

PM&Q Task Force Minutes
July 25, 2017, 1:20 PM (ET) – 2:47 pm

ATTENDEES

Joe Horton, Chair

Megan Swanson, Secretary

Members: Binh Bui, Ryan Culton, Darryl Dockstader (phone), Dave Huft, David Jared, Hafiz Munir, Ned Parrish, Hua Xiang,

Friends: Sam Cooper, Kim Davis, Diane Gurtner, Jack Jernigan, Diane Kresich, John Moulden, David Ooten, Emily Parkany, Kevin Pete, Ray Vincent

Visiting: Jason Bittner, David Kuehn, Dale Peabody

Joe Horton welcomed all attendees. Ned Parrish assisted with meeting facilitation as Joe was unable to attend, and was instead joining by phone.

A roster was passed around the meeting in order to update the PM&Q membership. An updated roster is attached.

The meeting minutes from the May meeting were approved.

SUBGROUP ACTIVITIES

Joe asked that anyone who has suggestions for the action plan or subgroups please send their ideas to him prior to the next meeting so that we can discuss them as a group. As a reminder, the focus areas are based off of the survey.

Research Implementation: Ryan Culton provided an update on a best management practices survey (attached) regarding implementation. Ned suggested sending the survey to the whole list serve. Ryan and Hafiz Munir would like to have more members on the subgroup. The group meetings bi-monthly via conference calls, and will be meeting again in August. If anyone is interested, please contact Hafiz or Ryan.

Program Management Tools: Ned provided a summary on behalf of Tommy Nantung. The new and improved TPF website is coming along well. The RPPM and High Value submittal websites are also being updated.

Personnel/Administration: Peer Exchange Project – David Jared reported that the Peer Exchange project is almost completed and that a report will be coming at the end of the year. There was much discussion about this topic.

- There was a consensus that research staff would like recommendations and best practices, not just observations. This project is not a list of what to do and what not to do. It is just information that staff can use to draw their own conclusions.
- Will FHWA update the Guidance on Peer Exchanges based off of the findings of this report? Sid Stecker shared that FHWA was not planning to, but if PM&Q had specific issues and changes

that they would like to suggest, FHWA would consider those items. There would potentially need to be a task group to look at these changes, or maybe a joint group, since this is process related.

- Joe Horton shared that he would like to see the results used for updating the Peer Exchange Guidance. John Moulden agreed that FHWA could help with better guidance for first time peer exchanges, and around discussion of reports for peer exchanges.
- Dale Peabody will be sending out a guidance on (UNKNOWN).
- Sid shared that there are concerns about too much guidance coming from the federal level, and that really slows and impacts the process of FHWA providing guidance. There would also be some concerns about a revised guidance limiting the flexibility of the states to carry out their peer exchanges.
- David J. stated that the subgroup will look into all of these issues and determine a course of action.

Staffing Levels Project (49-07) – This will focus on research staffing and skill sets combined with research performance measures. The SE Transportation Consortium and others are also working on performance measures, and this project will synthesize all of that information. There will be a synthesis underway on this issue.

Hafiz is interested in joining this subgroup.

Quality and Timeliness: Brad Overturn was not attending the meeting in person, and asked to be put on the agenda for the next meeting, in light of potential time constraints in today's agenda. Diane Kresich and Kim Davis are interested in being a part of this subgroup.

Intellectual Property: Enid White shared [NCHRP 799](#) Implementation contract has been signed to work with Illinois, Texas, and South Dakota to as a pilot on this issue. Enid also shared that [Legal Research Digest #73](#) on patent issues has been published. Enid has also been working with Elsevier on copyright issues for federally funded transportation research. Some students had been asked to sign away all of their rights to the research, which is not feasible. Students should only be signing over publishing rights to publish in various journals; nothing more. Enid is working on a handout about the difference between a license and a copyright. Emily Parkanay mentioned that CUTC is also addressing this issue.

Research Performance Measures: Ned shared that a synthesis is underway as David J. shared earlier in the meeting.

Action Plan: The group made updates to the action plan, and Bihn Bui updated the document. Please see attached. Joe will check on the deadline for submittal.

NEW BUSINESS

Research Program Management Database (RPMD): Binh presented on RPMD, a result of TPF-5(181). Diane said that the business management slide was incredibly good; not one size fits all.

INFRAVATION: David Kuehn from FHWA shared information on the [Infraction](#) demonstration showcases. GDOT is participating in-kind with some of their bridges on a project with next generation laser scanning; they have been really impressed with the 3-D modeling and believe that it could really changes the ways that bridge inspections are done. Several states mentioned that they were unaware of this effort, including states with demonstration projects. It would be very beneficial if FHWA would include AASHTO RAC in these types of projects, and did not count on the information “trickling down”. Not being aware of big projects and programs like this undermines the effectiveness of our state programs in two ways: (1) Since we are not aware, we cannot encourage participation, and (2) We are not able to disseminate any results or information for project implementation.

WRAP-UP

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm ET, and the next call will be on September 21st at 1:00 PM Eastern.