



District 17 Natural Resources Assistance Council

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 07, 2022

A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE FULL MEETING IS AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE OF THE LIAISON

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jonathan Ferbrache
Tony DiNovo
Susan Kuba

David Heithaus
Amy Dutt
Brian Ball

Steve Goodwin
Vince Utterback

Thomas Davis
Mary Van Haften

STAFF PRESENT

Angela Farley, Liaison

Kim Landis

PUBLIC ATTENDEE

Nick Rose, OPWC

Steve Fleegal, Appalachia Ohio Alliance

The District 17 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) meeting was opened by Chair Tom Davis. Roll call was taken and all members were seated.

Introductions were made around the room as the **Board welcomed new Board Members Susan Kuba and Vince Utterback**, and guests Nick Rose, and Steve Fleegal.

Minutes from Friday January 21, 2022

Steve Goodwin moved to approve the January 21, 2022, Meeting Minutes. David Heithaus seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Announcements of the Chair

Tom Davis thanked everyone for rearranging their schedules to make this very important meeting. This is a totally unique situation and the quicker we can address it the better.

Old Business

None.



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New Business

- The Board welcomed **new Board Members, Susan Kuba and Vince Utterback** earlier in the Meeting.
- **Expiring Terms:**
Susan Kuba (11/18/2022)
Jonathan Ferbrache (11/18/2022)
- **Round 17 Schedule**

Tom Davis gave a reminder about renewing terms, saying if you are wanting to continue, you'll need a letter from your nominating agency stating that. That goes to the integrating committee to factor in with the other candidates that might apply. Angela Farley asked that those be sent to her. Jonathan confirmed with Angela that she'd received his.

Tom Davis went over the whole process for the new members. Tom stated NRAC 17, like all the other NRACs, set a different schedule for when applications are due to the NRAC.

We get our allocation notice this time of year for about how much we have for the next year, so we have to set a schedule for when applications are due and what applications have to have in them. We actually have the ability to look at the format for the application and what we would like to see and how we score those kinds of things, this will be done at our February meeting.

Applications have to be put out a certain number of days before they are due and OPWC has to approve those applications – the methodology. Applications are due end of September – first of October.

Reviews are done next, and site visits if there's time. Then we make our recommendations to OPWC. We are not the statutory agency that provides the dollars but we provide recommendations for the six-county district to the agency that does, OPWC. From there out, the applicants deal with OPWC through legal documents and that type of stuff.

We should be proud, we've had 55 different projects that have been preserved, totaling over probably 25-30 million dollars.

Mr. Davis stated that usually we're here at this time looking at applications that Angela has sent us for review and scoring, however, after this application deadline we ran into some issues. This year, applications were done on the new OPWC's portal. Some information is coming to the NRAC directly, as each individual NRAC can request separate information, other than what goes to OPWC. All the applications this time were either incomplete or ineligible. After discussion with Nick of OPWC, and his boss Linda, we determined that all of them had an issue.



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The Board discussed the options of either scrapping this round and take new applications or combining this Round with Round 18, which starts next March. Angela stated we wouldn't get applications until August or September. There was agreement on an accelerated round so these applications could proceed as they likely have timelines as well. A portal will be opened up and applicants will have 60 days to get things fixed and new people to be put in. People who had submitted will be able to clone their original application, add the missing material on the OPWC website and submit that. Angela will be available for assistance uploading the full pdf to her. Tom stated we'll work with each individual applicant and help them resolve any issues.

The Board set dates for Round 17 (delayed)

<i>October 14</i>	<i>Portal Opens for Submissions</i>
<i>December 14</i>	<i>Grant Application Deadline</i>
<i>December 21</i>	<i>Applications to NRAC</i>
<i>January 6</i>	<i>Site Visits</i>
<i>January 9</i>	<i>Alternative Site Visits</i>
<i>January 17</i>	<i>Preliminary Scores Due</i>
<i>January 19</i>	<i>Primary Meeting – Recommendation/Approval/Finalize Scoring</i>

Brian Ball moved to approve the Schedule. David Heithaus seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Comments

The Board discussed this round being kind-of an extension on Round-17, where new applicants can apply as well. They spoke about making Policy Manual changes in February to help with clarity for applicants.

Other Business

None.

Public Comments

Steve Fleegal asked about getting clarity on issues with their submission. Tom Davis stated we will get with applicants on specifically what the issues were and help them address that. Angela stated that can



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also contact us in advance when they're trying to submit, however, anyone having an issue with WorksWise will want to contact Nick for help with that.

Next Policy Review/Methodology Meeting

The Board set a date of Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Tom Davis called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Steve Goodwin moved to adjourn. Dave Heithaus seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 10:41.