

OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING AGENCY

COUNCIL OF OFFICIALS
REGULAR MEETING
April 12, 2017

The April 12, 2017 Council of Officials meeting was held at the Blair Public Library and Technology Center in Blair, Nebraska. Doug Kindig, Council President, opened the meeting by welcoming all Councilmembers and guest. The lunch started at 11:30 a.m. with the meeting following at 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

A. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTION

Members Present:

Clare Duda	Commissioner, Douglas County
Steve Grabowski	Board President, Metropolitan Community College
Tom Hanafan	Supervisor, Pottawattamie County
Kim Johnson	Board President, Village of Herman
Heather Johnson	Board President, Ralston Public Schools
Scott Keep	President, Metropolitan Utilities District
Doug Kindig	Mayor, City of La Vista
David Levy	Commissioner, Omaha Housing Authority
Carl Lorenzen	Supervisor, Washington County
Gary Mixan	Sarpy County
Dan Owens	Omaha Airport Authority
Cassie Paben	Deputy Chief of Staff, City of Omaha
James Realph	Mayor, City of Blair
Tom Richards	Manager of Govt & Community Relations, OPPD
Rita Sanders	Mayor, City of Bellevue
Carol Vinton	Supervisor, Mills County
Matt Walsh	Mayor, City of Council Bluffs

Others:

Scott Belt	Pottawattamie County
Phil Green	City of Blair
Deb Hale	City of La Vista
Kyle Nixon	Novozymes Inc.
Gayle Roberts	City of Blair
Clint Sargent	Missouri Valley
Al Schoemaker	City of Blair
Joe Soucie	City of La Vista
Rod Storm	City of Blair

MAPA Staff:

Grant Anderson	Christina Brownell	Sue Cutsforth	Melissa Engel
Don Gross	Mike Helgerson	Karna Loewenstein	Patti McCoy
Greg Youell			

B. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 11, 2017 MEETING MINUTES – (ACTION)

MOTION by Paben, SECOND by Sanders to approve the January 11, 2017 minutes.
Motion Carried.

C. OLD BUSINESS –

1. Draft FY 2018 MAPA Work Program and Budget – (ACTION)

Mr. Greg Youell presented to the Council for approval the Draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget. Mr. Mike Helgerson gave an overview of major transportation projects. Heartland 2050 was incorporated into the transportation program through the Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant Program. One upcoming project is a Transit Return on Investment Study, this will evaluate the economic return on regional transit systems. An additional study is the Bellevue Bridge Study, this will look at the long-term use of the structure. Another ongoing transit activity is the One Call Center Veteran’s Grant. Mr. Don Gross gave an update on upcoming Community Development activities for the upcoming year. Mr. Gross stated that his goal is to visit each jurisdiction at least twice a year to better understand how MAPA can assist each community. MAPA will be submitting an application soon for Nebraska Housing Trust Fund for rehabilitations in Valley and Waterloo.

MOTION by Paben, SECOND by Sanders to approve the Draft FY 2018 MAPA Work Program and Budget.
Motion Carried.

D. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Interlocal Agreement Amendment – (ACTION)

Mr. Greg Youell presented to the Council for approval an amendment to the MAPA Articles of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement. The agreement was last amended August 1, 1984. The amendment expands the geographic area of MAPA to include Cass County. The amendment will allow for the addition of a “Non-Equity Member County” and creates an additional membership category for non-profit organizations and private business, “Associate Members”. The amended agreement allows for financing by members other than the Member Counties. The amendment also includes an addition of a section providing definitions for easy reference and updates the agreement to agree with current procedures. Mr. Youell explained to the Council that in order to approve the amendment, 75% of the Council must vote in favor. Ballots were distributed to voting members at the meeting as well as mailed and e-mailed to each member. MAPA will host a conference call on Thursday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. to go over the changes and answer any questions. This is an action item and MAPA is requesting all ballots be returned by April 28, 2017.

2. Heartland 2050 Update – (INFO)

Ms. Karna Loewenstein provided an update to the Council on Heartland 2050 activities. Heartland 2050 held the Winter Summit on March 23rd and the featured Guest Speaker was Joe Reardon, President and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Reardon shared valuable knowledge on how he helped catalyze the entire Kansas City area to come together, make decisions and speak with one voice. Heartland 2050 has sent out Annual Reports out to each member of the Council of Officials. Ms. Loewenstein gave the Council a brief update on the Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant program. The Heartland 2050 Executive Committee identified there were some challenges in reaching the rural and out-lying counties in Heartland 2050. To ensure Heartland 2050 is serving all of the constituents in the Heartland 2050 Region, the Executive Committee has assembled a Rural Marketing Task Force. The task force went back through all of the data that has been gathered from the beginning of the project (workshops, seminars etc.) and evaluated it by County. There were a series of workshops that were held last November and traveled out to the out-lying counties to gather updates from each county on the needs and priorities.

Mr. Youell gave an update to the Council of the “Close the Gap” white paper. After the trip to Salt Lake City, one of the request was to see more data regarding what could potentially be done in the Omaha-Council Bluffs region. MAPA is currently working with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) on the Metro Area Travel Improvement Study (MTIS), evaluating the future of the highway system in the Omaha area. A lot of the work that is being done for that study was used to conduct the analysis for this white paper.

Council of Officials Meeting
April 12, 2017

E. GUEST SPEAKER – Kyle Nixon, General Manager, Novozymes Inc. – (INFO)

Mr. Kyle Nixon, General Manager for Novozymes Inc., presented to the Council. Mr. Nixon shared the mission of Novozymes is to be the best production facility serving the biofuel industry. The plant in Blair is a single purpose plant focusing on bio-energy. Mr. Nixon shared what brought the global company of Novozymes Inc. to Blair and how the Blair plant has grown and expanded into a 37 acre plant with the option to expand an additional 30 acres.

F. COMMUNITY REPORTS – (Info)

Community reports were skipped due to the time restraints.

G. ADJOURNMENT –

Meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.