**Minutes of the Business Meeting**

**Association of County Engineers of Alabama**

Meeting: ACEA Business Meeting

Date: December 7, 2017

Location: Shoals Marriott, Florence, Alabama

Call to Order/Establishment of Quorum

Approval of Past Minutes: August 22, 2017

President Harvill called for a motion to approve minutes from the August 22, 2017 meeting.

**Financial Summary**

President Harvill recognized Treasurer Justin Barfield to review the ACEA Financial Statements. The review brought about no major issues or concerns. President Harvill called for a motion to accept the financial statements as reported. Chris Champion, Henry County Engineer made a motion for approval. Richie Beyer, Elmore County Engineer seconded the motion for approval. The motion for approval was adopted.

**2018 ACEA Area Meetings**

President Harvill introduced Chase Cobb, ACCA Governmental Affairs Manager, to speak about the area meetings and the importance of their involvement. Mr. Cobb also spoke about the resources that can be learned from attending these meetings. Mr. Cobb also made the statement that if any areas are interested in having a meeting, but do not have the time to organize, then ACCA would be available to help. John Lang, Cullman County Engineer, stated they had an area meeting scheduled for February.

**NACE Update**

President Harvill mentioned a prior conversation he had with Mr. Champion, Henry County Engineer and Regional NACE representative, concerning “Waters of the US”. Mr. Champion also spoke about “Local Roads Safety Plan”. President Harvill also spoke about county engineers and their staff being NACE members and the issue of updating ACEA/NACE membership list and information. Richie Beyer, Elmore County Engineer, spoke about “Waters of the US”, upcoming legislative issues and pavement preservation.

**Motor Grader Training Update**

President Harvill recognized Chris Champion, Henry County Engineer, in reference to the training school. Mr. Champion spoke about the last school that was held in October. He stated that a total of 86 students have participated in the school for the year. A lot of positive feedback has been presented from school participants. Mr. Champion made the statement that the purpose of this program was to get novice operators on board to train with more experienced operators. Also future topics to be covered include motor grader maintenance on paved roads. Mr. Champion spoke about involvement with ACCA, i.e. registration and also a potential cost. President Harvill commended Champion for all his hard work with the training program.

**Road Supervisor Training 2018**

President Harvill recognized DeAndre Kimbrough, ACEA Vice-President/Perry County Engineer. Mr. Kimbrough spoke about the agenda that was put together with a conglomerate of other county engineers and ACCA staff. Chase Cobb, ACCA Governmental Relations Manager, spoke about the course agenda and stated it was not set in stone but additional topics or speakers need to be secured. Mr. Cobb also stated that the topics in this course focused on safety and liability. Also that his course is every two years and emphasis needs to be focused on making the course better each year. Chris Champion, Henry County Engineer, made the comment that this course is required to help secure a county discount through the MeadowBrook Safety Program. Derek Brewer, Dale County Engineer, brought up the idea of going back through old topics and prioritizing those and covering them at s future school.

**2018 CGEI Classes**

Chase Cobb, Governmental Relations Manager, spoke about the upcoming CGEI classes and the “Year at a Glance” calendar. Mr. Cobb also spoke about legislative webinars and the importance of logging on and being a part of them. Mr. Cobb spoke about the upcoming ACEA annual conference in Orange Beach. The dates for the conference are May 8th and 9th.

**2018 Joint Bid Program**

President Harvill recognized Chase Cobb, Governmental Affairs Manager. Mr. Cobb spoke in general about not a lot of controversy occurred during the most recent bid opening. He also spoke about bringing Patrick McDougald, past Barbour County Engineer, onboard to help. Mr. Cobb also spoke on the new joint bid format and focusing on improving every year. Lastly, Mr. Cobb spoke about bidding items that counties needed and items they do not need. Mr. Cobb closed out his talk with offering help if anyone needed him to give him a call.

**Preparing for the 2018 Legislative Session**

Chase Cobb, Governmental Affairs Manager, covered this topic. Mr. Cobb spoke about having great legislative meetings. Mr. Cobb commented on not having a bill related to County Engineering (priority bill) but please help push other legislation and help with the legislative process.

Mr. Cobb spoke about the rural broadband bill and the concerns of placement on county rights-of-way. Mr. Cobb spoke about conversing with Rep. Donnie Chesteen on working with our association on this matter. Furthermore, he spoke about overcrowding of the rights-of-way by utilities and placement standards and guidelines.

Randy Cole, Shelby County Engineer, spoke about issues concerning work on the rights-of-way in his county. He wanted to reiterate that the rights-of-way are our property. Mr. Cole spoke about a specific issue as to where a company would like to install 120 ft. poles on the county right-of-way. He commented about Shelby County denying the company and responses they were getting in return from the company.

Richie Beyer, Elmore County Engineer, commented about what is the definition of a utility and are the companies a legit utility entity.

President Harvill spoke about the importance of counties having a policy or permit process in place to help guide the installation of utilities whether it be, underground, aerial, broadband, etc.

Chase Cobb started comments again about the 2018 Legislative Session, stated again that there are no pre-filed bills involving County Engineers.

Randy Cole made comments about the acquiring rights of way for projects. He spoke about ALDOT not doing appraisals anymore and how expensive it was to hire a private appraiser. Also spoke about Alabama Eminent Domain Law and how it doesn’t comply with Federal Guidelines anymore.

Tim Graves, Etowah County Engineer, spoke about the eminent domain issue in his county.

Richie Beyer, Elmore County Engineer, stated that the issue needs to be discussed with ALDOT and FHWA to hopefully find a resolution.

**Transportation Study Commission and Road and Bridge Funding**

Chase Cobb, Governmental Affairs Manager, spoke about Sen. Del March and a transportation study he is putting together. Mr. Cobb also commented about recounting the votes for ATRIP 2 and start pushing forward to revisit the legislation. Mr. Cobb also spoke about the possibility of updating county needs information such as in the “Silent Crisis” to show the up to date needs of the counties.

**Other Business**

President Harvill brought the subject up about the ACEA Conference and the increased expenses associated with the conference. Harvill made the comment about speaking to Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director, and Chase Cobb, Governmental Affairs Manager, in reference to creating a small committee to review the expenses and create a solution to the increases.

Greg Bodley, Morgan County Engineer, spoke about a bill from a railroad company in reference to paving at a crossing.

Chase Cobb spoke about ACCA/ACEA webinar attendance and the importance of attending.

Houston Matthews, Madison County Assistant Engineer, spoke about ACEA website G.I.S. and also for the website to be a collection point for county information for updates such as a ‘Silent Crisis”. Mr. Matthews also spoke about compiling accident data on the ACEA website.

**Adjourn**

Chris Champion, Henry County Engineer, made the motion to adjourn and Randy Cole, Shelby County Engineer, made a second to the motion.

Minutes prepared by Justin Barfield, Geneva County Engineer/ACEA Treasurer,

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