
MEETING MINUTES

RPA-1 Enhancement Committee

Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – Virtual 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 spread of COVID-19 in the state of Iowa and based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it was impractical for the Enhancement Committee to meet in person. Therefore, the meeting took place virtually via the Zoom electronic meeting platform. It was open to the public and those in attendance could 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.

Committee members in attendance: Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation; Sheryl Struthers, Fayette County resident; Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation; Mallory Hanson, NEI RC&D; Barbara Schroeder, Winneshiek County Conservation; Val Reinke, Allamakee County Economic Development; Andy Kelleher, Main Street Lansing; Darla Kelchen, Clayton County Development; Elaine Govern, Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County Engineer; Nick Rissman, Howard County Engineer.

1. The meeting was called to order by Marlatt at 9:03 a.m.
2. Selection of chair and vice chair was added to the agenda after approval of the September 17, 2019 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Schroeder, seconded by Reinke, and passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the draft September 17, 2019 meeting minutes was made by Struthers, seconded by Schroeder, and passed unanimously.
4. A motion to appoint Marlatt as Chair of the Enhancement Committee was made by Govern, seconded by Struthers, and passed unanimously. A motion to appoint Schroeder as Vice Chair of the Enhancement Committee was made by Reinke, seconded by Kelchen, and passed unanimously.
5. Committee members briefly discussed the average scores of the six applications for regional Iowa's TAP funding for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2024. Marlatt noted that the application from Clayton County Conservation Board (Clayton CCB) had the highest total points based on each county's average scores, and the highest overall average score. A motion to recommend for funding by the Policy Board the application from Clayton CCB, in the amount of \$192,000 to partially fund a 10'-wide paved trail one mile long from 250th Street to Grape Road along Iowa Highway 13 was made by Govern, seconded by Kelchen, and passed unanimously.

Govern added a comment that it is hard for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects to compete with regional trails in our regional Iowa's TAP application process, but that SRTS is a most worthy cause. She added that SRTS-type projects combined with regional trails is a double benefit that the Enhancement Committee should encourage and consider.

6. Detter provided Committee members an update on the draft Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) for state fiscal year (SFY) 2021 and the timelines necessary for Policy Board adoption at its next meeting in mid-to-late May. A motion to endorse the draft TPWP for the Policy Board's consideration was made by Reinke, seconded by Struthers, and passed unanimously.
7. Detter provided additional RPA-1 staff updates on upcoming RPA work products and deadlines, timelines for next RPA meetings, the ongoing regional trail economic impact analysis, and potential for using technology developed by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (DMAMPO) for collecting trail pavement data in the region.
8. Detter provided updates from Iowa DOT regarding road construction in the region, the upcoming draft and approval of the Iowa DOT's 5-year program, and various impacts to transportation funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state of the economy.
9. As a floor item, Govern asked Detter if he had any additional information on the status of discussions between Howard County and Iowa DOT regarding bike lanes and other SRTS provisions on an upcoming project on highway A46 in Howard County. Detter responded that Howard County and Iowa DOT were coordinating on the issue and deferred to Howard County Engineer Rissman, who stated that the travel lanes will be paved and the shoulder will be a seal coat with markings and signage for bikes remaining in place.
Marlatt added that the Enhancement Committee and trail stakeholders need to continue to emphasize the importance of trails and that the social distancing and self-isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic have really highlighted the importance of trails.
10. Committee members discussed a next meeting date and were in agreement that the Enhancement Committee does not need to meet again in May along with the Technical Committee and Policy Board and that they would go with what the Policy Board and Technical committee decide in May.
11. A motion to adjourn was made by Reinke, seconded by Kelchen, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.