

Meeting Minutes

Date	7-23-18	Time	10:30 am CT
Facilitator	Rick Kreider	Secretary	Megan Swanson
Subject	Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Region 3 Meeting		
Attendees	<p>Member states attending:</p> <p>Illinois – Megan Swanson Iowa – Brian Worrel, Khyle Clute, Peggi Knight Kansas – Rick Kreider Michigan – Carol Aldrich Minnesota – Linda Taylor and Hafiz Munir Missouri – Jennifer Harper, Renee McHenry and Bill Stone Ohio – Vicky Fout Wisconsin – Diane Gurtner and Lynn Hanus</p> <p>Guests: Jason Bittner (ARA), Chris Hedges and Natassja Linzau (NAS), Brian Hurt (CTC and Assoc.), Jack Jernigan and David Pamplin (FHWA), Dale Peabody (ME)</p>		

Key Points Discussed		
No.	Topic	Highlights
1.	Review Agenda/Roll Call	<p>Roll call attendance marked above. Linda Taylor will be retiring in December, and Cynthia Jones has taken a new position at Ohio DOT. They will be missed.</p> <p>The group discussed that the group will go back to meeting every other month for our regular region meetings. We will hold collaboration calls in the “off” months. The collaboration group will discuss the goals and expectations for their calls.</p>
2	Annual Meeting Planning	<p>Kudos to Rick Kreider, Brian Worrel, and all Region 3 members who helped with planning this meeting. Everyone agreed that the meeting was going well so far, and that Wichita was a surprisingly good location.</p> <p>Brian took updates for the annual report and presentation.</p>
3.	General Updates	<p>Value of Research (VOR) – The group discussed concerns with limiting the number of proposals that could be submitted. After much discussion, the group decided that the states may submit as many projects as they want, but that only the first 4 projects will be reviewed and in contention for High Value Research and the supplemental brochures. Additionally, the VOR website will be updated to <i>require</i> that topics are assigned to each eligible submittal. This will be further discussed in the VOR group.</p> <p>Reauthorization White Paper – Carol Aldrich and Jen Harper do not want to lead this effort but are happy to work as part of the team who is drafting it.</p> <p>David Pamplin provided an update on the Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) program and the state visits. There was a discussion about a summary of how much SPR A & B funds are allocated to each state annually. While we used to get this each year, it has not been sent out for the last year or two. Everyone agreed that this is necessary information for the states to receive and asked that this summary be reinstated. Bill Stone will send a copy that he received through another project to the region for their information. David will track down who is responsible for creating and sending this handout. There was also a discussion of how non-federal funds (e.g. in kind donations) are applied and tracked.</p> <p>Chris Hedges discussed updates on TRB and NCHRP. It was suggested that the NCHRP regular and synthesis panel member solicitations and voting at the same time. Chris will look into this. Currently, the member solicitations take place quasi-concurrently, with the process overlapping but with different time frames. This is</p>

Key Points Discussed		
No.	Topic	Highlights
		<p>confusing for people in the state DOTs and can make it more difficult for Research Coordinators to solicit nominations.</p> <p>Natassja Linzau discussed the old and new websites, and when the old website will be taken down.</p> <p>Jen and Renee McHenry discussed the AASHTO Publications Issue. States need to keep this discussion going with their CEOs, because AASHTO does not seem to understand the problems that the new process is causing, especially for DOTs with centralized information management processes. When professional librarians have difficulties in appropriately disseminating the information, AASHTO should listen. Tech support should be a part of these discussions, because the AASHTO staff does not understand how simple some of the fixes may be. This has become a big and contentious issue, and there is a high level of frustration on the DOT side. Chris Hedges will also review this issue and will discuss it with AASHTO staff. Jen and Renee will provide him with additional information.</p> <p>Dale Peabody shared information on the Research and Innovation Strategic Plan. Brian will send it out to all of the region.</p> <p>Diane Gurtner is putting together a listing of what the other states are doing to manage their research programs and how much funding they receive. Anyone who has not responded to this survey should do so.</p> <p>Linda Taylor provided the group with handouts on several MNDOT projects.</p> <p>An election of officers for the next two-year term was held. The following people will begin their roles at the TRB Annual Meeting in January 2019:</p> <p>Brian Worrel – Chair Megan Swanson – Vice-Chair Diane Gurtner – Secretary</p> <p>Members expressed a huge and sincere thanks to Rick Kreider for his work for and commitment to Region 3, and for hosting the summer meeting.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:54.</p>
4.	Next Conference Call	September 11, 2018 @ 1:30

Action Items			
No.	Action Item	Owner	Target Date
	The collaboration group will discuss the goals and expectations for their calls.		
	Bill Stone will send a copy of SPR A and B funding that he received through another project to the region for their information.		
	David will track down who is responsible for creating and sending the SPR A and B funding handout.		
	Chris Hedges will also review the AASHTO Publications issue and will discuss it with AASHTO		

	staff. Jen and Renee will provide him with additional information.		
	Brian will send the R&I Strategic Plan out to all of the region.		
	Please respond to the WisDOT survey if you haven't already done so.		