

BOND REIMBURSEMENT & GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

February 21, 2019, Thursday

Teleconference

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Elwin Blackwell, Chair
Doug Crevensten
William Glumac
Don Hiley
Dale Smythe
Robert "Bob" Tucker

Staff

Tim Mearig
Larry Morris
Lori Weed

Additional Participants

David Kingsland

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL at 2:02 p.m.

Elwin Blackwell, chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Roll call of members present; no legislative members appointed; Mark Langberg is excused. Quorum of 6 members.

REVIEW and APPROVAL of AGENDA

Agenda reviewed and approved presented by unanimous consent.

Elwin noted he was designated in lieu of Heidi Teshner for this meeting. Welcomed new member William.

REGULATION PROJECTS UPDATE

Tim informed the committee that the State Board of Education and Early Development adopted both the commissioning and 4 AAC 31 clean up regulations projects; those will get reviewed by Dept. of Law and sent on to the Lieutenant Governor's office. It is assumed that the regulations will be finalized before the CIP application is approved in April, or at the least will be in effect by the September application deadline.

COST MODEL GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS

Tim reviewed the comments the department provided to HMS, Inc. on the updates to the geographic cost factors. HMS was directed not to incorporate the new geographic factors until department comments were addressed. Highlighted equipment packages, rural crew rotation schedule, and lack of values provided for topography for committee input. Observed that the labor productivity is heavily influenced by the US Army Corps of Engineer's weather delay information, which is based on temperature and precipitation. Discussion on usefulness of developing a weather data set from available sources that also incorporates wind. Don reminded committee that the cost model is a conceptual level tool; he does not believe that creation of a weather data table would be cost effective to maintain.

Department has asked HMS to confirm larger increases in certain geographic factors. Forwarded specific requests to create new areas based on public comment, as well as potential to combine separated areas within a district that only show a minimal variation of the cost factor. Dale asked whether the committee could provide comments after the meeting. Tim confirmed.

FY2021 CIP APPLICATION PREPARATION

Tim stated that an initial review of proposed application changes was being presented so the outgoing expertise could set the stage for the incoming April members. Larry presented the proposed edits to question 4a scoring matrix for life safety and code conditions. Discussion on comparable points between protection of structure and code conditions, as influenced by expected life cycle of building systems. Larry noted that other changes to conform to department's R&R schedule life cycles and add conditions that previously had no comparable element in the matrix.

Tim reviewed the changes brought about due to new statutory requirements to evaluate and encourage a project's use of prior construction plans and building standards. Sought committee input on pitfalls and plans. Don offered that the score should be less than the 20 point placeholder. Dale suggested that, for an evaluative scoring of plans, the department could look at plan age and the similarity to the school at hand; intent is to reduce cost to the state, so more modifications of plans, due to updates to code or otherwise, is less savings. Tim emphasized that evaluation of the factor must be included in the application, but the criteria and weight of the scoring is up to the committee. Don noted that a single site school district will be disadvantaged compared to bigger districts with multiple schools and available school designs that could be utilized; maybe could have worked if state had ownership of available designs.

Lori walked the committee through the changes to the application based on the regulation changes; most of the regulations affect the project administration instead of application process. Main changes include incorporation of retro-commissioning analysis in the energy management narrative, allowing a completed project to reuse application score for up to five cycles, and increasing minimum project value to \$50,000.

CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR COST-EFFECTIVE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Doug stated that the cost model enhancement contract is moving along under a fairly tight timeline. Tim agreed; the contract should be finalized tomorrow with the work to be completed with the Cost Model update on April 26. In response to Doug's question, Tim stated that if it deadline could not be met, then changes would not show up until the 19th edition.

Dale stated that two proposed were received for the design ratio modeling, and the department is negotiating the contract with the top proposer. Indications is that the work will be completed prior to end of June. Tim noted that both products envision subcommittee review and input.

BR&GR CALENDAR and WORK PLAN REVIEW

Lori identified changes in work plan are new from the December-adopted document. Next meeting is likely April 16-and 17; dependent on receiving travel approval.

Doug Crevensten left the teleconference. Quorum of 5 members.

PUBLICATION UPDATE

Swimming Pool Guidelines

Tim reminded the committee that in December meeting it approved moving to a more restrictive approach for the swimming pool guidelines; old document was more negotiable. Reviewed items department is requesting committee input. Observed that, likely, no grant project would

have enough space allocation to qualify for a swimming pool; however, there is a possibility a pool could be constructed under a debt reimbursement program. Key element of document is distinction between mandatory (“learn to swim”) and elective programs. Guideline proposes to set a minimum number of students before state will participate in pool construction and to limit students served by elective programs to 30% of the total served population for purposes of sizing an allowable pool for purposes of state aid.

Don questioned whether the committee was the appropriate entity to set these policy decisions, e.g. what state supports for swimming curriculum. Tim stated that the committee is an avenue to get public input, through published agendas, meetings, and notice of opportunities for comment. Any publication cited in regulation will have to go through regulation public comment and adoption process by the State Board. Committee asked for additional time to review.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Dale welcomed the new members and hoped to meet them in April. Bob stated it has been his pleasure to serve for almost 19 years, it was both rewarding and a challenge; wished committee all the best in moving forward. William thanked committee for an interesting conversation and is looking forward to being on this side of the process and contributing his experience from the district side. Don also welcomed the new members and offered humongous thanks to the prior members who have served so long and contributed so much.

Elwin pointed out the pending legislation (SB64/HB66) that would repeal the debt reimbursement program, change committee to the Grant Review Committee, and add a committee duty to consider “multipurpose function and designs to reduce overall facility costs for the affected community”. Also thanked outgoing members for dedication to committee over the years and welcomed incoming members.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The committee adjourned at 4:07pm.