mr. Dirmann will research on how other states are enforcing.

**Special Announcements:**  Invitation to attend the Louisiana Deep South Convention reception at Ann Trappey’s house on Friday evening, July 22nd from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 16 from 9:00 – 12:00 noon. ACECL Board Retreat will take place on Thursday, September 15, 2002, at the Watermark Hotel from 1:00 – 5:00 with a social event after.

A motion was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Ms. LeBas to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.