

AASHTO Research Advisory Committee (RAC)
Region 2 Minutes
Quarterly Conference Call
March 11, 2014

Attendees: David Jared (GDOT—Chair), Sarah Tamayo (Arkansas SHTD), Mark Morvant (LDOTD/LTRC), Darryll Dockstader (FDOT), Jason Siwula (KYTC—Kentucky Transportation Cabinet), Skip Paul (LDOTD/LTRC), Jeffrey Brown (ALDOT), Vicki Morrison (FDOT), J. Michelle Owens (ALDOT)

Minutes: The minutes for the January 2014 meeting were reviewed. After review J. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes, J. Siwula seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business

Membership News: David Jared noted that Jason Siwula was officially a RAC member. David also announced that Elisha Wright-Kehner (ASHTD) will be back for our May meeting per Sarah Tamayo. Also Stephanie Vincent is currently filling in for Sandra Hoff (TNDOT). There was no news regarding NCDOT selecting a replacement for Moy Biswas.

SCOR Update/Solicitation: David informed the committee that all votes were in and that the next meeting is March 25-26, 2014. He asked the membership if there were any proposals that Region members wanted support from the Region's SCOR members. He also noted that there is a vacancy on SCOR for Randy Battey's (ex-Mississippi DOT) position, which is a CEO position. Jim McDonnell (AASHTO) is leading the search committee to fill this position. Jeff Brown stated that he will not attend the SCOR meeting and asked about being able to call in to the meeting. He will attend the UTC conference in Atlanta which will be held at the same time. Darryll Dockstader, Joe Crabtree, Georgene Geary, and GDOT staff will also attend.

FHWA Update: No one from FHWA was able to participate in the call. David had two items: (1) FHWA plans to launch "Research 101" for its division offices. This effort is headed up by Jack Jernigan. (2) There is a pending a pooled-fund study to facilitate research peer exchanges, and this effort is being led by Cynthia Gerst (ODOT).

Southeast Transportation Consortium (STC) Update

Mark mentioned that TRB Update has funding information available. Two final reports for the STC-funded synthesis studies are posted on the STC website. Skip advised RAC membership at-large of one of these reports (re: Value of Research). The Asphalt Surface Treatment and Warm Mix Asphalt reports are not complete. Mark proposed having an October meeting for STC. David stated that he had talked with 2 states about hosting the meeting. Mark suggested that we choose a date first and said that Louisiana will be the default if no one else agrees to host the meeting.

New Business

Task Forces: David encouraged Region 2 members to get involved in RAC task forces, and to consider taking a lead role in at least one subtask that the Task Forces are managing. He noted that the PM&Q Task Force co-chair position is open. Mark reminded us of the March 31st deadline for High Value Research (“Sweet 16”) submissions. He polled the group and all Region 2 states plan to provide submittals, which is our regional goal. David will follow-up to ensure states participate especially TN, NC, and SC.

SHRP2 Updates: David informed the group that there was a Webinar scheduled for today at 2 p.m. Eastern on the Naturalistic Driving Study. Mark said that TRB was reviewing Round 3 applications. Mark also said that a session on SHRP2 had been proposed for the 2014 SASHTO meeting and asked for names of possible DOT speakers for the session. David said that he may have one and Darryll will check. It will be 3-4 projects with 30-minute presentations for each. Skip would like to see discussion of their experiences working with SHRP.

UTC Updates: Jason reported that, for the next round of UTC grants, University of Tennessee-Knoxville is the lead for the southeast region UTC and the University of Kentucky is the Research Coordinator. David noted that the current regional UTC (led by University of Florida) will have a conference in Atlanta March 24-25 and that there will be a state DOT panel.

National Research Agenda: A presentation on this was given to SCOR at its December 2013 meeting. Per Skip, there was discussion as to whether this is something SCOR should be involved in. John Halikowski, SCOR Chair, appointed a subgroup chaired by Skip to look into this and report back to SCOR. They may make funding available to support this agenda of addressing strategic transportation needs. Skip sent out a link for Special Report 313 earlier and suggested that we look at it. David said that he was impressed with the SCOR presentation and that other industries have this type of agenda. Skip noted that it came out of an international research program management SCAN tour and that other countries are doing it, e.g. the EU and some Asian countries. It brings Industry and Academia under the same roof.

Next Meeting: The next meeting date is June 10, 2014, @ 11:00 EST (404.608.4705).