



## **Legislative Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, February 7th, 2023

11:30am – 1:00pm

WK Dickson Office, Charlotte (see next page for details) + Virtual Meeting

### **AGENDA:**

- 1. Welcome/Good News & Review/Approve Meeting Minutes (All-5min)**
- 2. Board/Administrative Updates (Brock/Claire-10min)**
  - a. Administrative Issues
    - i. Intro New Executive Director – Tara Lightner Robbins. Impressive advocacy background.
  - b. Board Liaison Update
    - i. Board admin updates
      1. Survey about priorities. Prioritize. Is it still relevant? Where should we spend the collateral? Broader range of views within company will be an ask.
    - ii. Website-New Advocacy Pages Review? Content is good. Moving toward refining. No
  - c. Affiliate Member – Jacob Rogers, TCC Guest-Legislative Initiatives. Not present.
  - d. Fuel NC – April 11<sup>th</sup> – Speaker request. Anna with NC Free Enterprise...but asked if find a different speaker to not have a repeat speaker. Panel – April. David Ferrell? Tara will confirm with Jessica.
- 3. LOCAL Legislative/Regulatory Updates/Discussion (All-5min)**
  - a. Charlotte, Raleigh, Other? Mayor of Charlotte said no referendum. So no Transportation funding.
    - i. TCC – Issues with Water Allocation Policies, Funding, and
    - ii. East – expansion of permitted discharges to swamp waters. Limits utilities ability to modify discharge – Wilson, New Bern, Cherry Point. Will conflict with Interstate expansion on the 70 corridor. DEQ is waiting on lower Neuse model. Not caught Legislators yet. Humphreys, Reader...maybe need to be packaged to them. Implications to their Districts.
- 4. STATE Legislative/Regulatory Updates/Discussion (Brock/Tara/David-15min)**
  - a. NC Bills – potential bills/status – Agency Bill/Bond – NCDOT agency bill based the House and sitting in Transportation Committee. Concerns with part of bill. Senate wanted to wait until the Short Session. NCDOT stated their concerns on timing. David will follow up with Leaders to understand an important issue for us and get this pass whether in the Agency Bill.
    - i. If get it passed by June 1. Sell bonds by Nov 1 and issued by end of the year. Changes the cash floor that NCDOT has to maintain as well. David will determine if this is a major issue for NCDOT...need to figure out why the concerns and do that much before the session.



- ii. \$300M in projects being delayed but will move forward. Haven't heard that this bill will affect Operations.
  - iii. Jenny to reach out to Mike Holder who has had conversations with NCDOT.
  - iv. Tara mentioned meeting with Secretary and Mike Holder on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Move information to come. Will coordinate with David Ferrell.
  - v. Not a lot of new policy in the Short Session.
  - b. Budget – not a lot of new money. Focus on water/sewer infrastructure. Cleaning up bills from last year that didn't get passed.
  - c. David will continue to report on happenings.
  - d. NC State Representative/Senator Updates – See PAC info below.
  - e. Legislative Day Reminder – June 12th
- 5. FEDERAL Legislative/Regulatory Updates/Discussion (Joe/Others-5min)**
- a. Military Updates – N/A. Joe not present.
  - b. Other Federal Updates – see above. No other updates.
  - c. ACEC National Bills/Update – Potential R&D Full credit-temporarily – in Tax Package. Made it into the House and moving to the Senate. 13 out of 14 NC House members voted in support...only one was Bishop. Thank them for supporting this. Be on the lookout for ACEC National request to reach out to Senators.
- 6. Legislative Initiatives (Brock/Tara/Others-5min)**
- a. Land Development – see above.
  - b. Environmental – want to get meetings with Secretary of DEQ.
  - c. Federal – Federal funding for infrastructure, with cost share from state to local. New program. Working with Wiley Nickel
  - d. E-Signatures Update – 3D signatures and 2D signatures. NCBELS
  - e. NCBELS - Mini Brooks Violations discussions. Need a refresher on Mini Books and exemptions. Just need to schedule with them.
  - f. Legislative Day – Get initial meeting to plan. June 12<sup>th</sup>. Joint Legislative Day? Not at this time per the Board. No affiliations today and tends to dilute our message. More impactful for us to reach out to our Legislators as well to set up those meetings. Open to hear if an opportunity in the future. Get Junior Board involved as well. Need veterans to lead. Same page with talking points...be prepared. There will be a Palm Card with simple messaging and maybe including key data. Keep it simple and specific. Note there is a great process created/documented...open to feedback on the playbook. One issue will be the Bond...Ominbus Bill.
- 7. PAC Updates Fundraising (Jeremy/Tara/Brock 10min)**
- a. National PAC 2022/State PAC 2022 Goals/Current Updates \$41k raised last year, \$35.6 was the goal and same for this year. Goal is 30k but have \$28.8 raised. 2 year election cycle.



- i. Share where money is going with membership...not specific names though.
  - b. General Assembly Contribution Update – Dean Arp event on Jan 30.
  - c. Events and other PAC Updates
    - i. ECNC fundraiser coming up on . Need to get our businesses involved. Elevated the industry more than we realize. Need a separation between ACEC and ECNC. Would like move explanation....why it is good, what the mission/vision. Any
    - ii. Love your PAC event is coming up tomorrow.
- 8. Subcommittee Other Updates (10min)**
  - a. Seth Robertson will be leading our Funding Subcommittee and setting up meetings now.
  - b. Transportation – see above.
  - c. No other updates.
- 9. Open Discussion (25min)**
  - a. NCDOT RS-2 form updates. Are they going to hold the percentages for subs? Could see fewer subs. Rada is keeper of comments...send to him. Will give to Matt Clark by Friday.
- 10. Future Meeting Dates (all virtual and in person as noted) – April 17<sup>th</sup> (Raleigh), June 19<sup>th</sup> (Raleigh)**