



MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting
Webex and Marion County, FL

April 23, 2021

10:00 am

1. **Call to Order**, Tracy Straub, President

Called to order at 10:06am - Meeting held via Webex hosted by Marion County

Members/guests present online were:

Amy Blaida, Ben Bartlett, Judy Clarke, Milan Clayton, Steve Ferrell, George Gadiel, Ramon Gavarrete, John Goodnight, Scott Herring, Clinton "Gator" Howerton, Pei-Sung Lin, Shane Parker, Chance Powell, Dave Ricks, Neil Shinkre, Brian Singleton, Tracy Straub.

2. **Officer Reports:**

- a. Secretary's Minutes, Gator Howerton - Minutes from February 5, 2021 meeting were distributed on April 21, 2021 via email. Motion made to accept by Dave Ricks, seconded by Neil Shinkre. Motion passed.
- b. Treasurer's Report, George Gadiel - Report was emailed April 23, 2021 and discussed. Membership is down (renewals); sustaining memberships down. Motion made to accept by Ramon Gavarrete, seconded by Scott Herring. Motion passed.
- c. Vice President's Report, Benjamin Bartlett
 - i. Annual Conference, June 30 – July 2, 2021, Orange County – Conference will be hybrid again. Maximum of 50 people in room with 4 people max to a table, if restrictions are reduced, space may be opened. Discussions about presentations. Ben has acquired the same camera as used during the Fall conference and will loan it to FACERS for use during the summer conference. Ben will emcee and video coordinate. Asking NACE to host Zoom conference. Conference date is coordinated with FAC's selected dates. Elections to occur on Wednesday or Thursday, to be called as a General Membership meeting. Amy is coordinating the social for Thursday night between 6 and 9pm. Discussion to comp Kevan Stone's registration fee, attending for FAC - Motion made by Brian Singleton, second by Amy Blaida. Motion passed.
 - ii. Amy is working on sponsorships (and promoting them becoming sustaining members), as well as the social for Thursday night between 6 and 9pm. Discussion about new sponsorship levels – holding old levels for this meeting, but Fall conference needs to be at the new levels previously agreed to.

3. **New Business:**

- a. Legislative Update, John Goodknight - RRFB Bill moving along, but not yet considered by appropriations sub-committee; it needs to be a summer legislative agenda item. Discussion of various other bills (HB1289, SB518, SB750), indexing of gas tax, etc. Need to meet with FAC lobbyist at the June meeting, strategize about meeting with outside groups (Asphalt Contractors Association, etc.) to be in front of upcoming legislative session. Tracy Straub shared new Federal Administration's philosophy learned at NACO and NACE – stress sustainability and equity (climate change to racial equity to economic equity); and no tax increases on families \$400K or less; changes to gas tax are considered a tax increase. Discussion of what "sustainability" and "equity" mean. John, Ramon Gavarrete, Scott Herring, Dave Ricks

and Tracy Straub to meet late May/early June about legislation and how to approach next session.

- b. New FACERS Email Communications, John Goodknight – look for emails from jgoodknight@facers.net.
- c. FACERS Constitution Update, Brian Singleton – Clarification of NACE officer and serving on the NACE Board of Directors, timing of the General Membership meetings, and various scrivener errors. They will be presented to General Membership for a vote during the summer conference, before voting for new officers. Motion made by Ramon Gavarrete, second by Ben Bartlett. Motion passed.
- d. FAC Workshop, Ramon Gavarrete – Needs to occur in the Fall, before the policy meeting. Expect to get 2 weeks' notice from FAC. Topics proposed are gas tax indexing, RRFB.

4. Committee Reports and Updates:

- a. Membership, George Gadiel – Previously 127 members, today at 92. Renew! Recruit!
- b. FACERS Budget, Ramon Gavarrete – Early in year, hopeful for June conference. Low membership translates to budget. \$53K in bank – did not spend much for Fall conference.
- c. FAC, Karen Sapp and/or Milan Clayton – Sending out FAC/FACERS conference notices; this usually prompts membership.
- d. NACE, Scott Herring – Tracy Straub attended NACE Board meeting for Scott. NACE has several Florida members that are not FACERS members. Tracy Straub, working with Scott Herring and Ramon Gavarrete, to send letter advising them that membership is separate. Next conference is in New York, then Alabama (Alabama conference this Spring was canceled). Eyes on infrastructure bill.
- e. ~~Legislative, John Goodknight – listed twice~~
- f. Awards, Judy Clarke – No new applications. Will follow-up with Sarasota to re-word
- g. Scholarships, Steve Ferrell – current report; thank you letter from a recipient.
- h. Green Book, Shane Parker – Meetings have been ongoing virtually. Proposed legislative changes for adoption process went over well, but did not make it through session this year. All need to follow-up to propose in next year's session.
- i. LAP Community of Practice, John Goodknight – Virtual meeting on 4/28. Scott Herring discussing small county outreach program with Lorraine Moyle and shared that grants portal is not user friendly. Look for an update to posted on the FACERS website about the signal agreement – no further action is pending. Mixed response from FDOT districts about lighting agreement; new agreement finalized a year ago, but implementation is sporadic; mixed response/receptiveness from counties. FDOT is proposing changes to the big 4 specs (affect LAP projects); look for info around May 1st; may including eliminating contractor control. Asked for, so need participation in, Emergency Relief Funding training.
- j. LTAP, Pei-Sung Lin, CUTR – FHWA Emergency Relief Program Training in May; Complete Streets; Build Better Mousetrap Competition; Signal Timing 101 and 201. Most presentations/webinars are recorded and can be used for PDHs.
- k. T-Squared, Nithin Agarwal – Scott Herring shared that T-Squared performed a traffic control study for Hernando County.
- l. Website, John Goodknight – Please review for updates. Removing COVID info from website.
- m. Newsletter, Amy Blaida – Several items from John Goodknight, conference info, membership info, working with Tracy on stories; need individuals to feature.

5. Open Forum:

- a. Neil Shinkre shared HB68 preemptive bill that goes into pointsource, requires every utility to remove direct point discharge to waterbodies; financial impacts.
- b. Scott Herring shared District 7 just appointed Peter Chu as District Safety Administrator. Did this happen in other Districts?
- c. Engineer Vacancies! Lots of us have them.

6. **Next meeting:** Friday, July 2, 2021 during Hybrid Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency Orlando, 9801 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819, Orange County – All agreed that this meeting can start at 9am instead of the typical 10am time for Board Meetings.

7. Adjournment