



Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2012

Cottage Grove City Hall

4:00 p.m.

Commission Members	Agency	Present
Joe Harris	Dakota County RRA	X
Autumn Lehrke	Washington County RRA	X
Janice Rettman	Ramsey County RRA	X
Mark Stenglein	Hennepin County RRA	X
Barb Hollenbeck	City of Hastings	X
Jen Peterson	City of Cottage Grove	X
Myron Bailey	City of Cottage Grove	
	City of St. Paul Park	
Steve Gallagher	City of Newport	
Kathy Higgins	Denmark Township	
Jim Keller	Denmark Township	
Cam Gordon	City of Minneapolis	
Amy Brendmoen	City of St. Paul	X

Alternate Commission Member	Agency	Present
Liz Workman	Dakota County	

Ex-Officio Members	Agency	
Ron Allen	Goodhue County	
Bob Kastner	City of Red Wing	
Marc Mogan	Prairie Island Indian Community	
Ken Bjornstad	Goodhue County	X

Staff	Agency	Present
Andy Gitzlaff	Washington County RRA	X
Josh Olson	Ramsey County RRA	X
Sam O'Connell	Dakota County RRA	
Adele Hall	Hennepin County RRA	X

Others	Agency
Ruby Larson	SAHS
Carl Jensen	MN DOT
William Reynolds	Kimley-Horn and Associates
Sarah Ott	Kimley-Horn and Associates
Kristin Petersen	Hay Dobbs

Joe Mornenu	DCRRA
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The meeting was video recorded and can be viewed online at:

http://swctc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=3569

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Harris welcomed new member, Amy Brendmoen of St. Paul.

Agenda Item #1: Election of Officers

Peterson nominated Harris as Chairperson and second by Lehrke. No other nominations. Rettman motioned to approve nomination of Harris as Chairperson. Second by Hollenbeck. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Lehrke nominated Peterson as Vice-Chairperson and second by Stenglein. No other nominations. Stenglein motioned to approve Peterson as Vice-Chairperson. Second by Brendmoen. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #2: Consent Items

- a. **Minutes of the November 17, 2011 Meeting**
- b. **Checks and Claims**

Note: Items as presented in packet, no additions or changes

Motion made by Hollenbeck to approve the consent items. Second by Peterson. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #3: 2012 Workplan and Budget Approval - WCRRA

Gitzlaff provided an update and highlights since last session; there were five (5) main updates as listed in the memo with the packet. In the Budget section, Gitzlaff noted that on page 4 of the packet, \$20,000 will be held in reserve with the remaining balance to be carried over to this budget, bringing down the member dues for this year. Gitzlaff reviewed the Accounting Summary for the Red Rock Corridor Commission. The Accounting Summary was provided as a handout at the meeting and is for the Period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Gitzlaff also noted in the Fund Balance section there were dates other than 2011, and they should all be 2011.

Lehrke expressed her concern with Draft item number 2. Advocacy and Legislative Coordination, specifically #5 Advocating for High-Speed Rail Funding at the State and Federal level. Lehrke expressed concern "if advocacy should be an item contained in this workplan because advocacy is covered in another committee."

Rettman believes that “High Speed Rail will affect the Red Rock Communities” and that it belongs in this workplan.

Hollenbeck stated that she believes “Advocacy should remain in the plan.”

Lehrke believes the community will not really benefit from High Speed Rail right now; and later in this agenda there will be discussion on exploring bus transit options, plus “advocacy is addressed in another committee.”

Harris stated that “in order for the Red Rock Corridor project to be successful it hinges on High Speed Rail; and advocacy is just one small item of many and not the number one item.” Harris expressed that “advocacy should continue to be a part of the project because the rail will go right through this area; and if you are for, or against it, you will be better off at the table” and he “doesn’t see that there is really a choice; to be successful you need to also be an advocate.”

Motion made by Rettman to approve the 2012 Workplan and Budget as presented. Second by Stenglein.

Rettman expressed appreciation for Gitzlaff’s efforts with providing them financial information at this time. Gitzlaff asked for a point of clarification, that there was no text amendment to the workplan; and Harris responded that was correct.

Chairperson Harris called for a Roll Call Vote: **Commissioner’s Stenglein, Rettman, Lehrke, Harris, Peterson, and Hollenbeck in favor. Commissioner Brendmoen abstained.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4: Advanced AA Study Option - WCRRA

Gitzlaff summarized and reviewed the pros and cons of the four (4) options included with the meeting packet. Gitzlaff stated that staff met and recommends in addition to continuing the advocacy as outlined in option D, that the Commission pursue, Option B and the main reason being the scope and cost is much less, taking less time to complete, and it allows the commission to make more informed strategic action. Gitzlaff said the next step will be framing out a scope of work and funding for the option chosen.

Rettman inquired as to how soon they could receive the Advanced AA Study Option B information be presented to them.

Gitzlaff said that staff can put together a schedule for the next meeting, and the schedule could include scope of work, funding update, expected release of RFP, and when they might have a consultant on board.

Lehrke stated that “Option B is a great choice” and she serves on **CTIB GEARS** Committee and the cost of HSR is much higher than BRT in metro, and she provided the 2012 transit operating cost for each of the following: “Cedar Avenue BRT \$667,000; I35W BRT

\$825,000; Northstar Commuter Rail \$17,283,000' and that is why she thinks that 'they need to look into BRT and see if it is a viable option for this corridor.'

Motion by Stenglein to approve staff's recommendation for Option B. Seconded by Lehrke All **in favor**. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5: Support for East Metro Rail Capacity Improvements

Gitzlaff presented the proposed Resolutions that support the submittal of the FY 2012 TIGER grant funding and the use of state bond funds.

- a. **RCRRA TIGER III Application Submittal (Reso. 2012-1)**
- b. **RCRRA State Bond Fund Request (Reso. 2012-2)**

Motion made by Rettman to approve Reso. 2012-1 and 2012-2. Seconded by Hollenbeck. In favor, Hollenbeck, Peterson, Brendmoen, Rettman, and Stenglein. Opposed, Lehrke. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #6: New Starts Notice of Rule Changing

Gitzlaff reviewed information contained in the memo included with the packet, stating that the FTA published the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the New Starts/Small Starts Program and that comments are due on March 26, 2012. The FTA is looking to streamline and simplify the project development process and that staff from the Counties will be submitting comments through the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB.)

Rettman asked if the **CTIB** compilation will be provided to the counties and RRCC. Gitzlaff will get copies of what is submitted and he can forward on to the RRCC. Counties could also submit their own comments. Rettman suggested that comments from RRCC be submitted also.

Agenda Item #7 Legislative Update – RCRRA

Josh Olson of Ramsey County summarized activity to date.

- a. **State**, Legislature is just in session; too early at this point for much to report. Olson will continue to monitor the transportation front and the Bonding Bill. Olson mentioned that the Southwest Corridor was part of the Governor's Bonding Bill.
- b. **Federal**, there are (3) different versions of the transportation bill right now; and the President's transportation bill is \$47 Billion towards HSR over 6 years and is different from both house and the senate versions. The House version is far less and a shorter time frame. The Senate bill is (2) years and \$110 Billion. Olson stated that it is very early, but so far there are positive progress steps. Olson stated that it is a major election year they may not see a final resolution of a major transportation bill this year.

Agenda Item #8 Other

a. Next Meeting- Thursday, March 29, 2012:

Gitzlaff displayed a copy of the final planning station reports as the results of the two year study by of Hay Dobbs, Kristin Petersen present; copies were provided during the meeting of the final newsletter that includes station area plans; and at end of June the Commission will have to decide what to do with the RedRockRail.org website and how to continue on, and to what capacity with the money that is budgeted. Staff can make copies of the report if someone wishes to receive a copy.

Commission Chairperson, Harris asked if copies of the brochure would be available to each of the Cities. Gitzlaff stated there will be about 50 copies for each city and that it would also be available to view on the County's website.

Harris thanked Kristin and the Hay Dobbs firm for their hard work.

Peterson asked if anyone would be attending the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission meeting. Harris answered, that he and Gitzlaff are planning to attend.

Rettman expressed concern that they continue to move forward on issues and the main purpose of the Red Rock Commission.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2012.

Motion by Stenglein to adjourn. Seconded by Lehrke. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.