**Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

LaBella Charlotte Office and Virtual attendance

**AGENDA:**

1. **Welcome/Good News (All-5min) –** ACEC/NC Awards Event in Pinehurst was a great success!
2. **Review/Approve Meeting Minutes (All-5min) –** Approved
3. **Board/Administrative Updates (Jim-10min) -** 
   1. **Lunch Sponsors update** – Withers Ravenel to sponsor January meeting in Greensboro. Still looking for sponsors for March and May meetings.
   2. **Overall Chairs/Vice Chairs Meeting** – Meeting to be held after first of year
   3. **Board Updates** - None
4. **Legislative Update (Jim/David-15min)** 
   1. **NC Bills**
   2. **National Bills**
      1. **Infrastructure Bill Update/future** - President signed bill yesterday. $1.2 trillion; $550 billion in new money. NC getting money, should keep all current DOT projects on track. As cost of materials has increased, pressure has been added to state agencies. Trump era environmental regulations being rolled back has caused some additional environmental reviews that has cost money and time. This money will help alleviate that pressure.
   3. **NC/US Representative Updates** – Budget released yesterday. Jim still reviewing. Does not appear to be much new money in transportation arena. Shifted rental car taxes from general fund to transportation fund. Governor has not signed it yet. Has 10-days to sign, veto or let it go to law without signing. Cash balance hovering above $2 billion.
      1. **Redistricting maps released -** Filing begins soon so any legal challenges should happen soon. Campaigning will pick up by 12/17.
      2. **Primaries moved to May –** means no decision/list for donations will be completed until application period is completed, i.e. it was pushed to January.
5. **PAC Updates Fundraising (Patrick/Jim-10min)** 
   1. **National PAC** - 2021 Goal Update - 85% (Goal $35,600)
   2. **State PAC 2021** - Goal Update - $10k (Stretch Goal $25k). Will take some of the proceeds for upcoming auctions for State PAC
   3. **ECNC (IE) Update –** No update
   4. **Events and other PAC Updates**
      1. **Bourbon Tasting** – Hoping to schedule for first quarter of 2022
      2. **Holiday Receptions** – Dec 9 in Charlotte at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. Free event. Will have raffle. Dec 16 in Raleigh at Sheraton
      3. **Joint Transportation Conference** - Rescheduled for Dec 13-14 in Raleigh. DOT committed to 269 attendees
      4. End of Year Raffle for National PAC
      5. Building a complete calendar of events for next year
      6. Working on wine tasting event as well. Only new event beside Bourbon event for next year.
6. **Subcommittee Updates (10min)**
   1. **Federal Subcommittee Update** **(Patrick)** – Joe Angell to present at B&I event. Joe has had good discussions with ASCE, ACEC groups, DBIA, DANC. Earmarking two events in spring. Consulting congress in DC, Fly in day in Raleigh with state legislators. Starting to work to get agenda items together for those events. Will write white papers with positions once a Top 10 Issues is identified
   2. **Funding Subcommittee Update** **(Jessica/Brock) –** Waiting to see where the money is utilized/distributed. Only $8 billion coming to NC from infrastructure bill.
   3. **Land Development Subcommittee Development Update** **(Brock) –** Working on strategies for this subcommittee. Still looking for a lead. Brock is working with Fred to start communications.
   4. **Transportation Subcommittee Development Update (Brock)** – Working with Davis Diggs. Slow moving right now. Will need someone to help lead this subcommittee. Claire Brinkley expressed an interest in being involved in subcommittee.
   5. **Environmental Subcommittee –** Troy Beasley from WR may lead this subcommittee. Brock is working on this.
7. **Legislation Initiatives (Brock-5min)** 
   1. **Electronic Seals Update** – Dennis Hoyle on NCBELS board – have had discussions with Brock. Brock going to NCBELS engineering committee board meeting in February. The board is discussing electronic seals. Working to also get DOT on-board with potential changes for electronic seals.
8. **Board Liaisons (10min)** 
   1. **Liaison Updates**
      1. **Board: Iona Thomas** – No update
      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** – Symposium moved to February 8
      6. **Senior Leaders Forum: Jim Smith** – quarterly meetings have not happened
9. **Open Discussion (15min) –**

* Survey licensure bill in the works to change requirements. Rep McGinnis thinks it takes too long to get surveyors licensed. Trying to get legislation passed that helps get more people in the profession.
* Discussion regarding CRT (commuter rail) in Wake/Durham county is heating up. Has anyone heard any rumblings/opposition at legislature about rail/multi-modal? Claire Brinkley – For any major infrastructure project they try get federal funding with state match. It is a long process and legislature will probably not be involved. It will need to get into state funding pipeline. Jim Smith has not heard much discussion at the state level regarding commuter rail. Infrastructure bill should help fund transit projects. But NC may be too far behind to leverage that money.

1. **Future Meeting Dates –** January 6, 2022 – Greensboro; March 10, 2022 – Raleigh; May 19, 2022 – Wilmington
   1. If your firm has an office in Greensboro, make sure the staff knows about upcoming meeting.
   2. We need ideas on how to improve meetings and better engage folks.