

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION/POLICY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 7, 2016//APPROVED JANUARY 25, 2017**

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	JORDAN SULLIVAN	X	JEFF HAWKINS
BELLA VISTA	PETER CHRISTIE	X	
BENTON COUNTY	BOB CLINARD JOHN SUDDUTH JAY FRASIER	X X	DEAN KLINGMAN
BENTONVILLE	BOB McCASLIN SHELLI KERR	X X	
BETHEL HEIGHTS	CYNTHIA BLACK		
CAVE SPRINGS	TRAVIS LEE		
CENTERTON	BILL EDWARDS RICK HUDSON	X	
DECATUR	BOB THARP JAMES BOSTON		
ELKINS	BRUCE LEDFORD		
ELM SPRINGS	HAROLD DOUTHIT		
FARMINGTON	MELISSA McCARVILLE	X	
FAYETTEVILLE	JEREMY PATE	X	
GARFIELD	GARY L BLACKBURN		
GATEWAY	FRANK HACKLER JR.		
GENTRY	KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	JOE BENSON		
GRAVETTE	KURT MADDOX	X	
GREENLAND	BILL GROOM	X	
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT		
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR X DOTSON		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR DARRELL TRAHAN		
JOHNSON	CHRIS KEENEY		
LINCOLN	ROB HULSE		
LITTLE FLOCK	BUDDY BLUE		
LOWELL	ELDON LONG (CHAIR)	X	
PEA RIDGE	JACKIE CRABTREE	X	
PRAIRIE GROVE	SONNY HUDSON	X	
ROGERS	NATHAN BECKNELL BOB CRAFTON	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	PHILLIP PATTERSON JOHN TURNER	X X	
SPRINGDALE	DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER		X JEFF HAWKINS
SPRINGTOWN	PRESTON BARRETT		
SUPHUR SPRINGS	GREG BARBER		
TONTITOWN	PAUL COLVIN, JR		
WASHINGTON CO.	JULIET RICHEY		
WEST FORK	HEITH CAUDLE		
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	ALAN FORTENBERRY	X	
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH	X	
U OF A	MIKE JOHNSON	X	GARY SMITH
MoDOT	DARIN HAMELINK		
McDONALD COUNTY	KEITH LINDQUIST		
PINEVILLE	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
AHTD PLANNING	JESSIE JONES	X	CHAD ADAMS
AHTD TRANSIT			
AHTD DISTRICT 4	CHAD ADAMS	X	
FHWA	AMY HEFLIN		
AR HWY COMMISSIONER	DICK TRAMMEL	X	

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NWARPC STAFF: Jeff Hawkins, Celia Scott-Silkwood, AICP, Tim Conklin, AICP, Cristina Scarlat, Elizabeth Bowen

OTHERS: Ron Wood, NWADG; Morgan Farmer, Senator Cotton's office; Hugh Earnest

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Eldon Long called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVE NWARPC/POLICY COMMITTEE OCTOBER 26, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION

Chair Long asked for a motion to approve the October 26, 2016 Minutes as distributed. Nathan Becknell made the motion. Peter Christie provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.

3. CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Jeff Hawkins gave the following report:

- Clearinghouse Reviews – The four Federal-Aid applications received in November have been reviewed.
- Mathias Properties has asked NWARPC to sign a new three-year lease for the NWARPC office building at \$4200.00 per month beginning October 1, 2016.
 - As of this time, the lease has not been signed, and NWARPC is renting month to month with a 30% surcharge (which has not been paid, nor has it been asked for).
 - Currently NWARPC leases about 5,800sq. ft.
 - Mathias Properties has changed the terms of this lease from the one signed in 2005. They are asking the Commission to pay taxes, utilities and a pro-rated share of the maintenance of the property. Additionally, they have indicated that the Commission will no longer have exclusive use of the parking lot in front of the building.
 - Staff is searching for other possible facilities, centrally located in the two-county region and with easy access from I-49. One possibility is a 6,000sq. ft. building in Lowell that would require the interior to be custom built-out, and rents for about \$10/sq. ft.
 - NWARPC members asked several questions:
 - Q. Are others using the current parking lot? A. Sometimes, but isn't a big problem yet.
 - Q. How many times per month is the parking lot full? A. 6 – 8 times, if not more, depending on how many other groups hold meetings in the conference room.
 - Q. Has a professional relator been engaged? A. Philip Taldo has volunteered his services.
 - Q. Has he been formally hired? And if not, put him on the job.

4. NWARPC PROJECTS UPDATE

- NWA Bicycle Pilot Project grant – This grant involved an opportunity to work with Rogers, Bentonville and Bella Vista to implement a pilot project featuring “protected bike lanes” on local city streets. The object of the demonstration project was to deliver quick, easily installed items (such as planters, temporary bollards, tape striping) to form a protected bike lane. These temporary projects were up for one month, and were recently dismantled. However, people are still using the “painted” lanes and cars are still not parking in these lanes, even though the project is technically over. A report will be made available of the data collected while the project was in full swing.
- Razorback Regional Greenway
 - Still working on a one year warranty list in Springdale.
 - Wayfinding Sign Project #2 – All the signs will be installed by March 2017 (100 signs).

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- There have been several trail closures due to highway construction projects. AHTD has provided good maps of detours.
- NWA Regional GIS System – Interactive GIS maps are posted on the website gis.nwarpc.org/arcgis/rest/services/. All jurisdictions can log-onto this and use the data. The 1-foot contour delivery will be December 15, 2016 and will be on the system for use by others.
- There is a meeting scheduled for December 12, 2016 to discuss with interested cities the 2017 planimetric development program.
- NWA Open Space Plan
 - The Framework Committee – finished the Prioritization Criteria Document, set up a Facilities Board, and developed an interlocal agreement.
 - The Education and Outreach Committee – is developing a message blueprint.
 - The Priority Project Selection Committee – continues to discuss selection criteria for top priorities.
 - The Funding Committee – continues to discuss the next steps for sustainable funding, including a Real Estate Transfer Tax and has discussed opinion polls as a way of determining if public support exists and how to fund a poll.
- Infrastructure Inventory and Assessment – the draft report is due December 9, 2016.
- A Commission member offered a cautionary note – taking people’s private property is a very serious matter and care should be taken in the implementation of some projects mentioned at this meeting.

5. ELECTION OF 2017 OFFICERS

Mayor Eldon Long, Chair for the past two years, asked the Nominating Committee if it had a slate of officers to serve for the next one-year term. Sonny Hudson, standing in for the absent Travis Lee, said that the Committee is putting forth the following slate of officers:

Mayor Bill Groom, Chair

Mayor Kevin Johnston, Vice-Chair

Mayor Sonny Hudson, Secretary

Mayor Bill Edwards, Treasurer

MOTION

Chair Long asked for motion to approve the recommended slate of officers to serve for 2017.

Jackie Crabtree made the motion. Jeremy Pate provided the second. The motion passes unanimously.

Chair Long thanked the future officers for serving and thanked the NWARPC staff for assistance during his two terms.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff Hawkins said:

- The FTA has scheduled a Triennial Review Site Visit for NWARPC in March 2017. He said that in order to prepare for the March site visit, staff had to answer 200+ questions, upload numerous documents into an FTA drop box and attend a two day workshop.
- West Fork’s new mayor is Heith Caudle.
- The Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) consisting of Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville, Benton County, and Washington County will meet next week to discuss the stressor response study outcomes and suggested response for submittal to the EPA. Additionally, the consultants hired by the IWG, Wright Water Engineering and Geosyntech, will be reviewing the TMDL for the Illinois River models and make suggested comments for submittal to EPA.

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- The Federal budget expires on December 9, 2016 and there is no word on the amount of funding that might be available for 2017 STBGP-A projects.

Jeff Hawkins distributed a handout explaining Annexation Impacts on City and County State Turnback, and County Sales and Use Tax Revenue Distributions.

- 7. ADJOURN** – A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes.