

ACEC Delaware

American Council of Engineering Companies of Delaware

Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

11:30 AM

Century Engineering, Dover, DE

RE: Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: 11:40 am

Attendees:

Kim Wilson	Executive Director	Ruggerio Willson & Associates
Jordan Seemans	Asst. Executive Director	Ruggerio Willson & Associates
Mike Angelo	President	McCormick Taylor
Mike Riemann	Vice President / Kent County	Becker Morgan Group
Dave DuPlessis	Treasurer/Membership	JMT
Brian Bolender	Secretary	AECOM
Ted Williams	New Castle County	Landmark
Scott Rathfon	National Director	Century
Ted Januszka	Legislative	Pennoni Associates
Debbie Pfeil	Kent County	AECOM
Alan Marteney	Transportation	Century
Bruce Jones	Environmental	Pennoni Associates
Garth Jones	Sussex County	Becker Morgan Group

Not Present:

Ryan Flickinger	Education / Public Relations	KCI
Sonia Marichic-Goudy	Programs	McCormick Taylor

1. The meeting's agenda was approved and the meeting minutes from the April meeting were approved.
2. Treasurer's Report –Dave DuPlessis
 - Income to date has been \$ 81,000 with expenses of \$ 73,000
 - Fourth quarter invoices have been sent out
 - PAC has approximately \$ 6,000 remaining, some of which is Drive DE Forward money
 - On the HAKS aging, they have agreed to pay the aging upon receipt of another invoice, and they will be renewing their membership
 - We brought in \$ 3,600 revenue for the ads in the resource guide.
 - A special line item is being created for ad revenue, and it was discussed if we should put this money back into programs.
3. Executive Director's Report – Kim Wilson
 - The remaining days of the legislative session are going to be tough, and presently the vote on revenue increases for DeIDOT is unraveling.

- The budget news is not good right now.
 - The State Chamber may start pulling out of the coalition and attacking on their own.
 - There are no gas tax discussions going on at all.
 - We need to keep reaching out on HB140, which is going to the floor next week.
 - There is a \$ 62 million deficit which will grow to \$ 240 million if 2017 if nothing changes.
 - The Republicans are not aligned on what they want, other than overall cuts. They believe there is a spending issue that needs to be resolved.
 - There is talk about extending spending levels at current level rather than approving the budget.
 - If HB 140 does not happen this year, it will be another two years before something will happen, since next year is an election year.
 - The issue is much larger than ACEC at this point, and there are no deals to broker right now.
 - Final legislative night is on June 30th after dinner.
 - Senator Townsend is forming a Water Task Force, and ACEC will have a member on the Task Force.
 - Secretary Small was not aware that Senator Townsend was proposing the task force.
 - Secretary Small is working back to discussion with Bruce on funding issues.
 - A budget for water needs to be quantified, and then it needs to be determined how priorities are to be set.
 - Secretary Small does not believe there is any will to get a bill approved for funding right now, and that we still need to educate legislators on the issues.
 - The use of electronic payments is moving forward and should be finalized over the summer
 - Kim noted that she had provided further updates / details in an email this morning.
4. National Directors Report – Scott Rathfon
- A short term extension for transportation financing till July 30th was passed.
 - ACEC now has over 586,000 members.
 - The Coast Guard is posting new regulations for deep ports, although it appears to be more geared to foreign ports.
 - The overall PAC goal has been met.
 - Continuity of Leadership is a push for National, since mostly CFO's become CEO's and accountants might not understand the need for strong engineering leadership.
 - National is looking at integrating National / State programming, education and leadership programs.
 - The fall sweepstakes is out for the PAC. We stand at \$ 5,400, but trying to get to \$ 10,000. We have met the official goal.
5. Legislative Committee – Ted Januszka
- Trying to come up with more ideas on how to raise funds for the PAC. Thinking about a fishing tournament as utilized by ABC.
 - We need to keep growing our funds for legislative access
 - 50 / 50s are problematic due to reporting issues
 - Raffle tickets work well.
 - Member firms can help with donations.

- Can raise money from corporate donations and then sell tickets to raffle for PAC, or can sell tickets and then give out a gift.
 - Interested in doing a U of D tailgate.
 - Need to keep putting on events to attract younger audiences.
6. Membership – Dave DuPlessis
- Have added several vendors as associate members through affiliate groups.
 - Need to work at keeping associate member actively engaged. Kim and Jordan are going to survey associate members to determine what they would like to see.
 - Looking at the possibility of a mixer event that would combine the associate members and younger members.
 - Debbie is going to work with Sonia or Ryan on events for younger members.
 - We could look at folks in the emerging leaders forum, and form a new committee for younger members.
 - There is a definition of what constitutes a full membership firm as opposed to an associate membership firm in the bylaws, but we may need to revisit for updating the bylaws.
7. Program Committee – Sonia Marichic-Goudy (not present)
- Sonia now has two volunteers to help on her committee.
 - The group is looking at a webinar in the fall to be held in Kent County.
 - A half day seminar in March is being reviewed. The subject will be transportation driven and will be held in New Castle County.
 - Ken Simpler has agreed to be a speaker at a future event.
8. Transportation Committee – Alan Marteney
- Funding for DeIDOT is very bad.
 - Design – build legislation is being codified. It is potentially going into the bond bill language to allow more design – build options.
 - Working on setting up a meeting with Marti's replacement.
 - The committee is to meet with Secretary Cohen on the 22nd as a follow up to a previous meeting.
9. Environmental Committee – Bruce Jones
- Bruce met with Secretary Small yesterday.
 - There is a water quality spending issues and 2016 is not looking good for funding.
 - Need to develop a reliable funding stream.
 - Need to find a way to package the funding.
 - The DE Nature Society is pushing the clean water agenda.

- The committee is tackling the issues with a four step strategy, and presently it is on Step One, which will take several months to complete.
- Water need studies have been done for each county, but there are no costs included for upgrade or operation and maintenance.
- Need to review permitting issues and how that will affect the future and funding.
- Have added drainage, coastal resiliency, flood mitigation and water quality into the long term strategy.
- The plan has to be fully adaptable, as politics will change funding priorities.
- Have to be careful how present issues to Chamber of Commerce, as big companies will push back since they general have a larger burden in water issues.
- More surface water projects are forthcoming from DNREC.
- The Stormwater Financing Center at University of Maryland is involved with DNREC, since there is more money from EPA available.
- Bruce would appreciate any thoughts on how the committee should continue to progress be provided to him.
- The committee is looking for a commitment from ACEC that this issue will keep moving forward as a legislative issue.
- Legacy issues with prior funding programs need to be addressed as we move forward.
- The Brownfields template may be a viable option to follow.
- Need to look at alternative ways of funding, such as private enterprises “banking” improvements that can then be sold to others, but this would have to be privately run.
- The City of Wilmington has started working on solutions to this issue.
- Education is going to be a huge component of any plan moving forward.
- We need to make sure things do not get worse on water front, and all issues need to be addressed.
- There is no one in compliance right now, so new rules coming down from the Federal government are not being disseminated. Fines for non-compliance are forthcoming, and examples of what can happen need to be provided.
- Working directly with DNREC to resolve many of the issues, but it is not always clear who exactly in DNREC is responsible for any given issue.
- ACEC needs to be strong members of the Water Task Force
- Bruce asked that the Board review the Four Step Strategy for the committee and come back with any comments at the next Board meeting.

10. New Castle County Committee - Ted Williams

- Nothing new going on in New Castle County.
- George Haggerty is acting manager of planning since the existing manager is leaving.
- The next UDC presentation is coming up soon.
- A study for the Route 141 corridor is also forthcoming.

11. Kent County Committee – Debbie Pfeil

- Setting up a meeting with the Conservation District towards the end of July
- Will be meeting with the DNREC folks in early fall to discuss source water protection issues.

12. Sussex County Committee – Garth Jones

- Shane Abbott has retired.

- The County has hired a new planner.
- Setting up meeting with County staff and administration.

13. Education/Public Relations Committee - Ryan Flickinger (not present)

- On June 1st, the group met with Catalyst Visual about the website.
- Working on getting younger staff involved with efforts at U of D. Looking at modest budget of \$ 500 to \$ 700 for meetings.
- Looking at creating a mission statement and informational package. This will be further reviewed with the Board.
- Looking at the possibility of swapping advertisement space, or memberships, with other organizations.
- The resource guide was sent to DNREC, Governor's office and all public agencies. Would like to make this an electronic document so we can get it out to as many places as possible.

14. Other Issues

- It appears that everyone enjoyed the Annual Meeting, including the vendors.
- The Resource Guide was a big hit.
- Need to look at two bars for next Annual Meeting.
- The program was run very well and the speakers were great.
- Both Secretary Small and the Governor's office have been complimentary of ACEC. We are moving in the right direction.
- Ted brought up that the legislators are pushing for a second audit of charter schools, which would place an unfair burden on them. Need to reach out to legislators and ask them not to pass this law.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm