
MEETING MINUTES: RPA 1 Transportation Policy Board
Thursday, January 26, 2018, 9:00 a.m. - Upper Explorerland RPC, Postville

Board members in attendance: Larry Schellhammer, Allamakee County; Jan McGovern, Howard County; Ron McCartney, Clayton County; Dylan Mulfinger, Oelwein; Dean Thompson, Winneshiek County.

Others in attendance: Michelle Barness, UERPC.

1. Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by McGovern.
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Schellhammer, seconded by Thompson, approved unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the 12-14-17 minutes was made by Thompson, seconded by Mulfinger, approved unanimously.
4. Election of Officers: After discussion, a motion was made by Schellhammer to elect Thompson as Chair, seconded by McGovern, unanimously approved. A motion was then made by Schellhammer to elect McCartney as Vice Chair, seconded by Thompson, unanimously approved. Then a motion was made by McGovern to appoint Barness as board secretary, seconded by Schellhammer, unanimously approved.
5. Barness initiated a discussion of the highway project (Federal Aid SWAP) application that was provided for the board to review at the meeting. She explained that the application had been revised to reflect federal aid SWAP policies. Board members discussed whether to set a local match for the funding, and it was determined that for the time being the application would state that a match could be determined by the board on a project basis. The board delayed a final decision on a set match requirement until further discussion. There were no comments regarding other adjustments to the application. McGovern made a motion to move ahead with the application as presented, seconded by Schellhammer, approved unanimously.
6. Barness reviewed the draft 2018 Passenger Transportation Plan. A notice about the draft plan had been published in countywide publications, and there had been a 15-day public comment period leading up to the Policy Board meeting. No comments were received. Barness then reviewed sections within the plan, discussing the public participation element and goals and strategies element in more detail. The board discussed the draft PTP, including the following (no specific changes or revisions were noted):
 - Funding of transit in the region: How funding by Medicaid may impact operations or otherwise set limitations. How can public transit continue to diversify?
 - Transit drivers: Discussion of the need for more transit drivers. How might pay or requirements impact the ability of public transit to find good drivers?
 - Need for more flexibility in transit options (e.g. a rural uber-like service, for example)
 - Discussion of whether employers are willing to step in to meet the transportation needs/costs of Medicaid riders.

The board instructed Barness to submit the draft PTP.

-
7. Barness shared information from the Technical Committee pertaining to possible implementation of the federal aid SWAP in the region. The Technical Committee recommended the following:
- The DOT percentage of the current RPA-1 sub-allocation formula will get allocated to counties and cities on a weighted average basis
 - The DOT and small cities (excluding Decorah and Oelwein) can still apply to the county boards for funds for applicable road projects
 - RPA-1 will continue to award funds on a project by project basis, with a rolling sub-allocation
 - Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission funds will be approved yearly, but be subtracted from total aid available prior to sub-allocation

The board discussed these recommendations and decided to move ahead with the Technical Committee recommendations for federal aid SWAP practices in the region. A motion was made by McGovern, seconded by McCartney, and approved unanimously.

8. DOT Updates: None
9. Items from board members:
- Thompson requested Barness notify the new Mayor of Decorah regarding Transportation Policy Board appointments.
10. The next meeting was set for Thursday March 29th at 11 a.m.
11. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.