**Legislative Committee Meeting**

Thursday, December 10th, 2020

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (or sooner 😊)

~~ACEC Office, 150 Fayetteville Street, Ste. 1340, Raleigh, NC 27601~~ (for now 😊)

Virtual attendance Link to Meeting….

**AGENDA:**

1. **Welcome/Set Up (Brock-5min)** 
   1. Good News?
2. **Review/Approve Meeting Minutes (All-5min) -** No discussion. Motion by Jeremy Potter and 2nd to approve by Joe Angel, with all participants approving.
3. **Legislative Update (Jim Smith-10min)** 
   1. NC Bills
   2. National Bills – Anticipate new infrastructure bill from Biden administration. Water Resource Development Act of 2020 (WRDA) passed the House on December 9 and is included in the context of the Stimulus Bill that will be voted on in the future in the Senate. ACEC lobbying for fixes to PPP loan forgiveness program (tax deductibility of covered expenses and the expectation of a credit from government contractors and the resulting impact on firm overhead rates). Jim encouraged everyone to contact your representative and share your personal story of how the unintended consequences of the program has affected you.
   3. NC/US Representative Updates – **NC**-Republicans increased state house majority and maintain control of state senate. Legislature back January 13. Senator Kathy Harrington more than likely to be senate majority leader. Representative Dean Arp and Representative John Torbett lobbying to be chairs of the House Appropriations Committee. Chief Justice of Supreme Court race to close to call. Paul Newby leads but recounts taking place now. **US**-Eight (8) republicans and five (5) democrats elected to US House. Senator Thom Tillis re-elected.
   4. Election Implications – potential future presentation in February by John Davis
   5. Joe Angell advised that the Defense Alliance of NC will have a Legislative Update on January 27 @ 10 AM. Jim McCleskey (DC Director, Office of Governor Cooper) will present update.
4. **PAC Updates Fundraising (Jim/Brock-10min)** 
   1. National/State PAC current accounting status – 64% of National PAC goal (Approximately $13,000 short of goal). End of year auction is up and running online ($7,000 in bids thus far). Will start raising money for state PAC the first of the year. National PAC very concerned they will come up well short of overall goals. Also have National PAC raffle ongoing (“Last Chance Raffle”). Winning bids from auction of over $100 automatically register you for raffle tickets in Last Chance Raffle (another reason to place bids!).
   2. IE Update – Gary Hartong provided update. Planning a March fundraiser at Pinehurst (March 22). Goal $100,000. Made contributions to Senate and House Majority. Donation to senate matched 10 to 1. Still working with House and Senate minority to make donations.
   3. Fundraising Task Force Update – No events planned due to COVID. Will probably plan virtual events.
   4. Events – Past and Future
      1. State and Federal Monetary Goals – Current Status
5. **Legislation Initiatives (Brock-20min) –** Moving forward subcommittees will give updates during committee meetings.
   1. Federal Subcommittee Discussion (Joe Angell/Patrick) – Joe Angell to lead. Focused on federal legislation (not just military). Need volunteers to focus in their area of expertise. 1st goal is to educate ourselves on what is happening that will affect in NC. Be aware of opportunities to assist local/state/federal representatives. Better understand who our friends are in the state legislature. Identify legislation we want to push. $17 billion in federal funding approved for flood plain studies. NC has been hit hard by flooding from hurricanes. Need to determine how we get involved in these flood plain studies and bring them to NC. Need to better understand what the military “Shift to the Pacific” means for NC and be proactive rather than reactive.
   2. Funding Subcommittee Introduction – Jessica Leggitt (Withers Ravenel) to lead. Mostly focused on local funding in general across different Sectors. Will work with other advocacy groups to help make sure municipalities are funding appropriately. An example is the CLT Capital Improvement Program. Charlotte trying to add additional sales tax to fund $6 billion in infrastructure upgrades. This sales tax would have to be approved by state legislature. The Funding Committee could track and assist with the process.
   3. Review potential initiatives and obtain feedback – Potential Initiatives discussed:
      1. Company ownership issues/challenges – Has been on ACEC’s radar for a while but have decided not to move on it in the past. The idea would be to balance the requirement for PE/PLS ownership and occupancy in a particular office to promote and perform our professional practice. Would open up competition and ability for others outside of our practice to open engineering firms and also compete more favorably with National engineering firms. There is good and bad in this and must look at not potentially compromising the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
      2. Design Build Delivery Method – Seems to be procurement method of future. Currently Engineering firms not allowed to be prime on DB contracts. AGC will oppose Engineers being allowed to be prime and it comes with liability issues as well that must be considered.
      3. Electronic Signatures – How should it work and what protections would need to be in place. Need to change the procedures to make it more user friendly and utilize the Electronic Commerce Acts much more than we do today to promote electronic commerce. Need to understand any disadvantages/unintended consequences. Of all the potential initiatives, this one may affect the most member firms.
      4. NCBELS authority to penalize those practicing without a license. Right now, they really have no authority over unlicensed individuals. Potential action item would be to build a coalition to determine if this is an issue in other states. David Farrell mentioned
      5. Small Business Cap – Currently $16 million but should this be raised? There is national legislation being discussed already to raise to $22.5 million Board to discuss at the December 17th meeting.
      6. After discussion Electronic Signatures was the most favorably discussed and will be brought to the Board for consideration.
      7. Please provide any feedback on your preferences and other legislation we may consider.
6. **Board Liaisons (Brock/Liaisons-10min)** 
   1. Liaison Updates
      1. Board: Iona Thomas – Striving for a deeper connection between committees and the board. This would also help develop a leadership pipeline.
      2. Environmental & Energy: Ryan Mitchell – No update
      3. Transportation: John Adams – No update
      4. Business Practices: Patrick Waterman – No update
      5. B & I (Econ. Dev.): Walt Gray – No update
      6. Senior Leaders Forum: Jim Smith – No update
7. **Miscellaneous (5min)**
   1. Holiday Party Reminders - Canceled
8. **Open Discussion (25min) –** Davis Diggs brought up transportation funding as we move into 2021. 2020 was obviously a challenge for NC so transportation funding needs to be a focus point in 2021.
9. **Future Meeting Dates -** Feb 11, Apr 8, Jun 10