

Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB)  
June 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Approved by WTAB : 6/26/2018

The meeting of the Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB) was called to order at 1:00 pm on June 5, 2018, at the KY Transportation Cabinet Office Building at 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40622.

The WTAB members in attendance were:

Greg Curlin, Chairman  
Brian Wright

Greg Pritchett  
Norb Whitlock

Also in attendance were:

Bill Miller, Paducah Riverport  
Carol Brent, KYTC  
Lynn Soporowski, KYTC

Michelle Whitehouse, Louisville Riverport  
Jeremy Edgeworth, KYTC  
Gordon Slone, KY Office of the Attorney General

**Welcome and Introductions:**

All attendees introduced themselves.

**Public Comment Period:**

The Chair invited attendees to make comments.

Bill Miller commented that Section 164 of the Kentucky Constitution needs to be changed as it restricts any franchise being granted by a county, city, town, taxing district or other municipality for a term greater than twenty years.

**Presentation of Minutes from May 23, 2017 meeting**

The minutes of the May 23, 2017 meeting were presented and subsequently approved on motion of Greg Pritchett, seconded by Norb Whitlock.

**Discussion of statewide and KYTC purchasing/procurement information availability**

Greg Pritchett told the Board he had spoken with the KYTC construction procurement people who told him about statewide price contracts that do not have to go out for bid. Among the items available through these projects are equipment such as the loader he was looking for, trucks, computers, or concrete and asphalt. The riverports have the option of using these statewide contracts. Carol provided materials on statewide procurement resources, recommending the ports download the list of Master Agreements on a regular basis and the online information be consulted before contracting. Bill Miller reported that he had used a statewide contract for pickup trucks. An issue with contract compliance has been whether the contractors hired had been prequalified by KYTC. Information on contractor pre-qualified status is also readily available online.

**2018 awardees update WTAB on status/success of 2018 KRI projects**

The Chair invited representatives from riverports with incomplete 2018 KRI projects to discuss the status of their projects.

Bill Miller (Paducah Riverport) – Conveyor Refurbishment

The project was completed in November. The port used the Kentucky advertising procedure through the Department of Finance which goes to all statewide (or out-of-state) bidders and did not cost the ports anything as opposed to ads in local papers which may cost as much as \$1,000.

Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport) – Truck\Trailer Staging Area

The project is a little more than 75% complete. There have been issues with moisture and it has rained nearly every week so paving is not yet complete. The port plans to complete the project in the next two weeks. Owensboro has been using the available 75% since November which allowed them to move trailers from the terminal area to the warehouse area, greatly improving efficiency.

Lynn Soporowski (Louisville Riverport) – Railroad Tie Replacement

The project was inspected two weeks ago. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> round of tie replacements for the Louisville riverport.

Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport) – Conveyor upgrade

The conveyor system was completely reworked and the port began to use it in January. As the work progressed, it was discovered that the system was getting close to breaking down. The conveyor is now processing some 75-80 trucks per day.

#### **Conflicts of Interest for Board Members**

Prior to discussion of KRI projects, Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Statement forms were distributed to and completed by WTAB members. On motion by Greg Pritchett with second by Brian Wright, the Board agreed that there was no conflict of interest for any Board members even though they may have projects under consideration for funding.

#### **Program Procedural Updates**

The request for applications went out before the Kentucky budget was approved. The Governor did not publish his veto of the “maintenance of access” qualification for projects until two days before applications were due. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Greg Pritchett seconded by Brian Wright that project do not have to be limited to “maintenance of access” or dredging.

Attendees discussed the guidance document for the Kentucky Riverport Improvement Program, especially regarding criteria for eligibility for funding. Some changes may be required based on the changes to the funding language. Are there other project types that should be included as eligible? For example, should Master Plans or real estate transactions be included as eligible projects? Preservation or increase in employment and revenue should qualify a project. However, office furniture should not be eligible. Equipment that moves and storage facilities may be eligible. Paving of roads to reduce dust would be eligible as a necessary part of business. Need to be able to quantify any needs in order to have a viable data-driven process, the same way that KYTC prioritizes the roadway funds.

#### **Review and Prioritization of FY 2018 Kentucky Riverport Improvement applications**

Five applications were received for the \$500,000 funding available through the FY 2019 KRI grant program. The applications requested \$351,280 in funding. Link to the KYTC presentation detailing the submitted project applications:

[http://transportation.ky.gov/Riverports/Documents/WTAB\\_FY18/Meetings/2017-05-23%20WTAB%20Presentation.pdf](http://transportation.ky.gov/Riverports/Documents/WTAB_FY18/Meetings/2017-05-23%20WTAB%20Presentation.pdf)

Riverport	Project	Total Cost	Requested
Hickman	Dock Dredging	\$64,800	\$32,400
Hickman	Dock Forklift	\$58,050.00	\$29,025.00
Louisville	Railroad Rehab #5	\$212,050.00	\$106,025.00
Owensboro	Improve Access Roads	\$192,660.00	\$96,330.00
Paducah	Equipment & Accessories for COB Project	\$427,000.00	\$87,500.00
<i>Total</i>		\$954,560.00	\$351,280.00

**Project Eligibility discussion:**

Jeremy Edgeworth distributed a Project Eligibility Ballot to each WTAB member and Board members rated each as eligible for funding.

**Project Prioritization discussion:**

Chair Curlin requested WTAB members cast their votes for prioritization of the projects, stating projects are to be ranked 1 through 5. After calculating the total score for each project, and ranking the projects by their total score, the funding was prioritized as follows.

1. Hickman – Dock Dredging – KRI Funding: \$32,400
2. Louisville – Railroad Rehab #5 – KRI Funding: \$106,025
3. Owensboro – Improve Gravel Access Roads – KRI Funding: \$96,330
4. Paducah – Container on Barge – KRI Funding: \$87,500
5. Hickman – Dock Forklift – KRI Funding: \$29,025

Applicant	Project	Total Cost	KRI Request	WTAB Score	WTAB Rank	WTAB Funding
Hickman	Dock Dredging	\$64,800	\$32,400	4	1	\$32,400
Louisville	Railroad Rehab #5	\$212,050	\$106,025	9	2	\$106,025
Owensboro	Improve Gravel Access Roads	\$192,660	\$96,330	12	3	\$96,330
Paducah	Container on Barge	\$427,000	\$87,500	17	4	\$87,500
Hickman	Dock Forklift	\$58,050	\$29,025	18	5	\$29,025
		\$954,560	\$351,280		<b>Total:</b>	\$351,280
					<b>Remaining:</b>	\$148,720

On motion by Greg Pritchett with second from Norb Whitlock, the Board agreed to recommend the projects as prioritized to the Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet. \$148,720 has not been recommended for use on riverport improvement projects.

**Other Discussions:**

Ports will not receive funding for recommended projects until at least July because the State is implementing a new accounting system. Lynn reminded the Board that any unspent funds will return to the General Fund. The group discussed methods to reduce the time lag in getting the contracts to letting because it creates a time crunch in completing the projects before asphalt plants close down for the winter. Advertisements for bids may be done without a contract in place (although KYTC would prefer to see the ad prior to publication because there have been audit issues with the ads.) Using the Master Agreement for concrete or asphalt could reduce the bidding time. Notice to Proceed will be issued once the selected contractor pre-qualification status has been verified.

Greg Pritchett noted that a purpose of the WTAB is to advise the Governor. He suggested that WTAB write a letter of recommendation to the Governor indicating remaining funds should either be used as in-kind services or be available for spending for engineering issues for the Boyd County riverport as it prepares for the opening of Braidy Industries. Gordon Slone, the Board's attorney, suggested that recommendation is outside the expertise of the Board. The sense of the Board is Boyd County could submit an application for the next round of applications under the current guidelines.

Greg Curlin noted the riverports have an asset at the Corps of Engineers in Arty James, who grew up in Hickman, lived much of his life in Missouri and is now Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

There will be another call for projects with applications (preferably electronic) due by noon June 21, 2018. WTAB scheduled a meeting for 10:00 AM June 26, 2018 at Paducah to review the applications.

There being no further business, on motion of Norb Whitlock, and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Submitted:

Jeremy Edgeworth & Carol Brent  
Water Transportation Advisory Board Staff, KYTC