

**Minutes of the Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTCC) Meeting**  
**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Call to Order**

The April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 RTCC meeting was held at the Albemarle Commission Building, in Hertford, NC and was opened and called to order by RTCC Chairman Rhett White at 10:07 a.m.

**Roll Call**

It was determined a quorum was present with the following TCC members in attendance:

Chairman Rhett White, Town of Columbia; Dan Scanlon, Currituck County; Kevin Howard, Chowan County; Bill Rich, Hyde County; Frank Heath Perquimans County; Elizabeth Bryant, Town of Edenton; Wes Haskett, Town of Southern Shores; Joe Heard, Town of Duck; Natalie Rountree, Gates County; Curtis Potter, Washington County; Jerry Jennings, NCDOT Division 1; Kaitlen Alcock, City of Elizabeth City and Donna Creef, Dare County.

**Agenda Approval**

Chairman White called for a motion to approve the agenda as written. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Natalie Rountree, her motion was seconded by Joe Heard, and unanimously carried.

**Approval of October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Chairman Rhett White called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Natalie Rountree; her motion was seconded by Wes Haskett, and unanimously carried.

**ARPO Mini Grants**

Chairman Rhett White opened the floor to ARPO Director Angela Welsh to discuss the mini grant applicants. ARPO Director Welsh presented the three mini grant applications to the RTCC.

- The Town of Duck applied for \$5,330.00 to produce 30,000 copies of a brochure featuring maps of the Duck Trail Multi-Use Path, Duck Soundside Boardwalk, and other pedestrian/bicycle facilities throughout the town. The Town of Duck requested the grant in the amount of \$5,330.00 and the town stated they would contribute \$1,333.00. A motion was made by Donna Creef to approve the Town of Duck Mini Grant in full; her motion was seconded by Bill Rich and unanimously carried.
- The Town of Manteo applied for \$1,457.72 to print 5,000 bicycle and pedestrian maps which was developed by the ARPO with the help of Alta Planning and Design. A motion was made by Curtis Potter to approve the Town of Manteo Mini Grant in full; his motion was seconded by Donna Creef and unanimously carried.
- The City of Elizabeth City applied for two mini grants. The first mini grant applied for was in the amount of \$1,520.12 to print 2,000 walking and bicycle map brochures which was developed by the ARPO with the help of Alta Planning and Design. The second mini grant City of Elizabeth City applied for was in the amount of \$293.56 to develop a pamphlet for the Coast Guard Park. RPO Director Angela Welsh advised the RTCC board she had a discussion with her Transportation Planning Division Coordinator and the

Coast Guard Park pamphlet grant award would not be supported by Federal Highways as the grant application stated it is a bicycle and/or pedestrian grant. If this grant were approved, the ARPO would not receive reimbursement for the cost from the Federal Highway Administration. A motion was made by Joe Heard to approve the first City of Elizabeth City mini grant in full (\$1,520.12) and to not fund the second mini grant; his motion was seconded by Donna Creef and unanimously carried.

### **Regional Impact Local Input Scores and Regional Impact Local Input Points**

Chairman White opened the floor to ARPO Director Angela Welsh to present the board with information concerning the regional impact local input scores and regional impact local input points. ARPO Director Welsh advised the board about the need to approve the ARPO Regional Impact Methodology Scores as well as place the ARPOs allotted Local Input Points to the ARPOs Regional Impact Projects.

She explained to the board in 2016, during the SPOT 4.0 process, the RTAC Board asked that staff work with the Division, regarding which projects to put the ARPO local input points on, and forward recommendations to the RTCC and RTAC Boards in the P 5.0 process rather than Board members placing points on projects during the meeting. Director Welsh stated project scores were released by the SPOT office in April and there was one ARPO project funded at the Statewide Mobility tier. The project is US 158 from the Eastern end of the Wright Memorial Bridge to US 64-NC 12. Director Welsh went on to state the feasibility study for this project is still being completed and, at this time, there are no set plans for the project. She stated, once the feasibility study was complete, the NCDOT will hold meetings with public officials regarding the feasibility study. She went on to say in September, the ARPO Boards will place the ARPOs allotted local input points on Division Needs projects. This will be done after the Regional impact projects are released by the SPOT office. Director Welsh went on to note the following: The Board is only approving the ARPO project scores, in the pink column, on the spreadsheet included in their packet, as well as the local input points in the yellow column on the same spreadsheet. She went on to state the other spreadsheet, included in their packets, was the Division 1 scores for projects in the Division 1 region. Jerry Jennings went on to explain the Division scoring process was a bit different than the ARPO's and that the Division would be holding their public comment on the scores in May. Director Welsh and Jerry Jennings went on to explain the ARPO has 1300 local input points to place on ARPO projects but the Division has to spread their points across the entire division so they would not be placing their allotted point on only ARPO projects. Jerry Jennings, NCDOT Division 1, stated it would be most effective to work together with scoring points as our region competes with Division 4 for funding. Chairman Rhett White asked for a motion to approve the ARPO Regional Impact Methodology scores and assign the ARPO local input points, noted on the spreadsheet, to ARPO Regional impact projects. A motion was made by Frank Heath to approve Regional Impact Methodology scores and to assign local input points to the Regional impact projects which were noted on the spreadsheet; his motion was seconded by Dan Scanlon and unanimously carried.

### **Harbor Town Ferry Project**

Chairman Rhett White opened the floor to ARPO Director Angela Welsh to discuss the Harbor Town Ferry Project. ARPO Director Welsh stated Professor Nicholas Didow, of the UNC-Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler Business School, recently presented a water transportation project concept in the Albemarle Sound to local officials and the business community in Pasquotank County, as well as the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee of the North Carolina Legislature. Professor Didow was initially seeking support from five of our member counties to apply for \$7.5 million in Golden Leaf grant funds to fund the first phase of the project. However, those five counties were already in the process of working on their Golden Leaf project submittals for other projects in their respective counties. ARPO Director Welsh stated when she found out about this project, and after a discussion with ARPO RTAC Chairman Lloyd Griffin, the RTCC and RTAC Boards were sent an email to inform them that the ARPO was aware of the project and it would be a discussion item at the April 25, 2018 RTCC and RTAC Board meetings. She went on to say the feasibility study for the project, as well as Professor Didow's powerpoint presentation were located in the RTCC Board agenda packet. Director Welsh stated the reason this was put on the agenda was because it has never been made clear where Professor Didow intends to get the funding for the ferries for the project. He had suggested a public-private partnership with the state but Legislators did not seem in support of the state partnering in it when he presented it to Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Division Oversight Committee. Dan Scanlon reiterated what Director Welsh stated to clarify the RTCC was only taking this issue up due to the funding for the ferries being unknown and the RTCC was not endorsing the project. Bill Rich stated that a similar idea had been presented in the late 1980's and he was directly involved in the plan. He stated there is too much left unknown and he felt it should not be supported at this time. Curtis Potter stated there has not been enough transparency about the funding for the project and many questions still remain unanswered. No action was taken on this matter. ARPO Director Angela Welsh was asked to keep the board informed of any further developments with the Harbor Town Ferry Project.

### **Public Comments**

Chairman Rhett White opened the floor for public comments and there were none. With no public comments, Chairman Rhett White closed the floor.

Chairman White welcomed visitor Sparty Hammett who is the new Pasquotank County Manager. Bill Rich informed the board the construction of the new passenger ferry is going well. Dan Porter informed the board he has the regional bicycle maps available if anyone needed any of them. Joe Heard informed the board about the progress of the sidewalk and bike lane improvements in Duck.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Chairman White requested a motion for adjournment. Bill Rich made a motion to adjourn, his motion was seconded by Natalie Rountree. Chairman White adjourned the RTCC board meeting at 10:56 am.

### **Presentations**

### **NCDOT Update – Discussion/Presentation**

Alan Moran provided the board with the current I-87 updates. He informed those present of the monthly Board of Transportation meetings which are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month. Jerry Jennings discussed the Prioritization 5.0 update and how new freight projects would get additional scoring points. He also provided an update on construction of highway projects throughout the ARPO region.

### **TPD Update**

Director Welsh stated Philip Geary emailed her that he would not be able to attend today's meetings due to illness. She stated he said he would email her his updates.

### **Ferry Division Update**

No one from the Ferry Division was present to provide an update.

### **ARPO Update**

ARPO Director Angela Welsh advised those present the ARPO would be hosting the RPO Quarterly Meeting at the end of October. RPO Quarterly meetings are meetings where all the RPO Directors throughout the state get together with TPD and discuss RPO statewide business. She stated the meeting will be held in the Dare County Administrative Building and they would be touring the Ferry Maintenance Yard. She stated she is considering having a "Transportation Summit" for the region and will begin working on it once legislators are out of the short session. She advised everyone that the Drone Workshop held by the NCDOT UAS Division and the ARPO was a success. Over 150 participated and there are plans to hold another workshop. ARPO Director Welsh advised everyone the Ferry Division Program Evaluation Study had been scrapped by the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee and they would like yearly updates and a 20-year plan from the Ferry Division instead.

## **Minutes of the Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTAC) Meeting April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 11:25 am**

### **Call to Order**

The April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 RTAC meeting was held at the Albemarle Commission Building, in Hertford, NC and was opened and called to order by RTAC Chairman Lloyd Griffin at 11:25 am.

### **Roll Call**

It was determined a quorum was present with the following RTAC members in attendance: Chairman, Lloyd Griffin, Pasquotank; Vice-Chairman Leroy Spivey, Jeff Smith, Chowan County; Bill Sexton, Washington County; Paul Beaumont, Currituck County; Tom White, Camden County; Wally Overman, Dare County, Allan Moran, NCDOT BOT; Linda Hofler, Gates and Edward Muzzulin, Perquimans.

RTAC Non-Voting members in attendance: Archie Aples, Hertford; Tom Bennett, Southern Shores; Lynne McClean, Kitty Hawk; James Cahoon, Columbia

### **Agenda Approval**

Chairman Lloyd Griffin called for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Jeff Smith, his motion was seconded by Edward Muzzulin, and unanimously carried.

### **Approval of February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 RTAC Minutes**

Chairman Lloyd Griffin called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Paul Beaumont; his motion was seconded by Bill Sexton, and unanimously carried.

### **ARPO Mini Grants**

Chairman Lloyd Griffin opened the floor to ARPO Director Angela Welsh to discuss the mini grant applicants. ARPO Director Welsh presented the three mini grant applications to the RTAC. Director Welsh stated the ARPO has the funds to cover all of the grant requests. She stated the Town of Duck has requested \$5330.00 to print copies of their brochure which features various walking and biking facilities throughout the town. ARPO Director Angela Welsh advised the RTAC the RTCC recommended approving the Town of Duck grant in the amount of \$5330.00. A motion was made by Bill Sexton to approve the Town of Duck Mini Grant in full; his motion was seconded by Wally Overman and unanimously carried. The Town of Manteo has also applied for \$1457.72 to print copies of the bicycle and pedestrian maps the ARPO developed with the help of Alta Planning and Design. ARPO Director Angela Welsh advised the RTAC the RTCC recommended approving the Town of Manteo grant in the amount of \$1457.72. A motion was made by Bill Sexton to approve the Town of Manteo Mini Grant in full; his motion was seconded by Wally Overman and unanimously carried. The third application was from the City of Elizabeth City and they had requested \$1520.12 to print copies of the walking and biking brochure the ARPO completed with the help of Alta Planning and Design. They also applied for \$293.56 to develop a pamphlet for their Coast Guard Park but the Federal Highway Administration has stated they will not reimburse the ARPO for funds for the Coast Guard Park brochure since the grant application specifically states the grant is for walking and biking related projects. ARPO Director Angela Welsh advised the RTAC the RTCC recommended approving the first mini grant in the amount of \$1,520.12. A motion was made by Bill Sexton to approve the City of Elizabeth City mini grant in the amount of \$1,520.12; his motion was seconded by Wally Overman and unanimously carried. The mini grant for \$293.56 was not approved by the RTAC.

### **Regional Impact Local Input Scores and Regional Impact Local Input Points**

Chairman Lloyd Griffin opened the floor to ARPO Director Angela Welsh to present the board with information concerning the Regional Impact Local Input Scores and Regional Impact Local Input Points. ARPO director Welsh advised the board about the need to approve the ARPO's Regional Impact Local Input Methodology Scores, as well as place the ARPO's 1300 allotted Local Input Points on ARPO Regional Impact Projects. Direct Welsh reviewed the two spreadsheets which were included in the agenda packet with the Board and stated the pink Colum were the ARPO approved Methodology scores and the yellow column were the projects the ARPO and the Division agreed to put the ARPO 1300 local input points on. Jeff Smith asked Director welsh about a duplicate Interstate 87 project on the list and she stated it was broken out that way to see if it would score better if the project were smaller. Ms. Welsh advised the board the RTCC board recommended approving the Local Input Methodology Scores and Regional Local Input Points which were outlined on the spreadsheet. A motion was made by Jeff Smith to approve the Regional Impact Methodology Scores and assign the ARPO's 1300 Local Input Points to Regional Impact Projects on the spreadsheet; his motion was seconded by Tom White and unanimously carried.

### **Harbor Town Ferry Project**

Chairman Lloyd Griffin opened the floor to ARPO Director Angela Welsh to discuss the Harbor Town Ferry Project. ARPO Director Angela Welsh advised the RTAC board no action was taken by the RTCC board. Chairman Lloyd Griffin asked ARPO Director Angela Welsh to keep the board informed of any further developments with the Harbor Town Ferry Project.

### **Public Comments**

Chairman Lloyd Griffin opened the floor for public comments and there were none. With no further public comments, Chairman Lloyd Griffin closed the floor.

Chairman Griffin then asked RTAC members if they had anything else they would like to discuss regarding issues/concerns in their counties. Paul Beaumont advised the board the Whitehouse invited all North Carolina Commissioners to a meeting. He felt this is a good sign for local government. He stated he advised the Whitehouse of the issues Corolla has had with the Army Corps of Engineers concerning the Whalehead boat basin project. Billy Kirkland will be the face at the Whitehouse, please let him know of any issues you are experiencing. Wally Overman advised everyone to keep an eye on their occupancy taxes. Bill Sexton advised the board he is very concerned with the condition of Newland Road and stated something needs to be done about the traffic on it. Jerry Jennings, stated the NCDOT is already looking into the concerns expressed about Newland Road. Chairman Lloyd Griffin advised the board Indirect Charges within the Albemarle Commission are set to increase, and the RPO also needed a new plotter, and this will lower the available funding for the ARPO mini grants in the future. Chairman Lloyd Griffin also asked the board to keep member Melissa Dickerson in their thoughts, as her stepdaughter had recently passed away.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Lloyd Griffin asked for a motion to adjourn. Jeff Smith made a motion to adjourn, his motion was seconded by Edward Muzzulin. Chairman Lloyd Griffin adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura M Rollinson  
Albemarle Commission  
Program Administrative Coordinator

For  
Angela Welsh, Secretary  
ARPO Director