

RAC REGION 2 Meeting Notes

December 12, 2017

The following members participated in the call:

Cindy Smith
Cathy McGhee
Ann Freeman
David Jared
Elisha Wright
Joe Crabtree
Keith Platte
Darryll Dockstader
Merrill Zwanka
Tyson Rupnow
Michelle Owens
David Sherman

There was no membership news to share. A new representative from West Virginia has not been named yet. Donnie does plan to attend TRB for anyone who would like to try to catch up with him.

The minutes from the last meeting (Sept. 12) were approved.

- TRB Annual Meeting 2018
 - RAC meeting Sunday at 6:00 (January 7, 2018)—Georgetown University Room (Marriott). An informal meet and greet will begin at 5:30.
 - Region 2 meeting Monday, January 8, 2018 6:00-7:30 pm Marriott Mezz Magnolia
 - Other committee meetings (Conduct of Research – Tues 8-12 in Marriott Marquis – Liberty J, Ahead of the Curve Subcommittee, Monday 7:30-9:30 pm in Marriott Marquis – Liberty J, Technology Transfer Committee – Monday 8-12 in Marriott Marquis – Liberty J)
 - Poster/lectern sessions of interest:
 - High Value Research/Sweet 16 – Poster Session 239, Monday 8:00-9:45 am in Convention Center Hall E
 - High Value Research/Sweet 16 - Maintenance Monday 1:30-3:15 pm in Convention Center Hall E
 - Lectern Session 335 – Creating a Culture of Innovation, Monday 1:30-3:15 pm in Convention Center 152B
 - Ahead of the Curve Workshop – Thursday 8:00-noon in Convention Center 204A

- R&I Update (Dockstader/Jared)

The Special Committee on Research and Innovation has now drafted a mission statement and established four workgroups – one of which is focused on how innovation gets incorporated into state DOTs. Work group/community of practice on how innovation plays into agencies. Working groups have been given specific tasks (like accelerating the implementation of research (specifically NCHRP)).

R&I set aside \$1M to support the value assessment of NCHRP projects (support to states evaluating value). This work is underway.

R&I also provided \$1.5M to the Policy Council to distribute to committees for special and mid-cycle requests (replacing 20-7 type projects). This change will open the funding opportunity to all committees rather than just a few as was the case in the previous process. Requests for funding must be research related and must help the requesting committee achieve something specific. The original intent of the 20-7 projects was to fund “not-quite-full” research projects but over time, some committees began to view the funds as a way to do full projects in phases bypassing the NCHRP ballot process.

Value of Research project is nearing completion. All RAC members should talk this up and bring attention to it at every opportunity.

- STC Update (Rupnow)

Making progress on report. Need survey responses from VA and WV on new project priorities. Will get prioritized list out by end of the week with a plan on how many we think we can fund.

Will extend period of performance through 2018 to spend existing money and then restart with a new PFS (since we’ve been going 5 years). This should be a topic for January face to face meeting.

- Task Force Updates

- Administration (Admin)

Cindy missed the last call but Elisha participated. Updating webpages is a push at this time as is the development of the Winter meeting agenda.

- Coordination and Collaboration (C&C) – Keith stated that a work group has been started to look at how RAC can help other committees with research. Will produce 2-page how-to documents on various topics. Keith will share topics. If you are interested in joining this group, let Keith know.

- Transportation Knowledge Networks (TKN) – still working on creating digital versions of AASHTO documents. Creating a letter for the chair of R&I with concerns. There is a new committee in AASHTO dealing with knowledge transfer that is being populated now. Will connect RAC with this new group.

- Program Management & Quality (PM&Q) – Joe, scheduled to have a conference call tomorrow. Joe Horton chairing subgroup.

- Value of Research (VoR) – high value poster sessions at TRB (see above for time and location). The group is still working on strategic plan and preparing an action plan. Had a conference call with Renee McHenry and Natassja Linzau – pulling together timeline for submittal process. Also working on updating the website (minutes not there now).

- UTC Update (Everyone) – regional meeting had highest state participation of the 5 that have occurred. Had a panel session about how states can engage universities.

- Assisting Region 3 with 2018 RAC summer meeting planning – Joe has been helping them from a budget standpoint. Pretty well on track.

- Items for RAC Leadership call on Thursday 12/14 – no one had anything for this call

- Peer Exchanges—Recent & Upcoming – Cindy was planning a combined exchange with Kentucky and Arkansas. Will push to next year.

- Mentor/Mentee – If anyone is interested in being mentored or being a mentee, they should let Cindy know.

- Other Business – AASHTO would like to capture what states are doing with respect to innovation. They are interested in information on conferences, showcases, etc. that states may have hosted. Essentially any opportunity that states have used to highlight new “things”. Share with Keith what you have, particularly any videos that could be shared.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45.