

**American Council of Engineering Companies
of Louisiana
Board of Governors' Meeting
July 18, 2024
Hilton SanDestin, Miramar Beach, Florida**

BOG present: Nathan Junius, Chad Poche, Colby Guidry, Byron Racca, Brett Bayard, Sherri LeBas, Brin Ferlito, Don Arrington, Kimberly McDaniel, Jordan Pearson, David Stelly, and Nick Ferlito.

BOG with prior engagements: Brian Moldaner, Rob Delaune, Jim Ellingburg and Mike Pugh

GUESTS: Kurt Evans, Steven Loeb, Ralph Junius, Kevin Crosby, Gary Raba & Sean McCone

STAFF: Barker Dirmann and Janet Landry

Mr. Nathan Junius called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Landry for roll call. Quorum established.

Mr. Junius reported on the 2024-2025 board election results (attached) and Mr. Dirmann noted that the Lake Charles President position has not been filled to date, and he is actively recruiting a member.

Mr. Junius noted that the past year consisted of hard work on non-negotiating lump sum, incidental practice and clarifying the definition of engineering.

Mr. Junius officially passed the gravel to the 2024-2025 Chairman, Chad Poche. Chairman Poche welcomed all Board Members and asked all to introduce themselves, along with guests.

Chairman Poche called for approval of the Minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Guidry and seconded by Mr. Stelly. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Poche called for approval of the May 10, 2024, minutes. A motion was made by Ms. McDaniel and seconded by Mr. Racca for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: (Financials Attached)

Mr. Dirmann presented the May/June 2024 financials noting a June 30, 2024, total checking/saving account asset balance of \$255,050, ending the FY with a surplus. Mr. Dirmann advised the inflated income in 2024, compared to 2023, due to handling the 2024 Deep South Convention registration income. After discussion and overview, a motion was made by Mr. Racca and seconded by Mr. Arrington to accept the financials presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dirmann presented the FY24-25 budget approved by the 2023-24 Board of Governors noting that Arcadis has joined effective July 1 and is still working on several firms including WSP and Eustis Engineering.

Chairman Report: (Poche)

- Chairman Poche noted his vision and goals for the upcoming 2024-2025 year including QBS strengthening to include geotechnical and surveying; increasing membership; indemnification legislation; architectural task force to clean up language on the definition of engineering/architecture and working with stakeholders on the DBE disparity study.
- Chairman Poche announced the 2024-2025 Committee chair assignments. (Attached)

National Directors Report: (Junius)

- The Deep South Convention will host the ACEC PAC Cornhole tournament this evening with 30 teams playing, increasing from 13 teams last year.
- The ACEC Fall PAC Sweepstakes and the Deep South Convention 3-day Hilton stay sweepstakes drawings are included in convention registration packets.
- ACEC Fall Conference, New Orleans, November 17-20, 2024: Mr. Dirmann updated the Board on the West Closure Complex Road Show tour for ACEC ExCom and convention attendees on Saturday, November 16th. The tour will depart from the hotel via tour bus after the ACEC ExCom meeting at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Dirmann noted a reception at the Vintage Rock Club will follow the tour from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. with attendees to include convention attendees, state and federal dignitaries, ACEC ExCom, ACEC MO's and ACEC of Louisiana members. A call for corporate sponsorship and registration for the tour (max. of 75 for tour) will be released soon.

President & CEO Report: (Dirmann)

- The ACECL Board retreat will be held on September 12-13, 2024, at the L 'auberge Resort in Baton Rouge with strategic planning on Thursday, a Thursday evening dinner, and the Board meeting held on Friday morning. Committee chairs will be invited to attend as well.
- ACECL's Minuteman Grant request was approved by ACEC committee for \$100,000 and is expected to move forward with final approval by the ACEC ExCom. The third-party consultant, DCG out of North Carolina, was hired and 13 working groups have been formed with Mr. Dirmann attending the engineer working group meeting. The Consultant will provide the Governor with a full report no later than January 15, 2025. Mr. Dirmann noted the top emphasis is increasing revenue for transportation infrastructure.
- Deep South Convention - This year's Convention is the largest to date with 135 engineers, 225+ including families, exhibitors and VIPs.

Chapter/Area Committee Reports:

Baton Rouge: Ms. McDaniel noted on June 10 the Chapter hosted Henry Hayes who spoke on Innovation in Business . Ms. McDaniel is working on a speaker for the August 11 meeting.

New Orleans: Ms. Landry reported Meagan Williams with the City of NOLA's Office of Resilience and Sustainability spoke on May 23. Next meeting is scheduled for July 25th with the MSY Airport Director speaking.

Lafayette: Mr. Stelly reported he is working with newly elected Mayor-President Monique Boulet to speak to members. Also, Lafayette Parish is still attempting to hire a Public Works Director.

Shreveport: Mr. Pearson reported he will coordinate an August/September meeting and will reach out to Senators Bass and Pressly.

Monroe: No report.

Lake Charles: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: (Report Attached) May/June 2024 report noted 122 member firms representing 3,827 employees and 21 affiliates. Mr. Bayard reported that he will explore new ideas to increase membership and get young engineers involved.

Legislative Committee:

No report.

CLIENT LIAISON COMMITTEES

Transportation: Ms. LeBas reported the COG met on non-negotiable contracts. Still waiting on DOTD to look over ACECL's position paper as they notified ACECL that they are now sending it over to Legal for review. Also, mileage reimbursement and domicile issues listed on the 2102 project sheet have come to the attention of the Committee.

Water Resources: Mr. Dirmann reported he will meet with the new Chair, Lee Ann Fitch. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for August 15.

Facilities: No report.

LES/LAPELS: Mr. Racca reported that LAPELS is going through all laws passed during the 24 Legislative Session which will impact licensees. LAPELS will be moving their offices by November. Governor Landry has named Susan Richard as the newest member of the LAPELS Board representing Private Practice.

AGC/AIA: No report.

Unfinished Business:

New Business: Mr. Gary Raba, ACEC Chairman of the Board, spoke on ACEC's goals to include MO strengthening, strategic plan updating, study of current dues structure, and membership.

Next Meeting: Next Board meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2024, from 9:00 – 12:00 at the L'auberge Resort in conjunction with the Board Retreat to be held on September 12th from 1:00 – 5:00.

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