

**RAC Region 3 Conference Call**  
Tuesday, March 13, 2012  
1:00 – 2:30 P.M. Central time

**Meeting Notes**

**Member States:**

Illinois:       **Amy Schutzbach**  
Indiana:       none  
Iowa:           **Mark Dunn**  
Kansas:       **Rod Montney**  
Michigan:      **Steve Bower**  
Minnesota:    **Linda Taylor**  
Missouri:      **Bill Stone**  
Ohio:          **Cynthia Gerst**  
Wisconsin:     **Daniel Yeh, Jacqueline Kamin**  
Decision and action items are underscored.

**1. Review of agenda, roll call**

Amy Schutzbach called the meeting to order. There were no content updates to the agenda.

**2. Approval of Notes Minutes of Last Meeting**

The meeting notes from January 22, 2012 were approved as presented in Amy's email from February 28, 2012.

**3. Review of January action items**

- a. **Discuss TRB correlation meetings on March call.** This is on our agenda as a new business item.
- b. **Elevate the confusion of RPM and RPPM dual efforts to RAC leadership.**  
This was not discussed in the March RAC Leadership call. Amy will raise this item on their next call.
- c. **Solicit financial managers to participate in the Pooled Fund Finance Task Force developing financial procedures guide.**  
Linda has an employee who may be interested. She will check when the person returns from leave.
- d. **Send Amy how you ask researchers to assess cost-effectiveness of research**  
Amy did receive responses, and she will share the results with the region once she compiles them.

**4. RAC Task Force membership update**

Amy reviewed the task force membership assignment distributed at the January meeting. The only proposed change is Bill's interest in joining the Transportation Knowledge Network Task Force.

- RAC Administration: Amy, Rod, Cynthia
- Coordination & Collaboration: Michael, Linda
- Program Management & Quality: Tommy, Linda
- Transportation Knowledge Networks: Cynthia, Daniel, Bill
- Value of Research: Linda, Daniel

**5. State by State update**

- **Illinois:** Amy received problem statements on January 30th. Internal groups have selected which to pursue. Executive leadership will vote in April. Due to staffing issues she is behind on pooled fund transfers. She will review all future contributions to pooled funds based on the value expected from them.
- **Indiana:** none
- **Iowa:** Mark shared there is an open posting for the Director of InTrans.
- **Kansas:** Rod received 50 proposals through the K-TRAN university research program. They have narrowed them to about 17 for funding and next month they go for review and approval by the Acting Secretary.
- **Michigan:** Steve received 11 proposals to complete the 2013 program. Internally they are beginning planning for the 2014/2015 program. Michigan Tech wasn't awarded a UTC and is lobbying for some SPR2 funds.
- **Minnesota:** Linda is planning for the TRB visit in May. Marketing role being posted – to help roll out research results. RFP for Marketing and Consulting Plan. Implementation Plan has 23 ideas for proposals & May evaluation. U of Minnesota wasn't awarded a UTC and is lobbying for some SPR2 funds.
- **Missouri:** Dave hosts the annual research forum next week; they showcase 2-3 completed research projects and MoDOT staff discusses research needs with the researcher community. The deadline for external idea solicitation is April 30. Missouri University of Science and Technology Tech wasn't awarded a UTC and is lobbying for some SPR2 funds. Staffing reorganization is complete for Research within Construction & Materials section. He attended the Intelligent Compaction workshop last week – it was put on through the pooled fund and also included manufacturing representatives.
- **Ohio:** Cynthia has 20 posted RFP's as well as an emergency on support inspections (sign, signals and lights) to be released next week. The new contracts manager is doing well eight weeks into the job. They expect to publish both peer exchange and annual report this month. She has received official travel approval for RAC summer meeting. For FY2013 Ohio has selected thirteen unsolicited projects for \$1 million, out of 33 proposals.
- **Wisconsin:** Daniel has a new contract manager, Kimberly, starting. Daniel is Chair and Jacqueline is main support for the Mid-Continent Transportation Research Symposium this Fall. They plan to host their next peer exchange in 2013, not with the Symposium. They have three pooled funds in solicitation: recycled materials (both Illinois and Michigan expressed interest), CFIRE and MidAmerica freight coalition 2<sup>nd</sup> generation. In FY2013 they may not enter any new pooled funds based on potential funding cuts for SPR2.

## 6. RAC Task Force updates

- **RAC Administration:**  
Task force is planning for summer RAC meeting, especially RAC101 session. Great job Region 3 for completing all state unit fact sheets. Working with Sandra to evaluate the need for revised RAC guidelines – if changes are made that may cause changes in region bylaws. Skip is chair of project panel on updating AASHTO manuals and guidelines, and he'll update us regularly. Cynthia and Barnie are working on a financial administration guide for new research managers. Chris Hedges has drafted a RAC, SCOR, AASHTO, FHWA, etc. relationship chart focusing on highways; he offered to replicate for other modes. Cynthia will share this with the region.
- **Value of Research:**  
Mark in Louisiana sent a survey on implementation categories last week. March 28th is the high value research project deadline. There is discussion of further recognition to the

High Value Sweet 16, such as presentation of a certificate and an article in the AASHTO newsletter.

- **Research Coordination and Collaboration:**  
Amy shared – The task force is working with Tommy on the webinar and with PM&Q (see below).
- **Program Management and Quality:**  
There was a successful session on NCHRP results at TRB; they suggest getting the presentation from the TRB compendium. They plan to also roll it out at RAC Burlington. Work continues on “Research Performance Measures System” to input cost benefit of research – they want to add the high value of research to this database. Also there was a recent webinar based on NCHRP report 20-80.
- **Transportation Knowledge Networks:**  
National Transportation Library – confirmed they will be a permanent repository for our electronic reports. We all should send in our reports to take advantage of that service.
- **RAC/CUTC:**  
Daniel shared they are looking to have some RAC members participate in the CUTC summer meeting June 20-22 in Houghton, Michigan.

## 7. RAC Leadership updates from March 8, 2012

- Rick has asked task forces to publish their conference call times on RAC site
- SHRP 2 IMPLEMENTATION - a series of “knowledge transfer workshops” will be held in which SHRP 2 research teams will present the results of their projects to a cross-section of stakeholders who will plan and prioritize implementation activities. They are looking to have at least one RAC member on each of the workshops over the next several years. Some of the workshops will be webinars; some will be face to face. The in-person meetings will likely be held in the D.C. area, and participants’ travel costs will be paid.
- TCRP - The deadline for Transit synthesis of practice topics is March 15th. Problem statements for the TCRP FY2013 are due June 15th.
- RCRP - The governing board has been appointed for the new Rail Cooperative Research Program; they will meet for the first time on May 24-25.
- SUMMER 2012 RAC MEETING - Burlington, VT - July 22-26, 2012. Mark Norman/Rosa Allen sent out travel info and reimbursement information. Note that if TRB paid for you to attend the annual TRB meeting in January, you will be on your own for expenses to the summer RAC meeting.
- SUMMER 2013 RAC/TRB MEETING – will be in Baton Rouge, a little earlier in July than we have been holding them. Tentative date is July 14-18.
- HIGH VALUE RESEARCH SWEET 16 – Policy research projects are encouraged. The Value of Research TF is trying to identify ways to recognize the Sweet 16 projects – AASHTO certificate of recognition, article in the AASHTO newsletter (so CEOs are aware), etc.
- SURVEYS TO WATCH OUT FOR – Value of Research/Mark Morvant’s survey on implementation status categories; Martin Pietrucha and CUTC survey on research problem identification practices.

## 8. New Business

### a. Discuss TRB correlation meetings on March call.

Regarding the TRB annual visit – potentially including NCHRP  
There was a recent survey on the annual visit program.

- Minnesota deferred 2011 visit to May
- Opting out of 2012 visits: Kansas, Wisconsin

- Contacted about 2012 visit: Illinois
- Not yet contacted: Michigan, Missouri, Ohio

**b. High Value Research projects**

Candidate high value research project forms are due by 3/28 to Tommy and Amy. There is specific interest in policy projects.

**c. 2012 RAC meeting**

Confirmed meeting dates Monday through Thursday. Ideally get state funding to travel in on Sunday to participate in the entire meeting.

Proposal to have one closed meeting at Summer 2012 RAC, noted on agenda. Amy will discuss this with Tommy.

**d. 2014 RAC meeting - Region 3 must host**

We would like to share some tentative plans at this summer's meeting in Burlington

Prior Region 3 meetings were hosted by St. Louis (2002 by IL & MO), Columbus (2006 by OH) and Kansas City (2010 by KS & MO).

Both Michigan and Wisconsin will check with their leadership.

**e. SCOR meeting – March 20-21**

SCOR meets next week. Tommy, Amy and Sandra are our representatives on SCOR. If there are NCHRP projects that you want them to advocate for on your behalf then send the project information along with a few sentences explaining why to Tommy, Amy and Sandra by Friday March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Review action items**

- Elevate the confusion of RPM and RPPM dual efforts to RAC leadership. Amy will raise this item at the next RAC Leadership call.
- Pooled Fund Finance Task Force - Linda has an employee who may be interested. She will check when the person returns from leave.
- Amy will email Natassja to have Bill Stone added as a Region 3 listserv member
- Cost-effectiveness of research summary - Amy will share the compiled results.
- Pooled Fund potential project – Rod will further discuss a laser under development for asphalt QC testing with Steve and Linda. Interest has been shown by TX, NY, and KS
- Admin: Cynthia will share the relationship draft by Chris Hedges
- Final Report Publication – send reports to National Transportation Library as permanent repository for transportation research
- CUTC annual meeting – consider participating in summer meeting June 20-22
- SHRP2 Implementation – consider future participation in knowledge transfer workshops
- Respond to surveys from Mark Morvant (Implementation) and Martin Pietrucha (UTCs)
- High Value of Research ideas: Due 3/28 to Tommy and Amy – policy projects highlighted
- Amy to check with Tommy – on designating a closed meeting at 2012 summer meeting
- 2014 RAC host location - Michigan and Wisconsin will check with their leadership
- SCOR meeting preparation, for NCHRP Send a few sentences to Tommy, Amy and Sandra for any projects

**10. Next meeting:** Indiana hosting conference call on Tuesday, May 8, 2012