



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EST. 1958

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

456 Fulton St. Suite 401

Peoria, IL 61602

Don White, CHAIRMAN

(Greg Menold, Russ Crawford, Rita Ali, Andrew Rand, Autum Jones, Chuck Nagel, John Kahl)

Monday, July 18, 2022

9:00 a.m.

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MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman Don White called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Don White, Russ Crawford, John Kahl, Autum Jones, Greg Menold, and Chuck Nagel (virtual). Also present: Eric Miller, Ray Lees, and Reema Abi-Akar. Absent: Rita Ali and Andrew Rand.

3. Public Input -- none

4. Motion to approve June 20, 2022 minutes

John Kahl moved to approve the June 20, 2022 minutes and Greg Menold seconded. Motion carried.

5. Executive Director report

Eric Miller updated on the following:

- Starting salaries are lower than entry level planners are expecting. Consultant will come back with response and hopefully next month will have recommendations.
- Reviewing Special Studies requests. They were due last Friday. We received several requests. We are now talking to consultants.
- STBG group is meeting, will make recommendations to Technical committee. The staff has gone through this process already.
- Expect a press release at 9 a.m. this Thursday at Peoria City Hall. Mayor Ali and former secretary of transportation Ray LaHood will give a press conference about the rail study. The recommendations are back. There is a feasible corridor, though it is expensive. LaHood does not view this as an obstacle. All of these are steps are in a funding process. They will apply for the rail corridor identification process and if we are selected, we will get more planning money. This may take 5 to 10 years. We also reached out to LaSalle-Peru.

6. Recommendation to Commission for Autumn Jones to replace Barry Logan on Executive Board and Personnel Committees.

Russ Crawford moved to recommend to Commission that Autumn Jones replace Barry Logan on Executive Board and Personnel Committees, and John Kahl seconded.

Russ explained this is a critically important committee. We have gone from 9 to 8 people on Executive Board. The Nominations committee passed this unanimously this morning. Motion carried.

7. Discussion of Strategic Planning session(s)

Eric Miller said that Erik Cempel's report is very thorough. Some suggestions are:

Create a dashboard of existing conditions of where we are as a region.

- Consistent with LRTP goals and federal performance measures
- Show snapshot of our transportation system
- Include transit -- grey area
 - Aging population, gas prices, etc. will influence how this plays out.
- Based on asset management and pavement & bridge conditions
 - Staff collect pavement information
 - Investing in an asset management software.

Regional project priority list

- Discretionary funds becoming available
- NOFOs (Notice of Funding Opportunity) available frequently
 - For example, connecting communities grant; \$1B available
 - We will track these.

Process

- Like STBG of rating projects
- Want to get a group together: policy committee
- Reasonable timeframe -- let us say 6 weeks
- Should be an active, process-driven program as NOFOs (Notice of Funding Opportunity) come out
 - Regional project priorities will depend on the grants that are available
- Don White suggestion
 - Prioritize means (roads, water, etc.), then prioritize the project in some way.
- Eric Miller
 - Identify the rankings; move on to next one if the first one is not viable.
 - It is important to know where we are and agree as a group
- Russ Crawford
 - It is important to get a small group together
 - Consider the individuals who had a sense of urgency
 - Then invite those in the Executive Committee who would be willing and able
- Eric Miller
 - Lots of options -- system preservation, pavement conditions

- This should be more policy-driven rather than technical
 - Technical persons are here for validation
- This is about defining regional significance.
- Russ Crawford
 - We need to make sure IDOT folks are connected and speaking to each other
- Eric Miller
 - Karen Dvorsky: District 4 representative
 - Brandon Geber: Office of Planning & Programming
 - We can recognize that they are coming from various places
- Don White
 - Cost threshold -- we should make this a suggestion instead of a requirement
- Eric Miller
 - We want to properly implement the project
 - We can advocate for specific projects through local or federal dollars

Erik Cempel felt strongly about defining regional significance based on what other regions have done

- Can use rating criteria that others have used, i.e., Chicago, Indianapolis
- Last time, chambers of commerce in Peoria and Pekin (transportation subcommittees) headed it.
 - We should inform the region's chambers this time
 - Important that we all speak one voice as a region
- Russ Crawford
 - Is it up to each MPO to identify their own process?
- Eric Miller
 - Federal government does not want to tell us how to do our TIP. LRTP, etc. that is our job.
 - Other urban areas around our state: Champaign-Urbana, Bloomington-Normal
 - After conversation with the chair, he wants to do strategic planning for the other focus areas, environment, and land use.
 - To-dos: develop stakeholder list, produce agenda
- Ray Lees added regarding the environment -- we have been talking with USACE, Maritime section of USDOT
 - Eric Miller – how to alleviate truck traffic by moving it onto the river
 - Goes hand in hand with Port District, Illinois waterway.

8. Other

Don White

- Cheat sheet of acronyms
 - Should go through Executive before Commission
- Programs, frequency, projects, etc. spreadsheet -- front and back.

9. Adjournment

Russ Crawford moved to adjourn at 9:43 a.m. and John Kahl seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted:
Eric Miller, Executive Director

Transcribed by:
Debbie Ulrich, Office Manager