

Water Transportation Advisory Board  
September 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB) was called to order at 1:00 pm on September 4, 2014, in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Conference Center room C106 in Frankfort, KY.

The Advisory Board members in attendance were:

Greg Pritchett, Chairman  
Steve Alley  
Norb Whitlock

Ken Canter, Vice Chairman  
Greg Curlin  
Nickie Smith

Also in attendance were:

Juva Barber, KBT  
Brian Wright, Owensboro Riverport  
Russ Romine, KYTC Dep. Secretary  
Sarah McCormick, KTC  
Lynn Soporowski, KYTC  
Carol Brent, KYTC

Kenneth Beyer, Army Corps of Engineers  
Will McDowell, Economic Development  
Bryan Judy, Office of Attorney General  
Bryan Gibson, KTC  
Casey Wells, KYTC

The Chair requested that attendees introduce themselves, then opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were offered.

The Chair asked for comments on the minutes of the December 3, 2013 meeting. There being none, Nickie Smith moved and Ken Canter seconded to accept the December 3, 2013, minutes. Approval was unanimous.

Sarah McCormick and Bryan Gibson presented information from their meeting with MARAD Administrator Paul "Chip" Jaenichen. Their PowerPoint slides are included by reference. The Board requested that next meeting's agenda include a discussion of collaborative TIGER grant applications.

Will McDowell of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development (KCED) provided information on funding opportunities and services available through KCED. His PowerPoint slide is incorporated by reference. If a riverport needs to update the information maintained in the KCED database of existing businesses, it should contact Will via phone or email.

Casey Wells of the Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) reviewed the projects which had been approved during the FY2013-FY 2014 project cycles. He noted that there was a project that had been authorized in one fiscal year but invoices not paid until the following fiscal year. When the invoices were paid, the funding was taken out of the 2014 fiscal year funds instead of the 2013 fiscal year funds, leaving the account short of funding for 2014 approved projects. As a result, the Jefferson Riverport project of approximately \$55,000 for railroad rehabilitation could not be funded in FY2014 and they have reapplied this cycle. Ken Canter explained that the \$50,000 funding approved for railroad rehabilitation at the Paducah McCracken Riverport was returned to the General Fund because P&L Railroad has discontinued service to the riverport. Chairman Pritchett reported that MARAD had been very helpful by collaborating DOT agencies to resolve an issue with CSX railroad at his port.

Lynn and Casey discussed lessons learned from an audit of the WTAB program. They emphasized that it is important to request funding immediately upon contract approval and to submit invoices and proof of payment within six weeks after the work is complete. They stressed that the funds will lapse/be returned to the General Fund (not the riverport improvement trust fund) if they are not expended by the end of the fiscal year or before if

General Funds are needed elsewhere. Lynn noted that the auditors require use of additional certification documents, including certification that contractors and subcontractors did not use any illegal aliens. All new forms were included on the CD provided to the riverports with the 2015 application materials. The auditors also suggested that the riverports might be able to purchase items through statewide price contracts.

There was discussion of the technical specifications required for paving, especially when used by heavy trucks at the riverports. The Board requested that someone from KYTC's Pavement Desig section provide information at the next meeting.

Casey Wells noted that although there was \$500,000 available for projects, the six applications received only requested \$304,003.50 in funding. Mr. Wells described the applications as follows:

- Owensboro Riverport: Scale Access Improvements: **requested \$105,826**. The project involves replacing the 25-year-old port scale in a new location in an effort to relieve congestion and improve safety. Relocating the existing scale is not practical due to its age and condition.
- Eddyville Riverport: Port Road Widening: **requested \$18,000**. This project involves widening the port's main access road by three feet. The additional width will achieve an approximate 25 foot total width and allow truck traffic to remain on asphalt.
- Eddyville Riverport: Asphalt Overlay: **requested \$16,500**. This project will provide an asphalt overlay on a portion of one of the port's interior roads. It will alleviate rutting and cracking and will allow trucks to travel with fewer obstructions.
- Hickman-Fulton County Riverport: Port Road Access Improvement: **requested \$15,000**. This project will provide trucks with an alternative access road at the east end of the port, helping to alleviate truck congestion on KY 94.
- Boyd-Greenup Riverport: Asphalt Loading Facility: **requested \$93,122.50**. This project will provide asphalt surfacing on the last remaining section of a roadway connection from Port Road to an unloading facility on the water.
- Louisville-Jefferson Riverport: Riverport Railroad Rehabilitation #3: **requested \$55,555.00**. Project involves replacement of 1,000 deteriorated crossties in an effort to maintain reliability of the track. Replacing the ties will significantly improve the reliability of the track and maintain rail access.

Casey Wells distributed ballots for the Board to vote on eligibility of the projects and Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Statement forms for completion by the members. The Board vote on eligibility of the projects was unanimous that all projects were eligible therefore all six projects were deemed eligible for prioritization. Members were provided prioritization ballots and requested to rank the six projects from the highest priority of one to the lowest priority of six. After calculating the total score for each project and ranking the projects by their total score, Chairman Pritchett was provided the results by which the projects were prioritized as follows:

1. Boyd-Greenup Riverport: Asphalt Loading Facility: **requested \$93,122.50**.
2. Owensboro Riverport: Scale Access Improvements: **requested \$105,826**.
3. Eddyville Riverport: Port Road Widening: **requested \$18,000**.
4. Hickman-Fulton County Riverport: Port Road Access Improvement: **requested \$15,000**.
5. Louisville-Jefferson Riverport: Riverport Railroad Rehabilitation #3: **requested \$55,555**.
6. Eddyville Riverport: Asphalt Overlay: **requested \$16,500**.

On motion by Nickie Smith, seconded by Ken Canter, the Board unanimously voted to recommend funding as requested for all projects. Casey reminded everyone that they should submit their request for funding for their project when they return the approved contract for the project to KYTC.

Lynn indicated that a memo will be sent to the Secretary on behalf of the WTAB recommending approval of the grants. At the same time, approval will be requested for solicitation of another round of applications to utilize the

\$195,996.50 remaining in Riverport Improvement Grant funds. She projected that the next round could open for applications on October 1<sup>st</sup>. To ensure that the applications can be considered and priorities recommended to the Secretary, and contracts prepared and funds expended before the end of March, 2015, on motion by Norb Whitlock, seconded by Steve Alley, the Board recommended that the application period open October 1, 2014 and close October 15, 2014. The Board then unanimously decided, on motion by Steve Alley and seconded by Nickie Smith, to set the next WTAB meeting for Thursday, October 30, 2014 at 1 pm.

Lynn informed the Board that the Cabinet is developing a tiered freight network. Freight activity is one element of the data-driven multi-year transportation plan development process. Projects will be given greater emphasis if they demonstrate freight impact.

The current terms of the representative of the Kentucky Riverport Association (Greg Curlin) and the representative of KBT (Norb Whitlock) expire September 30, 2014. Brian Judy, Counsel for the Board, confirmed that the current members will serve until a replacement is appointed. Chairman Pritchett noted that both KRA and KBT will need to submit 2 names to the Governor's Office for his consideration to be appointed to the Board. He also noted that the Board was down one At-Large member as designated by the Gov's office.

Ken Canter notified the board that he will be retiring from the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport on August 31, 2015.

Business being concluded, on motion by Nickie Smith seconded by Steve Alley, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted:  
Casey Wells  
Water Transportation Advisory Board staff, KYTC