

## RAC REGION 2 Meeting Notes

March 13, 2018

- Welcome and roll call
  - *Cindy Smith*
  - *Michelle Owens*
  - *Ron Johnson*
  - *Darryll Dockstader*
  - *David Jared*
  - *Tyson Rupnow*
  - *Neil Mastin*
  - *Terry Swygert*
  - *Joe Crabtree*
  - *Sam Cooper*
- Membership News
  - *Jason Siwula officially named assistant state highway engineer*
- Old Business
  - Minutes from last meeting
    - *David Jared noted a change in notes – Ahead of the Curve is now a joint subcommittee.*
    - *Heading on notes should say Notes, not agenda*
    - *Notes were approved, pending these changes.*
  - Other?
- Research Website Info (Natassja's email of 3/2/18)
  - *New ticket system ([mytrb@nas.edu](mailto:mytrb@nas.edu)) for postings/help – Cindy has used and it works well and quickly*
  - *New and improved!! Pooled fund site ([www.pooledfund.org](http://www.pooledfund.org)) – new tabs allow a quick look at all commitments by a given state.*
- R&I Update (Dockstader/Jared)
  - *Domestic scan – is anyone requesting membership? NCHRP 20-68A. AASHTO solicitation for new but limited deployment strategies or technology. Typically get 10-12 requests per year. Oversight Panel meets and selects topics. Putting more emphasis on purposeful implementation (outcomes of scans).*
  - *Committee will be meeting at the end of the month. Looking for projects that states in the region might want David/Daryll to advocate for when the committee meets.*
  - *Synthesis panel – David will bring up the issue of perhaps increasing the funds available for syntheses given the other changes in funding.*
  - *Creating a culture of innovation (session at annual meeting) – GDOT folks were very excited. NCHRP 20-108 – GDOT looking forward to implementing.*
- RAC Update
  - Summer meeting
    - *Meeting information is online. Members should make travel plans.*
  - Possible RAC/CUTC meeting Thursday morning of RAC Summer meeting
    - *Attempting to breathe some life into the concept of a more active engagement between the two groups. No confirmation that a space has been secured for the*

*summer RAC meeting. CUTC is working hard to work state DOTs into their meetings and we should reciprocate.*

- - RAC Task Forces
    - Administration
      - Winter meeting 2018 survey
        - *Generally favorable feedback on the meeting. Good feedback on the networking session before the meeting. One person noted that they didn't know anyone and no one spoke to them. Need to be better about welcoming new folks.*
      - Check your state DOT fact sheet
        - *Everyone should check their fact sheets and submit any updates.*
    - Coordination and Collaboration (C&C)
      - *Transportation Knowledge Networks (TKN)—letter to Brian Ness at R&I meeting*
    - Program Management & Quality (PM&Q)
      - *Had last conference call Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. Next call is later this week. 5 subgroups (Research Implementation, Program Management Tools, Personnel & Administration, Quality and Timeliness of Research Deliverables, and Intellectual Property)*
      - Research Implementation Subgroup
        - *Developed a new charter that has been distributed to the members of the subgroup. Will be having quarterly conference calls and are planning a session for summer meeting.*
      - *NCHRP 49-07 – Research Management – David will give update on next call.*
      - *Peer Exchange report – should be out very soon.*
      - Ahead of the Curve (Jared)
        - *Workshop at Annual Meeting went well. Webinars for elective courses will be coming out soon. Plan is to wrap up first training cycle later this year. Core course will be offered on Sunday before the summer meeting. Big issue on the table now is where it will reside and who will maintain. Have a prospect and Skip Paul is working on this. Some states (e.g. Utah) have used the materials and developed their own training.*
    - Value of Research (VoR)
      - *HVR Submissions due March 31*
      - *Bill Stone guidance, also available on website*
      - *Task force webinar to show submittal procedures on 3/14*
  - STC Update (Rupnow)—Kirk Zeringue's email
    - *Please respond to email ASAP. Tyson will ask for a clarification email today.*
    - *Tyson has spent quite a bit of time digging into the financial status of the PFS. Several other PFS have charged to this study. \$100k+ in charges should have hit a PFS that was closed and money returned to participating states. Accounting has committed to putting the money back but it hasn't happened yet.*
- UTC Update (Everyone)
  - *Pleased with efforts to strengthen relationship between RAC and CUTC. Talking about a possible MOU between the two groups which would further strengthen the relationship.*

- Items for next RAC leadership call
  - *On last call, John Moulden mentioned that FHWA was going to start visiting Divisions and would also try to visit the states.*
- Peer Exchanges—Recent & Upcoming
  - *NC hoping to get report out in the next week or two. Will post to RAC site.*
  - *South Carolina planning a Peer Exchange - Value and Quality of Research Projects – August 28-30.*
  - *Alabama, Arkansas, and Kentucky still hoping to have a joint peer exchange in June but plans are incomplete at this time.*
- Mentor/Mentee
  - *If there are any new members, let Cindy or Michelle know and they will arrange for a mentor.*
- Other Business?
  - TRB Sessions
    - *Neil is now on the TRB Conduct of Research Committee.*
- Adjourn
  - *The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 eastern.*