

# ACEC/NC Legislative Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2019

11:30 am

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Chair: Jeremy Potter  
Vice Chair: Brock Storrusten  
Board Liaison: Scott Hinesley  
Attendees: Jeremy Potter, John Adams, Fred Burchett, Rachel Cotter (phone), Jim Smith, Josh Massrock, Paul Steinman, Davis Diggs (phone), Gary Hartong, Brian Glidewell, Daniel Perry (phone), Paul Steinman, Shane Sharpe (phone), Ben Koski (phone), David Peterson (phone), Jessica Mills

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- 1 Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Introductions of the attendees.
  - b. Thank you to Dewberry for sponsoring lunch.
- 2 Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from 4/09/2019
  - a. No comments noted.
- 3 Discuss Committee Objectives
  - a. No comments were noted regarding the ongoing discussion of "is the committee meeting its commitment to membership?"
- 4 State PAC Fundraising Task Force Update
  - a. The Task Force needs to schedule a call to compile a list of the best recommendations (probably 2) and submit it to the State PAC Board of Trustees for thoughts and approval. Any ideas that would involve the National PAC would need to go to the ACEC/NC Board. With the new incoming members of the ACEC NC PAC Board of Trustees and new ACEC/NC Board Members in July 2019 the Task Force will wait until the Boards have met at least once before submitting the ideas.
- 5 Legislative Update
  - a. NC Legislation
    - i. Transportation
      1. There is concern over the cash balance at NCDOT.
      2. Council of State agreed to see the first \$300M bonds of BuildNC.
      3. There is no intention of slowing down preconstruction at NCDOT as design plans are wanted to at least be on the shelf.
      4. CEI & Design-Build may be impacted

- ii. The budget bill is top priority right now at NCGA.
  - iii. K-12 Education Bond Act
    - 1. House agrees with the Governor.
    - 2. Senate has a different view on funding.
  - iv. Historic Preservation Act – Still in the Senate Rules Committee.
  - v. A bill to repeal the MAP Act is in the Senate Rules Committee.
  - vi. HB 871 - Indemnification/Duty-to-Defend. The bill passed the House and made crossover. The Senate has decided to move forward with the House bill as written. There are ongoing negotiations with AGC on the language in the bill.
- b. National Level
- i. All parties agree an infrastructure bill is needed.
  - ii. There is a push for a gas tax increase as a method for using VMT is years away.
  - iii. Fast Act is coming up for reauthorization next year.
  - iv. HB1 Visas – ACEC is a strong supporter of increasing the number of HB 1 Visas to bring in an educated workforce.

## 6 Meetings with NC and US Representatives

- a. Rep. Virginia Foxx – Gary Hartong and Jim Smith had a lunch meeting in Washington, D.C. outside of the events of Consulting Congress Days.

## 7 Recent Events

- a. State PAC Sporting Clay Fundraiser – April 12<sup>th</sup>
  - i. 58 participants registered and 9 Sponsors.
  - ii. Approximately \$2,400 raised.
- b. PFAS and other Emerging Contaminants Conference – April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>
  - i. 200+ attendees.
  - ii. A lot of cutting edge research being introduced.
- c. NC Day at the Legislature – April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Successful event despite opposition on HB 871 from AGC.
  - ii. Debrief with Future Leaders Class was well attended.
- d. Consulting Congress Days in D.C. – May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>
  - i. 12-15 bus riders between to D.C. and back.
  - ii. Reception Tuesday night was disappointing as most Reps. didn't go too far from the Capital that evening.
  - iii. Excellent meetings on Wednesday visiting the various Reps. offices.
- e. Business Resource Expo – May 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Approximately 75 attendees at the Charlotte venue.
  - ii. Keynote speaker, Heather Davis, gave a great presentation on HR.

## 8 Upcoming Events

- a. Board & Committees Kick-off Meeting – June 12<sup>th</sup>
- b. Meet & Greet with Candidate for Lt. Governor Scott Stone – June 12<sup>th</sup>
  - i. 15 registered attendees, would be nice to get 20-25.
- c. Legislative Golf Tournament PAC Fundraiser – Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>
  - i. 68 Golfers Registered.
  - ii. Multiple sponsorships sold.
- d. Summer Conference – July 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>
- e. NCDOT/ACEC Joint Transportation Conference – October 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>
  - i. FARR Training on October 28<sup>th</sup>

## 9 PAC Updates

- a. ACEC PAC Update
  - i. 2019 Goal = \$35,500
  - ii. Roughly 20% to goal so far.
- b. ACEC NC PAC - Working on additional fundraising ideas via the Task Force.
- c. ECNC (IE) - Full support of the Indemnification/Duty-to-Defend legislation.

## 10 ACEC Committee/Forum Liaison Updates

- a. Board (Scott Hinesley) – No update provided.
- b. Environmental & Energy – No update provided.
- c. Transportation – No update provided outside of earlier discussion on funding concerns.
- d. Business Practices – No update provided.
- e. B & I/Econ. Development – The new Chair is Allison Koss of KCI and the new Vice-Chair is Jonathan Locklear of Locklear, Locklear & Jacobs.
- f. Senior Leaders Forum – There will be a roundtable discussion at Summer Conference.

## 11 Open Discussion

- a. There has been a steady number of folks contributing on a monthly basis to the ACEC NC PAC.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is anticipated to be at 11:30am on Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at the ACEC/NC office.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeremy Potter, P.E.

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Board Liaison: Paul Meehan, HDR

2019/20 Chair: Jeremy Potter, HDR

Past Chair: Jeremy Potter, HDR

2019/20 Vice Chair: Brock Storrusten, WithersRavenel

Past Vice Chair: Jay Barr, REI

**Description:** This committee monitors State and National legislation that may impact the engineering industry. The committee compiles the Council's legislative agenda for approval by the Board of Directors and assists in the lobbying efforts to support that agenda. The committee also promotes and organizes events that focus on furthering the Council's legislative agenda. Support the State PAC/IE and ACEC/PAC in their efforts.

**Goals 2018-2019:**

- 1 Identify New Vice Chair.
- 2 Review/Revise Legislative Agenda for the 2019 Long Session.
- 3 Continue commitment to ensuring the committee is meeting its obligation to the membership and providing value to our members.
- 4 Continue meeting with both NC and US representatives that we have met with in the past in their districts to continue established relationships in addition to reaching out to new NCGA members.
- 5 Member recruitment / after-hours networking events / briefings with representatives.
  - a. Recruit Future Leaders graduates to participate (Continue visiting during Legislative Process Class and post NC Day at the Legislature Debrief.)
  - b. Election updates / legislative debrief events.
- 6 Assist with planning and coordinating activities associated with Consulting Congress Days in Washington (CCD) and the NC Day at the Legislature.
- 7 Support ACEC/PAC by:
  - a. Promoting activities,
  - b. Fundraisers (auctions, golf tournament, legislative debrief sessions)
  - c. Encouraging financial support.
  - d. Engaging new participants for fundraising.
- 8 Continue Keystone Award at the EEA banquet.
- 9 Support the newly formed ACEC State PAC & Independent Expenditure Account (IE).
  - a. Would like to have enough consistent participation in the committee to develop fundraising event task force for the State PAC.

**Successes from 2018-2019:**

- Identified New Vice Chair – Brock Storrusten.
- Developed Legislative Agenda for 2019.
- Consistent agenda item for each meeting to allow opportunities for attendees to voice their opinion as to whether the committee is meeting its commitment to membership.
- Continued making great strides in meeting with our Legislators.
- Committee Meeting attendance has grown to approximately 15-20 per meeting consistently.
  - Future Leaders are consistently attending the committee meetings.

- **CCD and NC Day at the Legislature**
  - Good participation for both and formats for both received good comments/input from participants.
  - Committee hosted a debrief with the 2019 Future Leaders Class at Bad Daddy's after NC Day at the Legislature that was well attended.
- **ACEC/PAC Holiday Auction and Casino Night a success again and 2018 PAC Goal achieved.**
- **ACEC/PAC golf tournament June 18, 2018 at Prestonwood CC. Almost filled the course with 4 person teams and raised \$3,700 for ACEC/PAC. Fundraising has increased every year.**
- **Keystone Award presented to Senator Kathy Harrington at the EEA banquet.**
- **Held second annual ACEC/NC State PAC fundraising event – Sporting Clay at Drake Landing.**
- **Established a Task Force for developing new State PAC Fundraising Ideas.**

#### **2018-2019 Challenges:**

- **Committee member participation increasing, but still not all consistent (maybe 50%).**
- **Could still use more participation in out of session events with Representatives.**
- **Still need to increase participation in CCD, especially the bus riders.**
- **Increasing PAC fundraising for National and State by engaging new participants.**

#### **Goals 2019-2020:**

- 1 **Review/Revise Legislative Agenda for the 2020 Short Session if necessary.**
- 2 **Continue commitment to ensuring the committee is meeting its obligation to the membership and providing value to our members.**
- 3 **Continue meeting with both NC and US representatives that we have met with in the past in their districts to continue established relationships in addition to reaching out to new NCGA members.**
- 4 **Member recruitment / after-hours networking events / briefings with representatives.**
  - a. **Recruit Future Leaders graduates to participate (Continue visiting during Legislative Process Class and post NC Day at the Legislature Debrief.)**
  - b. **Election updates / legislative debrief events.**
- 5 **Assist with planning and coordinating activities associated with Consulting Congress Days in Washington (CCD) and the NC Day at the Legislature.**
- 6 **Support ACEC/PAC by:**
  - a. **Promoting activities,**
  - b. **Fundraisers (auctions, golf tournament, legislative debrief sessions)**
  - c. **Encouraging financial support.**
  - d. **Engaging new participants for fundraising.**
- 7 **Continue Keystone Award at the EEA banquet.**
- 8 **Support the newly formed ACEC State PAC & Independent Expenditure Account (IE).**
  - a. **Plan and execute a State PAC Fundraising idea from the Task Force.**