

RPA 1 Transportation Enhancement Committee

MINUTES: December 16, 2015

Present: Sheryl Struthers, Elaine Govern, Harold Chapman, Craig Fencil, Darrell Knecht, Valerie Reinke, Barb Schroeder, Harlan Satrom, Mallory Marlatt, Lora Friest Kenny Slocum, Dean Hilgerson, Darla Kelchen, Bruce Palmborg, Casey Mai, Rachelle Howe and Karla Organist

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Karla Organist (Chair Rod Marlatt absent)
2. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Struthers, second by Kelchen, all approved
3. Motion to approve the minutes from October 14th regular meeting was made by Hilgerson, seconded by Sturthers, all approved.
4. County Updates:
 - a. Allamakee County: Palmborg reported that the Interpretive Center construction is going well – keeping Jim very busy.
 - b. Clayton County: Kenny Slocum reported that the group is still waiting to hear from the DOT as to whether the scope change for the trail near Elkader would be approved (this was to have been a trail from Pony Hollow to Motor Mill, but because of land acquisition issues, the request was to change the trail to loop around Elkader)
 - c. Fayette County: Organist reported that the county had approved a sponsor change for the TRRC project from Elgin to the County Line – the sponsor will be Fayette County Roads rather than Fayette County Conservation. An unveiling of the Scenic Byways interpretive panels is scheduled for today at Goeken Park – then a caravan will go to see the panels near Wadena and then Chicken Ridge.
 - d. Howard County: Chapman and Fencil reported that they were recommended for funding from the Fed Rec Trails - that should be formally approved by the DOT Commission at their January meeting. They also reported that they are in the final stages and should be good to go for a February letting.
 - e. Winneshiek County: Quiet trail-wise right now. Are working with the students from Univ. of Iowa on their project that includes an economic impact study and master trail plan.
 - f. Scenic Byways: Mallory Marlatt gave an update and more detail on today's unveiling of the interpretive panels. She also gave an update on the public art project along the byways – they are partnering with Casey's General Stores on a fundraising campaign during the month of January. If successful, more art installations could be added along our byways. Donations can be made at Casey's stores along the byways or online. Mallory will keep us informed as p.r. is developed. The byway extension request is still in committee review.
 - g. Safe Routes to School: Organist reported that the SRTS partnership with INRCOG and the Iowa Bicycle Coalition was recommended for Fed Rec funding too. Also, Ashley Christensen (SRTS Coordinator) has been involved with a follow up I-WALK project in West Union. ISU and IDPH are circling back to some of the original I-WALK communities to encourage/support implementation of actions.
5. Public Participation Plan – Organist had sent out the plan electronically to committee members, no comments were brought to the meeting. The plan is on the UERPC website and comments can be made through the form on the “items for public comment” page or via email.
6. Funding updates:
 - a. A review of federal fund balances shows a carryover of \$22,312 (not available until 2019)
 - b. The FAST Act should result in some increase in funding. Organist expects the state to continue distributing STP/TAP/TAP Flex as they currently do. It is unknown whether eligibilities for TAP

projects will change, or whether the change will be immediate such that it impacts the upcoming TAP application process.

7. Upcoming TAP process

- a. Committee members reviewed the application (attached) and decided to take applications for FFY 2020 only – everything else remained the same. Organist expects to release the application the first week of January.
- b. A deadline for applications was set for February 26th, 2016 – Organist will send out the applications electronically and Counties will have a couple of weeks to score the projects. It is hoped that the scoring will be completed at least a week before the next meeting so that there is time to compile the scores.
- c. A discussion regarding scoring practices was held. Organist will put out a survey to query committee members about scoring preferences (specifically whether counties should score projects from their own counties).

8. Floor items

- a. Lora Friest offered additional information regarding the Casey's partnership and the statewide Scenic Byways interpretive panel placements.
 - b. Organist noted that (1) the Iowa Bicycle Summit has been scheduled for Jan. 22-23, (2) Winneshiek County has finished entering their survey data so we will close the survey for the year, and (3) Conservation directors were asked to check our trail map for any completed trails so that they can be reported to the state for their trail map update.
 - c. Schroeder reported on the Univ. of Iowa's student IISC project – and let the committee know that they would be asked to come together as a focus group for the project. This would be coming up in January or February – Organist and Schroeder will put out a scheduling survey as soon as we know what works for the students.
9. The next meeting was set for March 31st at 8:30 a.m. in Postville. The committee will review the TAP scores and develop recommendations for the Tech Committee and Policy Board
10. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Satrom, seconded by Kelchen, meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.