



Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 8, 2021

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (or sooner ☺)

Virtual attendance

AGENDA:

1. **Welcome/Good News (All-5min)**
2. **Review/Approve Meeting Minutes (All-5min)** No questions – approved and 2nd
3. **Board/Administrative Updates (NA)** – Voting period closed, board set for next year
4. **Legislative Update (Jim Smith-10min)**
 - a. Current Session Update
 - b. NC Bills – Tracking **HB185** (minor changes proposed by DOT), Amending water sewer adjustments; **HB223** – places interior designers under Board of Architecture. Hearing last week and should not be much objection to bill; annual **Regulation Reform Act** going through legislation, bills to align PPP loans to federal tax loan. Loans have been forgiven at federal level but not state level; state tax deadline has not been extended; AGC has proposed a couple of bills to clean up existing bills; **Invest NC Bond Act** of 2021, budget talks just beginning. Senate has been anti-bond, more pay as you go, not sure if the senate will hold that position or change position and support bond, senate to write for budget bill this year; **HB271** would limit eminent domain requirements in state, for private development there would be no eminent domain option. Bill has passed the house and will probably pass senate; **SB622** moves money from DEQ to commerce (pages 109-110) takes full \$48 million keeping in NC department of commerce and creating new division within commerce and using funds for housing priorities, currently some of the money used for infrastructure;
 - c. National Bills - \$2 trillion dollar infrastructure bill (only 25% to infrastructure) over 8 years (paid for over 15 years). Concern as industry is how we pay for it (corporate taxes?). Debate could drag into the fall. Republicans will try to trim back to infrastructure only, this is a separate funding bill from FAST ACT (expires September 30)
 - d. NC/US Representative Updates –National Conference end of April. Month of May will probably include a lot of follow up meetings with representatives; No joint legislative day this year;
 - e. John Davis – Political Trends/Implications
 - i. Member Registration: \$25; [REGISTER HERE](#)
5. **PAC Updates Fundraising (Jim/Brock-15min)**
 - a. National PAC 2021 – will begin focus in June with golf outing; summer conference in July in person (Wrightsville beach); membership receptions in charlotte/Raleigh in December; goal is the same this year as last year; 2nd largest contributor base in country (behind Ohio) last year

- b. State PAC 2021 – Doing well so far, \$7,000 currently; Sporting clay coming up in May; Drive Shack event in Raleigh this fall; May be looking at bourbon tasting fundraiser in the fall
 - c. ECNC (IE) Update – Opportunities for companies to provide donations (can take personal contributions as well), money goes to supporting legislation, not candidates. Annual meeting June 21 at Pinehurst- golf reception and dinner, speaker of the house Tim Moore will be guest speaker
 - d. Events and other PAC Updates (Patrick)
 - i. Top Golf/Drive Shack (**raised \$2,095!**); Clay Shoot
 - ii. Spring National Conference – April 26-28
<https://www.acec.org/conferences/annual-convention-2021/>
 - iii. NC Summer Conference – Wrightsville Beach
 - iv. Legislative Day (**Jim**) – **In order to best align attendees with their own legislator, an attendee's zip code is needed to be sure we schedule an attendee with the correct legislator representing them.**
- 6. Subcommittee Updates (10min) – Need volunteers for subcommittees, people to be engaged and begin building subcommittees. Invite others in your organization!!**
- a. Federal Subcommittee Update (Patrick) – Trying to get momentum, Joe Angell is actively trying to get subcommittee setup and running
 - b. Funding Subcommittee Update (Brock/Jessica Leggett) – Mission – Identify and advocate municipal infrastructure funding strategies, needs, and opportunities; Vision – Investigate and promote local government existing and new funding sources to build wholistic (local, state, and federal) funding packages to align with future funding needs and trends; Has started to identify initial focuses and long term ideas.
- 7. Legislation Initiatives (15min-Jim/Brock)**
- a. ACEC-NC Legislative Agenda review -
 - b. Electronic Seals Update – Still on Agenda, no traction so far. This is on the licensing board's agenda to discuss. (Dennis Hoyle provided updated from licensing board)
 - c. Engineering Firm Ownership –ACEC has not engaged on this, just tracking – licensing board has said they do not handle companies, only individuals
 - d. Transportation Update – ACEC/NC transportation task force looking at long term solutions for funding in NC. Task force prioritizing list of recommendations that will be put out to legislature. Should be coming out in a few weeks.
- 8. Board Liaisons (Brock/Liaisons-10min)**
- a. Liaison Updates
 - i. Board: Iona Thomas – excited about funding subcommittee; excited about fundraising events coming up; no major updates from the board to pass along at this time; next strategy meeting with new members is June 10; one more regular board meeting in May



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- ii. Environmental & Energy: Ryan Mitchell – No recent meeting
- iii. Transportation: John Adams – transportation conference in October, in-person and virtual, not sure how many will be permitted to be in person
- iv. Business Practices: Patrick Waterman – Expo set for 9/20 in person at Mckinnon Center, topic – post covid business practices, lessons learned, etc; monthly meetings happening right now to prepare;
- v. B & I (Econ. Dev.): Walt Gray – planning symposium for fall, no date yet
- vi. Senior Leaders Forum: Jim Smith – No update. Planning to have senior leaders forum at the summer conference

9. Open Discussion (20min)

10. Future Meeting Dates - June 16 is last one before the new ACEC year!

- Radha Krishna Swayampakala – Hearing legislation is focused on funding for schools and other non-transportation items due to circumstances. So this may not be a good year for new transportation funding mechanism.
- Jim Smith - A lot of attacks in other states trying to restrict licensure of engineers. So far there have no attempts to change this in NC but ACEC is watching very closely.
- Jim Smith - Once new secretary of DEQ is announced, ACEC will start back up with leaders meetings
- Jim Smith working on sending out Legislative Agenda for 2021-2022, Look for email ASAP