

RPA 1 Transportation Enhancement Committee

MINUTES: March 26, 2015

Present: Rod Marlatt, Sheryl Struthers, Elaine Govern, Harold Chapman, Craig Fencil, Jim Janett, Bruce Palmborg, Darla Kelchen, Barb Schroeder, Harlan Satrom, Lora Friest, Ashley Christensen and Karla Organist

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by chair, Rod Marlatt
2. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Kelchen, second by Schroeder, all approved
3. Motion to approve the minutes from January 29, 2015 was made by Struthers, seconded by Shroeder, all approved.
4. Annual appointment of Committee Chair: A motion nominating the retention of Rod Marlatt as Chair was made by Schroeder, seconded by Govern, all approved
5. County Updates:
 - a. Clayton County: Working to put a county trail committee together, continue working on the TRRC trail, Jenna Pollack has been hired as the new Conservation Director, but won't be starting until April. Tucker Anderson is serving as the interim director.
 - b. Allamakee County: Interpretive Center is moving along – DOT going through plan and spec review now.
 - c. Fayette County: TRRC trail in the next phase, from Elgin in Gilbertson to the Clayton County line. Using LIDAR for survey work – reduces cost. Marlatt also reported that the TRRC received a grant from the Iowa Tourism Association and from the Fayette County Community Foundation to put up a digital billboard in La Crosse to the promote TRRC for 4 months
 - d. Howard County: In final stages of Wapsi project. About 3 phases left: 1) Acme to Riceville set for September letting; 2) Two bridges on this section – set for a fall letting; and 3) paving of the corridor (parts 1 and 2 in the works)
 - e. Winneshiek County: Dry Run Trail Culvert Project moving along – 1st easement has been purchased and they are close to ROW acquisition – should be ready for a June letting. Freeport Trail should be constructed this summer.
 - f. Scenic Byways: Friest gave an update on SB initiatives. Rod Marlatt is now the State Chair. NE Iowa has the most active byways in the state – lots going on in terms of interpretation installations along the byways.
 - g. Safe Routes to School: Christensen reported on the region's growing Walking School Bus efforts and the bike rodeos and other student safety events that are scheduled.

6. Review of TAP funds Status – highlighted cells have been recently updated with new targets:

		ENHANCEMENT	DESCRIPTION
FFY 2015	BALANCE:	\$144,238	Carry over
	Allocation:	\$117,548	Actual
	FLEX:	\$17,997	20%
	Projects:	(\$202,000)	Howard Wapsi, TRRC
	Adjustment:	\$22,040	Motor Mill Trail Bridge Close-out return from '01
FFY 2016	BALANCE:	\$99,823	Carry over
	Allocation:	\$116,334	Target
	FLEX:	\$17,755	20%
	Projects:	(\$191,000)	Winneshiek TRT
FFY 2017	BALANCE:	\$42,912	Carry over
	Allocation:	\$116,000	Target
	FLEX:	\$17,800	20%
	Projects:	(\$117,000)	Winneshiek DRT bridges
FFY 2018	BALANCE:	\$59,712	Carry over
	Allocation:	\$116,000	Target
	FLEX:	\$17,800	20%
	Projects:	(\$115,000)	Winneshiek DRT bridges
FFY 2019	BALANCE:	\$78,512	Carry over
	Allocation:	\$116,000	Target
	FLEX:		
		\$194,512	Balance to Work With

7. Review and discussion of TAP applications and scores. Two projects requested funds for 2016, four for funds in 2019. Project requests totaled \$1,038,240 and were described and scored as follows:

Applicant	Project	TAP Request	Year	Average Score:
Winneshiek County Conservation Board	Dry Run Trail, Phase VI: Purchase and installation of 130' trail bridge across Creek	\$116,000	2019	26.37
Fayette County Conservation Board	TRRC Trail - bridge over Turkey River and trail extension to Gilbertson Park	\$50,000	2016	25.93
Howard County Conservation Board	Wapsi Great Western (Acme to Riceville) - paving for 7.5 miles	\$150,000	2019	25.78
City of Elkader	TRRC Trail - preliminary engineering for section from Elgin/Gilbertson to Elkader	\$52,000	2019	25.33
Upper Explorerland SRTS Program	NE Iowa Safe Routes to School Program - fill 6 mo. funding gap for SRTS Coordinator	\$24,000	2016	24.33
City of Lansing	Clear Creek Rec. Trail - 2.5 mile trail connecting park, Lansing, Mississippi River	\$646,240	2019	21.90

8. After much discussion, a motion was made by Chapman, seconded by Satrom to recommend the 2019 Winneshiek County project (\$116,000), the 2016 Fayette County project (\$50,000), the 2016 SRTS project (\$24,000) and the remainder of the funds to the 2019 Elkader project, along with a request for 55% of the TAP-FLEX funds to the Tech Committee and Policy Board for inclusion in the FFY 16-19 TIP, all approved. 55% of the FLEX funds would fully fund the Elkader project (\$52,000).

Other Discussion notes: Although the Howard County project scored higher, the remaining funds were not sufficient, so Howard County declined them. To maintain fiscal constraint, the committee will request a “loan” of STP FLEX funds in FFY16, with “repayment” in FFY17 and FFY18.

9. RPA Transportation Planning Work Program: Organist shared the proposed work elements for the coming fiscal year and requested feedback. Committee discussed items relevant to their work – the trail count/survey project and Economic Impact study for the backbone trail.
10. Floor Items: Discussed the upcoming spring trail count and survey. Darla will have an intern this summer that may have time to help enter surveys collected manually at the trail count. Also discussed the potential for tablets at the trails for the survey.
11. The next meeting will be held in May in conjunction with the Policy Board meeting – will want to coordinate that with the Watershed Group to avoid conflict.
12. Motion by Satrom, second by Kelchen to adjourn - meeting adjourned at 9: 50 a.m.