**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors’ Meeting
November 4, 2022
ACECL Conference Room, Baton Rouge, LA**

**BOG present:** Michael Thomassie, Colby Guidry, Byron Racca (ZOOM), Brett Bayard, Rob Delaune, Bob Boagni, David Stelly, Sherri LeBas, Chad Poche (ZOOM), Brin Ferlito, Jordan Pearson, Don Arrington (ZOOM), Butch Babineaux (ZOOM), and Andree Cortez (ZOOM)

**BOG with prior engagements:** Bryan Jones, Nathan Junius and Lisa Cookmeyer

**STAFF:** Barker Dirmann and Janet Tomeny

**Additional Guest(s):** Ralph Junius

Chairman Thomassie called the meeting to order and asked Ms. LeBas for roll call. Quorum established.

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

Chairman Thomassie called for approval of the September 16, 2022, minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Stelly and seconded by Mr. Bayard. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Dirmann presented the September 2022 financials with a current total checking/saving account asset balance of $247,620.58 which includes a payment for Deep South Convention income of $37,000. A motion was made by Mr. Stelly and seconded by Mr. Guidry to approve the financials. Motion passed unanimously.

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

* Chairman Thomassie presented a recap of the 2022 Fall Conference noting he received positive feedback from many attendees. A powerful outcome was both DOTD and CPRA acknowledging ACECL and its impact on the industry. Suggested recommendations for future conferences would be to assist with the script for FP&C as future projects were not touched on; evaluation forms should be broken out for each speaker/topic; and invite clients to reception. Chairman Thomassie thanked Nathan Junius for his assistance with the PAC Pinewood Derby which brought in $3,500 to the PAC.
* Chairman Thomassie advised he has set a Strategic Planning meeting with ACECL staff in early December to formalize and identify action items for Board Members and Committee Chairs.

**National Directors Report:**

* Ms. Cortez reported the ACEC Fall Conference was held at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs on Oct. 16-19 wherein National awards were presented to Ms. Bliss Bernard for Young Professional Engineer and Kenny Smith, Chair Emeritus. ACEC announced the creation of a new Private Energy market sector and will hold a symposium in Houston on November 15.
* Ms. Cortez advised that ballots are forthcoming for ACEC Executive Committee election and Gary Raba will be on the ballot for Chair, along with three vice-chair positions.
* Mr. Dirmann also advised that ACEC’s Bylaws allows national membership fees to be increased by the CPI in Washington, D.C. each year. This year they are projecting the CPI to be 7%. The MO Directors

were very vocal about not having a large increase this year in National dues, as dues were increased by 6% last year.

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

* Bylaws Revisions: Mr. Dirmann introduced Mr. Ralph Junius, Chairman of the Past Presidents Council. Mr. Junius advised that the Past Presidents Council met on June 23, 2022 and reviewed the recently passed Bylaws and submit to the Board of Governors a Resolution (distributed to Board of Governors) recommending revisions.
1. Chapter President nominees, who are non-engineers, must get the approval of the Board of Governors prior to being placed on the official ballot. Discussion was had and a motion to accept was made by Ms. LeBas and seconded by Mr. Bayard. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Amend Section 1 of the Bylaws by removing “established objectives found in the current Strategic Plan produced and approved by the Board of Governors” as it is the opinion of the Past Presidents that the Bylaws are not self-contained and the objectives of ACECL found in the Strategic Plan cannot be ascertained by reading the Bylaws. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bayard and seconded by Ms. LeBas to strike out the “established objectives” language recommended by the Resolution presented by the Past Presidents Council and to follow-up, after researching on additional language requiring strategic plan updates. Chairman Thomassie called for a roll call vote ending in 13 yeas and 1 nay. Motion was approved.
3. Pursuant to the recommendation at the Board Strategic Planning Retreat, Mr. Dirmann presented draft proposed amendment language to Sections 8 and 9 of the Bylaws (distributed to Board of Governors) wherein the Committee Chair assignments of the Chairman-Elect and Vice-Chairman will be held for two consecutive year terms. A motion was made to approve the proposed language to Sections 8 and 9 by Mr. Thomassie and seconded by Mr. Dupre. Motion passed unanimously.
* GrowthZone – Mr. Dirmann reported ACECL staff have commenced a 90-day training session with the GrowthZone team, implementing the membership management software and website.
* Continuing Education Report
1. ACECL Fall Convention –financials will be closed out within 60 days;
2. Land Surveying Education courses were requested by membership and ACECL and LES are partnering to offer 3 hours of PDH’s on December 12, 2022, at the offices of GEC;
3. Critical Issues Summit is scheduled for February 8-9, 2023, at the Baton Rouge Downtown Hilton; and
4. Planning for the March 9, 2023, Business Forum will commence soon with the Planning Committee comprised of Chair Kurt Evans, Fannie Marcotte-Bennett, D’Juana Beason, and ACECL staff. Ms. Ferlito volunteered to serve on the Committee as well.

**Chapter/Area Committee Reports:**

**Baton Rouge:** Mr. Dirmann reported the Baton Rouge Chapter hosted Fred Raiford, EBRP Director of Transportation and Drainage on October 10. Next meeting will be held on December 5th.

**New Orleans:** Mr. Delaune reported New Orleans Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Infrastructure Joe Threat presented to the Chapter on November 10th. Next meeting is January 12, 2023.

**Lafayette:**  Mr. Stelly reported Mark Joiner, State Fire Marshal’s Office, presented the new building code changes at a September 28 luncheon. Next meeting will be a joint meeting with LES and LCES hosting Dr. Jonathan Raush, ULL Professor, on November 16.

**Shreveport:** Mr. Pearson reported he is working on a new venue for future Shreveport Chapter meetings.

**Monroe:** No report.

**Lake Charles:** Mr. Babineaux reported the Chapter will host Terry Frelot, Calcasieu Parish Chief Engineer, and Jeanne Hornsby, C.H. Fenstermaker, on November 16 presenting an update on the Calcasieu Parish Watershed Master Plan.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** (Report Attached) September/October 2022 report noted 129 member firms and 26 affiliates. Mr. Poche reported the Membership Committee met on October 24th to review the current top recruitment listing and asked that Board members review the list distributed and notify of any connections of listed firms and/or additional firms to include.

**Legislative Committee:**  (Report attached)

Mr. Dirmann reported that he, Committee Chair Jones and Chance McNeely recently met to prepare for the Fall Conference Legislative Panel and discussed possible legislation for the upcoming session. Discussion was around the indemnification statute noting that North Carolina recently passed a “fair-indemnification” law. The Legislative Committee will meet and present its recommendations to the Board at the January 2023 Board meeting.

**CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**Transportation:**  Ms. LeBas reported that she, Committee Chair Reaux and Mr. Dirmann met with Chief Engineer Chris Knotts presenting ACECL’s Transportation Committee goals and plan of action for the upcoming year. Discussion topics included compensation paper, advanced technology trends, and escalated rates based on CPI. Also Ms. LeBas advised that Mike Gorbaty will be retiring from DOTD at the end of the year and concerned with the number of DOTD employees, with a wealth of historical knowledge, set to retire soon.

Ms. LeBas also reported that training and updating manuals for inspectors has been delayed by LTRC due to DOA implementing new computer software to their offices. Reminder that the Louisiana Transportation Conference will be held March 13-15, 2023.

**Water Resources: (Committee report attached)**  Mr. Dirmann reported that the Committee is meeting with the OCD and Emergent Method regarding the Water Sector Program. The meeting will be held on November 29th at the City Club.

**Facilities:**  No report.

**LES/Lapels:**  No report.

**AGC/AIA:**  Mr. Dirmann reported that ACECL and AIA are partnering to hold webinars/meetings across the state on the recent code changes. Also, a meeting was held with the City of New Orleans with Ken Naquin, LAGC, in attendance.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** Ms. Tomeny reported a call for Annual ACECL Sponsorships will be sent to all membership on December 1st. Also, the ACECL Leadership Holiday Dinner is scheduled for December 6th at Rizzuto Ristorante & Chop House in New Orleans.

**Next Meeting:** Next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m., at the ACECL Conference room.

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