

Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB)
May 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Approved by WTAB (date): 10/3/2019

The meeting of the Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB) was called to order at 1:02 pm on May 9, 2019 at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office Building Conference Center, Frankfort, Kentucky.

The WTAB members in attendance were:

Greg Curlin, Chairman
Brian Wright
Steve Alley
Wayne Cassady

Greg Pritchett
Norb Whitlock
Nickie Smith

Also in attendance were:

Chad Dorsey, MARAD
Mikael Pelfrey, KYTC
Joe Crabtree, KTC
Chris Dickinson, Greater Louisville Inc.
Gordon Slone, KY Office of the Attorney General

Jeremy Edgeworth, KYTC
Michelle Whitehouse, Louisville Riverport
Bryan Gibson, KTC

Welcome and Introductions:

All attendees introduced themselves.

Public Comment Period:

The Chair invited attendees to make comments. None were made.

Presentation of Minutes from June 26, 2018

The minutes of the June 26, 2018 meeting were presented and subsequently unanimously approved on motion of Norb Whitlock, seconded by Brian Wright.

Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair

The last election of WTAB officers occurred on July 14, 2016 thus the officers 2 year terms had ended. The former Vice Chair had resigned from the board previously and the Chair indicated he did not want to be nominated to serve again. Chair entertained nominations for Chair first, and then Vice Chair. Steve Alley nominated Greg Pritchett as Chair, seconded by Brian Wright. No other nominations for Chair were made. Board voted unanimously for Greg Pritchett as new Chair. Greg Pritchett then nominated Brian Wright as Vice Chair, Steve Alley seconded nomination. No other nominations for Vice Chair were made. Board voted unanimously for Brian Wright as new Vice Chair. Greg Pritchett asked that Greg Curlin continue to chair this meeting and he will assume duties at the next meeting.

Introduction of Chad Dorsey, MARAD

The Maritime Administration recently opened a gateway office in Paducah and Chad Dorsey was appointed Director. Chad provided the board with his background and his area of responsibility which includes all of the Ohio River, tributaries and down to Memphis. His role is to support infrastructure projects in the waterways industry and MARAD grant programs.

Update on Status of Open and FY 19 KRI projects

Jeremy Edgeworth presented a PowerPoint presentation of open and FY 19 KRI projects and invited representatives from the Riverports to discuss the status of their projects.

Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport) Crane Bridge Resurface-Work was able to be done at much less estimated cost due to work crews already in the area from another job. This left \$36,000 in excess funds. Originally looked at a bridge walkway project but estimates came in too high. Looking at moving remaining funds to a new Warehouse Restoration project.

Jeremy Edgeworth-Paducah Riverport Conveyor Refurbishment-Replaced a number of the conveyor belts on the port. Work is completed and the project is closed.

Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-Truck Trailer Staging Area-Work is completed and project is closed. Became a very critical piece on the port and one of the best grant funded project they have done. Newly paved area allows efficient movement of trailers from new staging area to the loading docks.

Michelle Whitehouse (Louisville Riverport)-Railroad Rehab #4-Work involved replacing ties on Riverport to maintain rail access. Work has been completed.

Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-Improvement in Access Roads-Project involved expanding paved areas that were getting rutted by truck traffic. Also added truck lane to allow better access to scales and widened pavement for turning radius for trucks. Work has been completed and project is closed.

Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Dock Dredging-Dredging done in front of the dock area to allow access. Work was done in last July, but funds were left over due to silting not being as severe as anticipated. Funds are being moved to new Warehouse Restoration project.

Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Dock Forklift-Project is to replace the existing worn forklift. Size of forklift is limited by size of crane bridge and lifting capacity. Bid packet has been completed and they have been receiving bids.

Michelle Whitehouse (Louisville Riverport)-Riverport Rail Tie Replacement-Project continues work of Railroad Rehab #4 and replaces additional ties to hold gage of 13 miles of track owned by Riverport. Condition of track has caused CSX shutdowns of service. Construction beginning on May 27th.

Jeremy Edgeworth-Paducah Riverport Container on Barge project-Project involves purchasing container on barge equipment. Upon soliciting bids, was able to find some equipment that could serve dual purpose and received no bids on other pieces of equipment. Paducah Riverport has requested to modify the contract to reduce the equipment being purchased and reduce the amount of the KRI award. Some of the equipment has been delivered.

Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-Off Road 4x2 Semi Tractors-Project is to replace 2 existing semi diesel tractors. New semis are being built and should be delivered in middle of May.

Jeremy Edgeworth-Paducah Riverport Bulk Cell Dredging-Project was to dredge bulk cell that was silted due to flooding. FEMA may be providing some funds towards dredging to project is on hold until FEMA makes their determination. Additional funds may be moved to another project at Riverport.

Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Warehouse Restoration-This project would use up remaining Crane Bridge and Dock Dredging funds. Work would repair an existing warehouse that was customized for pipe manufacturing and needs to be restored to original condition for use as dry storage. Agreements are currently being signed.

Conflicts of Interest for Board Members

Prior to discussion of KRI project applications, Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Statement forms were distributed to and completed by WTAB members. Several board members had conflicts of interest that were noted on their forms. These members were not allowed to vote or prioritize their projects for funding.

Review and Prioritization of FY 2020 Kentucky Riverport Improvement projects applications

Seven applications were received for the \$500,000 in funding available through the FY 2020 KRI grant program by the deadline. Jeremy Edgeworth announced each project and applicants in attendance presented the details of the project to the Board. Board members then asked any questions of the applicants. The applications requested \$669,360.50 in funding.

Riverport	Project	Total Cost	Requested
Eddyville	Realignment of Access Road	\$99,561.00	\$49,780.00
Henderson	Forklift	\$275,000.00	\$137,500.00
Henderson	Roof Replacement	\$240,000.00	\$120,000.00
Louisville	Rail Tie Replacement	\$300,000.00	\$150,000.00
Owensboro	Compact Track Loader	\$68,959.00	\$34,479.50
Owensboro	Improvement in Access Drives	\$155,000.00	\$77,500.00
Owensboro	Railroad Maintenance	\$200,203.00	\$100,101.00
<i>Total</i>		\$1,338,723.00	\$669,360.50

As part of the discussion, Greg Pritchett asked Brain Wright to prioritize his three submitted projects from most to least important to allow the Board to understand what he feels if the most important to award. Brain Wright indicated that the Railroad Maintenance was the most critical followed by the Compact Track Loader with the Improvement in Access Drives his least important. Greg Pritchett then provided the board the same for his two submitted projects, with his Forklift application being the most critical followed by the Roof Replacement.

Project Eligibility discussion:

Jeremy Edgeworth distributed a customized Project Eligibility Ballot to each WTAB member and Board members evaluated each project for which they did not have a conflict of interest as eligible for funding. Steve Alley posted the question of what constitutes an eligible project as previous legislation limited projects to dredging and maintenance access. Jeremy Edgeworth indicated that this provision in the last budget bill was removed; however, the guidance document currently limits projects to dredging or improvements to Riverport facilities, infrastructure or critical material handling equipment. All seven applications were then unanimously determined to be eligible.

Project Prioritization discussion:

Jeremy Edgeworth distributed a customized Project Prioritization Ballot to each WTAB member and Board members ranked each project for which they did not have a conflict of interest from highest

priority to lowest priority for funding. The customized ballots omitted any projects for which the Board member had a conflict of interest preventing them from prioritizing those projects.

After calculating the total score for each project, and ranking the projects by their average score, the WTAB board prioritized the awarding of the KRI funds as follows:

Riverport	Project	Total Cost	Requested	WTAB Score	WTAB Rank	WTAB Funding
Owensboro	Railroad Maintenance	\$200,203.00	\$100,101.00	1.83	1	\$100,101.00
Henderson	Forklift	\$275,000.00	\$137,500.00	2.33	2	\$137,500.00
Eddyville	Realignment of Access Road	\$99,561.00	\$49,780.00	2.42	3	\$49,780.00
Owensboro	Compact Track Loader	\$68,959.00	\$34,479.50	4.16	4	\$34,479.50
Owensboro	Improvement in Access Drives	\$155,000.00	\$77,500.00	4.67	5	None
Louisville	Rail Tie Replacement	\$300,000.00	\$150,000.00	5.00	6	\$150,000.00
Henderson	Roof Replacement	\$240,000.00	\$120,000.00	5.50	7	\$28,139.00

Total \$1,338,723.00 \$669,360.50

The Board agreed to fund fully the top four highest ranked projects. There was then a discussion about the fifth ranked project the Improvement in Access Drives. Brian Wright asked that the board not fund his Improvement in Access Drives project despite its 5th place ranking. He indicated that he had already had two projects funded and to be equitable he wanted to withdraw his application. He also indicated that due to his awarded federal BUILD grant, it might conflict with some of the work on the Improvement in Access Drives project if funded. The board then decided fund fully the Louisville application and offered the remaining funds to Henderson for their Roof Replacement project. Henderson Riverport indicated their Roof Replacement project could be done in sections and remaining funds would allow replacement of two sections. On motion of Nickie Smith, and seconded by Greg Curlin, the board unanimously voted to recommend to the Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet the above KRI funding amounts.

Update on Status of Riverport Study

While WTAB staff were tallying the results of the KRI prioritization, Greg Pritchett updated the board on the Riverport Study. In January 2018, Governor Bevin challenged the KBT Conference attendees to come up with a plan to better utilize Kentucky’s public Riverports. Small group of Riverports have come up with a methodology to address this challenge. They met with KYTC Secretary Thomas to present idea of developing freight and marketing study to understand current freight patterns and using this information, how to market public Riverports. Secretary Thomas was receptive and organized follow-up meeting with Economic Development Secretary Terry Gill. At that meeting, both Secretaries reaffirmed support for pursuing the study. Small group of Riverports worked on rough draft of Request for Proposals (RFP). KYTC staff have reviewed and edited draft RFP. KYTC staff to meet with Secretary Thomas to present draft RFP and begin to identify funding.

Discussion of KYTC responsibility for KRI grant administration

Jeremy Edgeworth led the discussion of when to notify the board of KRI awarded projects changing. Ultimately, the final award decision rests with the Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet, but the discussion focused on when the WTAB board wanted consultation about changes. Upon motion by Steve Alley, the board grants WTAB staff at KYTC the discretion to work with awarded Riverport to utilize any leftover funds on a new project at the port without bringing it back to the WTAB board for a

vote. Greg Pritchett seconded motion and the board unanimously approved this motion. The board determined that an awarded project canceled entirely must come back to the WTAB board for approval of an alternate project to utilize the funds.

There being no further business, on motion of Greg Pritchett, seconded by Norb Whitlock, and with unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Submitted:

Jeremy Edgeworth

Water Transportation Advisory Board Staff, KYTC