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## Meeting Minutes

### RPA-1 Transportation Enhancement Committee

Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. – Electronic Meeting

This meeting took place via electronic means pursuant to the provisions of the Iowa Open Meetings Law, Section 21.8, Code of Iowa.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was impractical for the Transportation Enhancement Committee to meet in person. This meeting was open to the public and those in attendance were able to hear the proceedings and provide comments and questions as appropriate. Public notice of the meeting was issued in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.4.

**Members in attendance:** Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board (Chair); Barbara Schroeder, Winneshiek County Conservation Board; Val Reinke, Allamakee County Economic Development; Roger Thomas, Clayton County; Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation Board; Sheryl Struthers, Fayette County; Joshua Johnson, City of Oelwein; Andy Kelleher, Lansing Main Street; James Janett, Allamakee County Conservation Board; Darla Kelchen, Clayton County Development Group.

**Members absent:** Craig Fencil, Howard County Conservation Board; Jeff Korsmo, Howard County Conservation Board; Brian Fuhrmann, City of Decorah; Stephanie Fromm, Winneshiek County Development, Inc.; Elaine Govern, Howard County.

**Others in attendance:** Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Lori Egan, NEICAC EARL Transit Director; Ray Peterson, Clayton County.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Marlatt

2. Approval of the agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Thomas, seconded by Pollock, and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting minutes

A motion to approve the January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Pollock, seconded by Struthers, and passed unanimously.

4. TAP applications

Detter noted that the STBG and TAP targets had been increased as of the previous Friday, and that the TAP targets for the next four years had more than doubled. Committee members discussed the funding increases and how they wanted to recommend handling them.

Thomas asked if there is a regional trail master plan and noted a potential need to do another plan.

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Marlatt noted that the Backbone trail corridor is pretty well established and that segments are constructed when they're ready and as funding is available.

Marlatt walked through a summary of the increased funding.

Pollock noted that the lower funding availability of the original call for applications may not have been enticing to potential applicants, resulting in just three applications. She asked Detter if there would be enough time to do another application to award the remaining dollars if the Committee were to award only the amount available in the original call for applications.

A motion to award Winneshiek County \$330,000 in TAP funding in FFY 2026 (\$133,000 was original request). The motion was seconded by Struthers.

Members discussed.

Janett commented that he thought the Committee should recommend awarding what Winneshiek County applied for, and that it would be fair and equitable to do another call for applications for the new available balance. He noted that it could set a bad precedent for the Committee to award more than the amount applied for.

Kelleher also noted that the DOT may not be OK with the RPA awarding more than the amount applied for.

Detter did a rollcall vote. The motion failed, with nay votes from Kelchen, Janett, Thomas, Struthers, Kelleher, Johnson, and Reinke.

A motion to award the requested amount of \$133,000 in TAP funding to Winneshiek County Conservation Board for a trail bridge project on the Dry Run Trail in 2026, and to open another call for applications for the remaining balance of approximately \$440,000 was made by Janett and seconded by Struthers.

Thomas asked members to consider awarding all three projects that applied. Marlatt responded that he thinks members feel strongly about their scoring system and how the Winneshiek County project scored. Kelchen added that it will be difficult to explain to the other applicants, namely Guttenberg, that were not awarded even though they could have been funded. Pollock noted that all three applicants would be eligible to ask for more funding in the new application cycle. Schroeder noted that she's okay moving forward with the motion.

Detter did a rollcall vote. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discuss possible NEI Backbone Trail health impact analysis

Members decided to table this item so as not to rush the discussion as the meeting was running out of time.

6. Iowa DOT and RPA-1 Staff Updates

Detter noted that he'd skip those in the interest of time, and that anyone sticking around for the following Technical Committee and/or Policy Board meetings could hear those updates.

7. Floor Items

No floor items.

8. Set next meeting date

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Detter noted the timeline of next May for the next meetings and that he will coordinate as usual with the Board and committees.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Struthers, seconded by Janett, and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Approved