**Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**Minutes:**

1. **Welcome/Good News**
2. **Review/Approve Meeting Minutes -** Approved
3. **Board/Administrative Updates –** Board meeting with chairs/vice chairs on June 10 to discuss last year success/failures and goals moving forward for new year. Legislative – will begin moving meeting around to other cities. Also looking at having other guests present at Legislative Meetings
4. **Legislative Update** 
   1. Current Session Update – Not much movement on many of the bills since our last meeting.
   2. NC Bills - **Long term sustainable infrastructure** – internal task force has put together a plan and there has been activity at the state level; NC10 commission – goal to come up with 10-year plan to transition from motor fuel tax to other funding sources. ACEC have had meetings to discuss plans/initiatives that will hopefully turn into a bill next year. Some of the initiatives could be included in this year’s budget. **Rep lawmakers unveiled energy legislation package** – encourages Duke to transition last large coal plant to gas powered. Hoping this will encourage legislation to approve MVP Southgate pipeline. This pipeline would add a 2nd pipeline into NC in the event of another hacking, etc.
   3. National Bills – Focus shifted to transportation funding. FAST Act expires September 30. House introduced their plan $540 billion dollar bill (50% increase over existing funding). $343 billion for roads, bridges, highways. $95 billion for rail. ACEC supports this bill. Includes pilot program for mileage-based usage fee. An amendment to require all CEI work on federally funded projects be performed by state employees was rejected. Senate is working on their transportation bill that is slightly smaller. Also includes pilot program. ACEC still working on getting PPP loan issue resolved. Hope to have that language added to the transportation funding bill that gets approved.
   4. No movement on City of Charlotte attempt to raise sales tax.
   5. NC/US Representative Updates – Jim in process for lining up NC delegation for DC event. Event will be September 22 in ACEC townhouse in Washington DC. Bus will run from Raleigh to DC and stay in DC one night. All ACEC members are invited to attend.
5. **PAC Updates Fundraising (Jim/Brock)** 
   1. National PAC 2021 – Focus on National PAC 2nd half of year. 9 straight years. Goal $35,600. $7,500 YTD. Pappy raffle brought in $6,000. Legislative Golf Tournament June 28. 80 golfers signed up. All proceeds go to National PAC. Summer conference is next big event. Wrightsville Beach end of July. Room block almost fille dup so sign up fast! Will have auction at the conference. Considering Drive Shack event in Raleigh and possibly a whiskey a tasting event.
   2. State PAC 2021 – Focus on state PAC first half of year – have raised over $10,000. Goal of raising $25k by next November. Everyone State PAC supported won in 2020
   3. ECNC (Engineering Companies for NC) (IE) Update **–** Event Monday at Pinehurst. Speaker Moore will address the group. Goal is to raise $100,000. 501C4 Independent Expenditure (SuperPac). Can accept firm contributions as well as individuals. Cannot contribute directly to a candidate. However, they can advocate and educate on initiatives.
   4. Events and other PAC Updates
      1. ECNC Event – June 21 at Pinehurst
      2. NC Summer Conference – Wrightsville Beach
      3. Legislative Day **(Jim)** –September 22-23
6. **Subcommittee Updates**
   1. Federal Subcommittee Update **(Joe Angell- DoD Focus) –** Working with Defense Alliance of NC for upcoming NC Business Center Summit in October. Hope to announce forum that will support legislative initiatives with federal and state legislators. Will publish list of initiatives, ideas, topics, etc once forum is officially established. Working with Burr/Tillis offices on topics/issues. Need to educate federal legislators on assets and capabilities we have in NC.
   2. Funding Subcommittee Update **(Jessica Leggett) –** Municipal focus to begin with. Have begun outreach and have 6 committee members that have expressed interest in helping the subcommittee. Monthly subcommittee meetings right now. Drafting comments on guidance for Department of Treasury. Trying to get update on status of electronic submittal process for DEQ.
   3. May create subcommittee vice chair positions if anyone is interested in getting involved.
7. **Legislation Initiatives (Jim/Brock)** 
   1. Jim requested everyone communicate regarding legislation that is of interest or impacts our member firms.
8. **Board Liaisons (Brock/Liaisons)** 
   1. Liaison Updates
      1. Board: Iona Thomas
      2. Environmental & Energy: Ryan Mitchell – No update. Meeting next week.
      3. Transportation: John Adams
      4. Business Practices: Patrick Waterman – Preparing for Fall Event. Focus on electronic signatures, PPP loans and moving forward after pandemic.
      5. B & I (Econ. Dev.): Walt Gray – No update
      6. Senior Leaders Forum: Jim Smith – Next Meeting at Summer conference (4th and final session Saturday morning).
9. **Open Discussion** 
   1. Legislative Committee Strategic Plan – Brock/Patrick/John staying on in current positions. Send Brock keywords we can search for in legislation. Will keep running list of bills that we are tracking. Looking at potential affiliate member from outside our organization (TCC, REBIC, TREBIC, NC Chamber, HBA, etc). Potential new subcommittees (Environmental, Business Practices, Land Development) to focus on legislation and to align with other ACEC committees. Creating subcommittee marketing pieces to help with recruiting/educating, etc. Looking to be more involved in national events. Trying to be more bipartisan and finding issues that legislators from both parties can assist us with.
   2. ACEC budgeted to revamp website this coming year. ACEC has communications group that works with NP Strategies to improve communications. Will see communication move from emails (open rate on emails dropped to 10%) to more texts, social media posts, podcasts, youtube channel, etc. More visual, targeted communications.
10. **Future Meeting Dates –** Beginning with our next meeting we will have a hybrid meeting to include both in-person and virtual option. If you have a place we can host a meeting in your city, please let Brock Storrusten, Patrick Waterman or John Weavil know.