
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Enhancement Committee

Wednesday, March 17th, 2021 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 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 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.

Committee Members in attendance: Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation; Sheryl Struthers, Fayette County resident; Roger Thomas, Clayton County resident; Rod Marlatt (Chair), Fayette County Conservation; Mallory Hanson, Fayette County Economic Development and Tourism; Barbara Schroeder, Winneshiek County Conservation; Val Reinke, Allamakee County Economic Development and Tourism; Darla Kelchen, Clayton County Development; Joshua Johnson, City of Oelwein Parks Superintendent; James Janett, Allamakee County Conservation; Elaine Govern, Howard County resident.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Rachelle Howe, UERPC Executive Director; Jamie Blume, City of Guttenberg.

The meeting was called to order by Marlatt at 9:05 a.m.

1. A motion to designate Rod Marlatt as Chair and Barbara Schroeder as Vice Chair was made by Janett, seconded by Struthers, and passed unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Pollock, seconded by Reinke, and passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the December 9th, 2020 meeting minutes was made by Kelchen, seconded by Thomas, and passed unanimously.
4. Detter discussed the RPA-1 Public Participation Plan (PPP) and explained that the Policy Board members as well as committee members had had the chance to review and provide comments; that the document had been out for public review for longer than the minimum 45-day review period; and that he had received no public comments on the document. He noted that the Policy Board would hold a public hearing for adoption of the document at their meeting following at 11:00 a.m.

A motion signifying support of the PPP was made by Reinke, seconded by Govern, and passed unanimously.

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5. Detter presented a summary of the Iowa's Transportation Alternatives Program (Iowa's TAP) applications that were received for the FFY 2025 funding cycle and of the application scores by county. Committee members reviewed and discussed the applications and scores.

A motion to recommend funding of Winneshiek County Conservation Board's application in the amount of \$180,393 was made by Pollock and seconded by Janett.

Govern commented that all the projects have tremendous value and noted that Guttenberg has now applied multiple times and that SRTS projects, though important to the region, do not tend to score well in the current process.

Marlatt noted that the motion seemed to be based on the scoring methodology that has traditionally been used, and that if there is interest in changes to the process, that can be discussed in the future.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Detter provided RPA-1 staff updates on upcoming RPA work products and deadlines, and timelines for the next RPA meetings. He noted that he is currently working on the Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) for RPA-1 and will submit the draft to IDOT by April 1st. He also noted that he continues to work on the regional trail economic impact analysis and will wrap it up and share it with members as soon as possible.
7. Detter noted that Krista Billhorn would be in attendance at the Policy Board meeting to follow at 11:00 a.m., and potentially the Technical Committee at 9:00 a.m., to provide Iowa DOT updates.

Schroeder had a question about the timing of the projects on IA-150 from West Union to Calmar that will include six-foot shoulders. Marlatt and Detter both noted that both projects are scheduled to be done this summer, and presumably in conjunction.

8. Floor items:

Thomas asked Detter if he follows up with applicants like the City of Guttenberg when they are not funded to give them recommendations. Detter noted that he does not provide additional assistance to applicants unless it is requested. Thomas and other members also discussed the regional prioritization of Iowa's TAP applications.

Members discussed recent federal COVID-relief legislation and how it might affect or be applied to local infrastructure projects.

Janett noted that a national scenic byways program has been re-established but is not yet funded.

Marlatt asked Detter about the process for projects funded in the four-year TIP switching years. Detter noted that as long as fiscal constraint is maintained, projects may be altered, including programmed year, through the TIP development process and through the TIP amendment and modification process.

Pollock commented on the upcoming collaborative purchase of additional trail counters by several members and encouraged other members to put out their trail counters if they haven't already.

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9. Committee members decided to wait and set the next meeting date for May 2021 and follow what the Policy Board decides to do.
 10. A motion to adjourn was made by Kelchen, seconded by Reinke, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

APPROVED