

RPA 2
POLICY BOARD MINUTES
January 9, 2014

Jim Erb, City of Charles City
Dwight Leerar, Hancock County
Brent Trout, City of Mason City
Stan Walk, Mitchell County
Roy Schwickerath, Floyd County
Terry Durby, Winnebago County
Keri Navratil, City of Algona
Don McGregor, Kossuth County
Bob Amosson, Cerro Gordo County
David Tollefson, City of St. Ansgar

Jerry Tlach, Hancock County
Nelson Crabb, City of Clear Lake
Ron Holland, City of Forest City
Teresa Nicholson, Worth County
Mike Nolte, Franklin County

Others Present:
Chris Diggins, NIACOG
Krista Rostad, IDOT

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM.

A motion was made by Durby, seconded by Schwickerath, to approve today's agenda and the October 16, 2013 minutes. All present voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

The next item was election of officers. Diggins stated that Stan Walk was current Vice-Chair, Mike Nolte was Secretary and the Chair seat was open due to the resignation of Jay Urdahl from the Board. While it was not necessary, the Chair person has been from Cerro Gordo for closeness if signatures, or official action was needed. A motion was made by Tlach, seconded by Walk to nominate Bob Amosson as Chair. All present voted aye and the motion passed. A motion was made by Nolte, seconded by Erb that the officers remain the same with the addition of Amosson as the Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair then resumed the meeting according to the agenda. Diggins explained that it will soon be time for STP and TA applications. While there are no issue with the STP process, the TA process has changed from last year in that the RPA must develop a criteria for scoring applications and awarding funding. In the past, applications have just been discussed and prioritized by those that show up to a meeting and deem important at that time. While this has worked for the most part, it leaves questions as to what the Region's priorities are and what applications should be trying to develop. Diggins provided a sheet with examples provided at the Quarterly Meeting. Diggins asked the Policy Board what some of their priorities are. Of those provided, some particularly stood out and include:

Match Greater than 20%
Regional Economic Development Impact
Regional Tourism Impact
Sustainability

Discussion followed as to interpretation of the "Regional" impacts and all agreed it was not a given as to what would constitute a Regional project. An area that was very clear was sustainability. Many projects can be built and there is little to no consideration of how to maintain or replace when necessary. This is being seen across the state where the trails are 20-30 years old and are needing major rehabilitation. The Policy Board felt if an application had considered long term maintenance, that should be give higher consideration, all other things being equal.

It was also discussed about the membership of that Committee and those few that show up shouldn't be the only one deciding projects for the Region. Diggins stated that the Conservation Directors, most of the larger cities and some County engineers attend the TA meetings. For the most part, they are deciding trail projects. Safe Routes to School projects could come up now. The TA Committee is a subcommittee and the Policy Board has veto power over all actions of the Technical and TA Committees. Anybody is welcome to attend the TA meeting and provide input and have a say on the submitted applications for funding.

Diggins will send information about the TA Committee to all of the Policy Board as well.

Diggins explained the funding balance for each of the funding pots. These numbers are based on estimated targets and are only targets.

The next item was the Funding Concepts document from IDOT. Diggins didn't add any comments or more information to the topic as most were familiar with it. Rostad provide brief comments and then moved right into the new logo and use of social media by the IDOT. Rostad did give updates on federal transportation happenings. Little is happening at this time and the fiscal cliff for transportation funding in 2015 still looms!

The next meeting will be April 9, 2014 at 2:30 PM.

A motion was made by Schwickerath, seconded by McGregor to adjourn, the Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully,

Christopher A. Diggins,
Local Assistance Director