
MEETING MINUTES

RPA-1 Enhancement Committee

Thursday, September 24th, 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; Joshua Johnson, City of Oelwein Parks Superintendent.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Rachelle Howe, UERPC Executive Director; Lori Egan, EARL Transit Director.

1. The meeting was called to order by Marlatt at 9:04 a.m.
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Struthers, seconded by Kelchen, and passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the draft April 22nd, 2020 meeting minutes was made by Struthers, seconded by Reinke, and passed unanimously.
4. Detter presented the proposed project amendment to the FFY 2021-2024 TIP, rehabilitation of the Bridge Street Bridge in Elkader, noting that the amendment adds the project into the FFY 2021-2024 TIP with a new project number and includes additional CHBP funding that was awarded to the project. Marlatt noted that the Enhancement Committee is supportive of the proposed amendment.
5. Detter provided RPA-1 staff updates on upcoming RPA work products and deadlines, timelines for next RPA meetings, and the ongoing regional trail economic impact analysis.
6. Detter provided updates from Iowa DOT District 2 Planner Krista Billhorn on road construction and maintenance in the region.
7. Floor Items:
Detter, Hanson, and Pollock briefly noted their ongoing work with collecting trail user data in the region using infrared trail counters.

Marlatt inquired whether the City of Oelwein knew the status of their REAP grant application. Johnson stated that he hadn't heard anything yet.

Schroeder noted that the appraisals were done for purchasing easements for the first five miles of the Dry Run Trail in Winneshiek County, and that they could begin purchasing soon once they get DOT approvals.

Pollock noted that Motor Mill Trail construction is underway in Clayton County.

Reinke noted that things are good and busy in Allamakee County and that she is working with Yellow River State Forest because so many people are wanting to visit because they know they can social-distance here. She noted that Yellow River State Forest saw more than 1,000 campers over Labor Day weekend.

8. Committee members discussed a next meeting date and were in agreement that they would go with what the Policy Board and Technical committee decide.
9. A motion to adjourn was made by Kelchen, seconded by Reinke, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.