

RAC REGION 2 Meeting Notes

January 8, 2018--6:00-7:30 pm

Marriott Marquis Magnolia (Mezzanine Level) Room—Washington, DC

- Welcome and roll call
 - For meeting attendance, see page 4.
- Membership News
 - Curtis Bradley has joined North Carolina DOT from Massachusetts (new to Region 2 but not RAC)
 - Gehan Elsayed will be overseeing the section head who will have research in West Virginia. That section head has not been hired yet.
- Old Business
 - Minutes from last meeting – Tyson moved that they be approved and Elisha seconded.
 - Other?
- TRB Annual Meeting 2018
 - RAC meeting Sunday at 6:00 (January 7, 2018)—items of interest/feedback for Admin Task force and RAC leadership – People felt the meeting last night was better than in recent years
 - Other committee meetings (Conduct of Research, Technology Transfer, etc.)
 - Session 335—*Creating a Culture of Innovation*—Monday, January 9—1:30 pm
 - RAC 2017 High-Value Research Poster Sessions—Sweet 16 and Supplemental (Monday)
 - Ahead of the Curve Workshop (Thursday morning) – open to anyone/Task Group Meeting
 - Other poster/lectern sessions of interest?
 - Committee membership rotation/involvement and engagement
 - Neil attended a CAV session that he felt was very informative. Tony Seba spoke about how people fail when they fail to plan for change.
 - Darryll is rotating off the Domestic Scan committee and believes they'll be looking for a Region 2 representative
- R&I Update (Dockstader/Jared)
 - Strategic Plan
 - Committee Restructure
 - NCHRP Ballots/March 2018 meeting
 - David believes the restructuring will strengthen SC R&I
 - The discontinuation of committee specific funds (20-7, 20-25) generated considerable discussion but was determined to be the best route in the end.
 - Jason would like to have a serious conversation about not only increasing the funding available for synthesis studies as well as other smaller projects that committees previously did with the 20-7, 20-25 funds.
 - If there are projects that anyone wants to specifically lobby for, send note to David and Darryll.
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- High-Value Research Submissions
 - Usually due March 31
 - Bill Stone/VoR Task Force to send out instructions
 - RAC website also has guidance

- Everyone should be thinking about what projects they want to nominate. This is a great opportunity to showcase research and the value of research.
- STC Update (Rupnow)
 - Tyson is experiencing some challenges with the financial system that manages the PFS that they lead. Charges were levied against the project that weren't associated with this project. Right now, we have no available balance so we'll have to wait to start any new efforts until the problem is resolved. Should have about \$250k available once the issues are resolved.
 - The work being done by West Virginia will be completed and paid for. Should have a draft by late February or early March that we can vet. David would like to have the work presented at either the summer meeting or next year's TRB meeting. It represents a good mix of qualitative and quantitative measures. Cindy will get with Rick to see if we can get on the summer meeting agenda. Neil mentioned that NC is also finishing their internal study and could also present. Looked at "predictive performance" – can this project succeed?
- Task Force Updates
 - Administration (Admin)
 - RAC 101 has been updated. Would really like feedback from anyone willing to provide.
 - Will be sending a survey again for feedback on the RAC meeting.
 - Coordination and Collaboration (C&C) – need to get someone involved in this (cathy will join – send Sue Sillick a note)
 - Transportation Knowledge Networks (TKN)
 - AASHTO digital network challenges
 - Program Management & Quality (PM&Q)
 - Joe Crabtree will be co-chair. Joe Horton is chair and will soon have more time to devote to it.
 - Research and Implementation subgroup – give implementation a home under the AASHTO banner. Will be working to define a focus.
 - Personnel and Admin Subgroup
 - Peer exchange review report is done and should be out soon.
 - Skill sets of researchers combined with performance measures has been taken up as a synthesis topic (49-07)
 - Value of Research (VoR)
 - Cleaning up website. Watch for email about HVR solicitation
- UTC Update (Everyone)
 - NC had a UTC roundtable. Will be following up with the universities. Membership on UTC advisory boards helps them provide "practicality" check. Considering initiating a NC UTC-like program with state money.
 - David attended the STRIDE conference in Florida in mid-November. Primarily focused on CAV. Really thoughtful student presentations. Presentations available online. David will send link.
- Items for next RAC leadership call
 - Some clarification on new NCHRP processes
- Peer Exchanges—Recent & Upcoming
 - Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama will be having a joint peer exchange
 - Kentucky will be having a local peer exchange as well

- Mentor/Mentee
 - If anyone is interested in having a mentor, just ask Cindy or Michelle
- Other Business?
 - Tyson is looking for 2 concrete researchers. Entry level (EIT) to managers.
- Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm (Tyson moved, Elisha seconded)

RAC Region 2 Meeting 1/8/18

Name	Organization	Email
Cindy Smith	Mississippi DOT	cjsmith@mdot.ms.gov
Rhea Vincent	Mississippi DOT	vincent@mdot.ms.gov
Cathy McGhee	Virginia DOT	Cathy.mcghee@vdot.virginia.gov
Donny Williams	West Virginia DOT	Donald.l.williams@wv.dot
Elisha Wright-Kehner	Arkansas DOT	Elisha.wright-kehner@ardot.gov
Neil Mastin	North Carolina DOT	jmastin@ncdot.gov
Tyson Rupnow	Louisiana DOTD	Tyson.Rupnow@la.gov
Joe Crabtree	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet/University of Kentucky	Joe.crabtree@uky.edu
Jason Siwula	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet	Jason.siwula@ky.gov
Ron Johnson	Alabama DOT	johnsonrl@dot.state.al.us
Curtis T. Bradley	North Carolina DOT	Cbradley8@ncdot.gov
David Jared	Georgia DOT	djared@dot.ga.gov
Sam Cooper	Louisiana DOTD	Samuel.cooper@la.gov
Darryll Dockstader	Florida DOT	Darryll.dockstader@dot.state.fl.us
Michelle Owens	Alabama DOT	owensm@dot.state.al.us
Binh Bui	Georgia DOT	bbui@dot.ga.gov
Supriya Kamatkar	Georgia DOT	skamatkar@dot.ga.gov
Gehan Elsayed	West Virginia DOT	Gehan.m.elsayed@wv.gov