

Region 3 RAC Conference Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2012

Tommy called the meeting to order at 3:38

Introductions

Roll Call:

- Indiana - Tommy
- Illinois - Amy
- Ohio - Cynthia
- Wisconsin - Daniel
- Missouri - Bill
- Kansas - Dave
- Minnesota - Linda
- Michigan - Steve
- Iowa – Sandra

David Kuehn, FHWA, also in attendance

Review of Task Force Membership

- Administration: IL Amy Schutzbach, OH Cynthia Gerst
- Coordination & Collaboration: MI Michael Townley, MN Linda Taylor
- Program Management & Quality: IN Tommy Nantung, MN Linda Taylor
- TKN: MO Dave Ahlvers, WI Daniel Yeh, OH Cynthia Gerst (friend)
- Value of Research: WI Daniel Yeh, MI Steve Bower, MN Linda Taylor (friend), MO Bill Stone (friend)

Approval of minutes from 5/29/12 - motion by Amy, second by Steve B. Minutes were unanimously approved

Old Business:

1. 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. *Steve, Linda and Bill have not heard anything back from Rod. Dave will get the status for that from Rod.*
2. Final Report Publication - send reports to National Transportation Library as permanent repository for transportation research. *Daniel updated from 7/23/12 - send all .pdf reports to NTL concurrently with TRID. There needs to be a process documented within NTL - defining the format, timing and requirements from each repository. TRID only wants a link. NTL wants a .pdf but no hard copy. TKN task force will complete this analysis and publish it to RAC.*
3. RPM site is available for testing - let Tommy know if you want to get an ID and password. *It is in production, rpmweb.org if you put your data in RIP then Steve Ziegler is moving that data over to the RPM site right now. In the future we will all need to maintain our own projects. Daniel will have his staff begin to use and test the site. There is some concern about access for Freedom of*

Information Act requests. There are two more years on the award, so there is a risk the database will die.

4. STRAP interest - Linda Taylor (MN), Jacqueline Kamin (WI), maybe Michigan and Iowa. Please let Tommy and Amy know if you are interested. *Mark Norman says STRAP must be TRB State Reps. Daniel will consider having Jacqueline Kamin changed to the TRB State Rep from Wisconsin. Amy and Linda are our two STRAP members. Amy has notified Mark Norman of Linda's appointment.*

5. Send the bylaws to the group. Review and self-nominate for Chair and Vice Chair. *Tommy distributed the operating guidelines from July 22, 2009. All reviewed them.*

6. Need volunteers to present on program management - innovative research management methods, processes or techniques. *Amy, Sandra and Daniel presented just before our meeting.*

7. Cost-effectiveness of research summary - Amy will share the compiled results. *Amy distributed a summary of the survey on cost-effectiveness of research. Done.*

State by State Update

Illinois: Illinois is short-staffed in research, although the Illinois Center for Transportation does manage their contract research program. They have 2 research cycles per year and want to move to one. Have a lot of projects per employee. Looking to determine the “critical mass” of the program to determine how many projects they can adequately manage with the staffing restraints.

Iowa: New Iowa DOT strategic plan is published and driving their work. Layton Christianson is the new librarian starting today. He was a long-haul trucker, then got his MS in Library Science May 2012. Restructuring is underway in their department and they are unsure of the impact on Research.

Ohio: Several recent researchers have raised contracts concerns. They are seeking boilerplate language from other states and/or FHWA, as well as understanding how flexible other states are with their research contracts.

Wisconsin: Daniel distributed his staff list; they have a simplified structure. He has a new 3 year support agreement with geotech folks. Kimberly, Jacqueline and Peg will try to motivate the WisDOT project managers.

Missouri: After right-sizing they are down to 3 from 6 people. They have moved within construction materials office. Since February 2012 there's a financial vacuum. Solicitation was Jan-April but will align the UTC cycle request for next year. Next month, there is a Value of Research statewide quarterly meeting. Bill will present on the fiscal year impact of value - at a project detail level estimating forward. He would like feedback on that presentation from the region. One page summary with a backup showing the calculations. He will send it to us. They are combining Annual Report and Work Program.

Kansas: No structure changes now, but a re-evaluation may be coming soon. They are discussing span of control issues (either manage 5 people or 0 people). Freeze-thaw concrete failures, mix was supposed to last 20 years but hasn't. Leveraging K-Tran

money as a match against UTC needs. There may be another retirement buy out later this year.

Minnesota: They're doing an RFP for a consultant visioning workshop - identifying audiences and communication plans. The customer interviews will begin soon. During the TRB annual visit they had a brown bag lunch and staff testimonials (NCHRP panels and TRB committees). They have quarterly meetings with core universities to keep the projects moving well. Other funding demands are risking her ability to fund their regular program.

Michigan: Staff reduction to 2,400 people in agency. They have three research managers in Research and one will focus partially on implementation. Recently completed a "Research Success Stories" newsletter (distributed at the meeting). They submitted 18 nominations for NCHRP panel consideration. Planning for their TRB visit in September. They're doing a library assessment, and want to leap forward to 21st century plan. Working with Michigan FHWA Division to develop specific guidelines outlining what qualifies for SPR Part II funding. Executives are asking them to involve the locals in the research program.

Indiana: Barry Partridge is the Director of DOT. Jay Wasson is Deputy Commissioner. He will add two people, up to 27 people. He's also requested a geotech engineer and may get one. April until January Tommy will train the pavements. Special investigations for materials, pavement, and bridges are added as responsibilities of the R&D. Fiscal 2013 \$5.1m for 26 projects. They still have \$1.7m uncommitted. They hired a marketing firm - thanks to Linda and Daniel for their consultation with that. Updating the research manual. Legal Division summarized MAP-21.

New Business

1. RAC Region 3 Chair and Vice Chair - election for two year term beginning 1/1/13. *Amy is nominee for Chair, Cynthia as nominee for Vice Chair. Both were elected unanimously.*
2. RAC 3 Operating Procedures and Bylaws - review and discussion
3. 2013 RAC meeting - Baton Rouge, Louisiana from July 14 - July 18, 2013
4. 2014 RAC meeting - we need to select a location in Region 3. *We recommend using Madison Concourse Hotel.*
 - a. *Region support needed for program committee*
 - b. *Create a timeline: publicity materials due July 14th at the 2013 meeting.*

Meeting adjourned at 5:48pm

Met at 6pm in lobby to get to Three Tomatoes