
MEETING MINUTES

RPA-1 Enhancement Committee

Thursday, July 11, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – Upper Explorerland RPC, Postville

Committee members in attendance: Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation; Sheryl Struthers, Fayette County resident; Russel Loven, City of Guttenberg; Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation; Mallory Hanson, NEI RC&D; Jared Nielsen, NEI RC&D; Joshua Johnson, City of Oelwein; Barbara Schroeder, Winneshiek County Conservation; Val Reinke, Allamakee County Economic Development; Darla Kelchen, Clayton County Development Group; Andy Kelleher, Main Street Lansing.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Diana Johnson, UERPC; Jerry Steven, Howard County.

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Marlatt.
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kelchen, seconded by Schroeder, and approved unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the May 30, 2019 meeting minutes was made by Struthers, seconded by Pollock, and approved unanimously.
4. Detter presented proposed revisions to RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board Bylaws, as discussed at the May 30th meetings of the Enhancement Committee, Technical Committee, and Policy Board. He explained that there were two versions of the proposed bylaws—one that reflected only those changes discussed previously and another that included some additional suggested revisions for better clarity and accuracy. Detter informed members that at the May 30th meeting the Policy Board had approved moving ahead with the version that included additional revisions, and that the board would be considering action to adopt the new bylaws at their meeting to follow. Marlatt noted that the Enhancement Committee's previous recommendations were incorporated into the version of the bylaws that the Policy Board would consider. Without further discussion by Committee members, Marlatt moved to the next agenda item.
5. Detter discussed the FFY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), noting that the Policy Board would be holding a public hearing and considering action to adopt the TIP at their meeting to follow, and that the public notices for the public hearing had been published and the document had been available on the UERPC website for public review in accordance with RPA-1's Public Participation Plan (PPP). He said that he could note any comments or recommendations of the Committee and share them with the Policy Board. He said that after Policy Board approval, he would submit the final TIP to Iowa DOT ahead of their deadline. Without further discussion by Committee members, Marlatt moved to the next agenda item.

6. Detter informed committee members that he had submitted all remaining draft sections of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to Iowa DOT for their review and comment by the June 28 deadline, and that after he incorporates any Iowa DOT changes, he will share the draft with the Policy Board and Committees for their review and comment, before finalizing a draft for public review prior to adoption in September. He explained that, given that the final, approved LRTP is due to Iowa DOT by September 20, he recommended setting a next meeting date of September 19. He also updated committee members that UERPC Planner Michelle Barness was continuing to work on the regional trail economic impact study.
7. Detter provided construction updates from Iowa DOT District 2 Planner Krista Billhorn. He also informed committee members that the Iowa DOT Commission would be having its next public input session on September 10 in Okoboji and that anyone is welcome to attend and speak to the commission. He let committee members know that Oelwein City Administrator Dylan Mulfinger would be attending and presenting on behalf of the Highway 150 Coalition regarding efforts to improve safety and operation on Iowa 150. Schroeder asked if the coalition would specifically be asking for improvements such as bicycle lanes on the corridor. Detter responded that the coalition is focusing on asking for general improvements and for further study, and that members decided not to ask for anything too specific before Iowa DOT does any formal studies. Marlatt commented that the Enhancement Committee needs to stay on top of asking the DOT to include wide, paved shoulders and bicycle lanes when it does work on highways. Detter also informed committee members that he had attended the Iowa DOT public input meeting for the Iowa 9/Black Hawk Bridge in Lansing, providing updates on where the process of identifying alternatives is, and how people can submit comments.
8. As floor items, Marlatt said they had a wonderful grand opening of the Elgin trail bridge and a new segment of trail in Fayette County. Hanson gave an update on trail counting efforts on the Turkey River Recreational Corridor, and committee members discussed trail-counter data verification. Nielsen introduced himself as being from Northeast Iowa RC&D and that he is the Scenic Byways Coordinator and spoke about collaboration and coordination efforts regarding scenic byways, county conservation boards, and trails. Pollock provided updates on the Motor Mill Trail project and its letting process, as well as grant application efforts to support trails in Clayton County. Detter asked about how much kayaking is occurring in Allamakee and Clayton Counties on the Mississippi River and what conditions and accommodations are like, and committee members discussed. Marlatt discussed the importance of the regional trail economic impact study for completing the regional Backbone Trail and for presenting to legislators, etc.
9. Committee members discussed that many of them may have a scheduling conflict for the proposed September 19 meeting date, and that they may want to meet earlier that week on September 17 but will check schedules and let Detter know.
10. A motion to adjourn was made by Loven, seconded by Kelchen, and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.