

AGENDA

SOUTHERN MAINE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 18th, 2010
Anderson Learning Center
21 Bradeen St.
Springvale, Me.

9:00 AM

1. Minutes of January 14th Meeting

The minutes for the January meeting are enclosed.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for February is enclosed (including Brownfields information).

3. Brownfields Update

Not a real lot has happened since our last meeting other than some positive press in the Biddeford Journal. We anticipate another RLF application for the North Dam Mill to be submitted within the next few weeks (likely in the 400k range). We also anticipate an application from the owners of the Lincoln Mill in Biddeford (near Town hall).

South Berwick continues to work on the new entity for their library - which is needed in order to receive the grant funds. We also have been involved with the town of Kennebunk to assess and possibly remediate a gas station on Main St. in the Kennebunk downtown. The town is considering purchase of the site.

Also there will be statewide Brownfields Conference on Tuesday, April 6th in Augusta. Interested Board members should contact Chuck or me. It will also be a good time for SMRPC to promote our successes. Either Chuck or I will be a presenter.

4. Billing Rates

A couple of meetings ago the Board asked that I put together a list of billing rates and costs associated with Planning/Technical Assistance provided to area towns and Planning Boards. The universe is pretty thin as far as consultants providing non-engineering services to towns. I have enclosed both Engineering, non-engineering and Regional Planning Agency costs, as well as our costs for various functions.

5. New Employee

We have hired Myranda McGowan from Westbrook to take Julia's place as Senior Transportation Planner. Myranda is finishing her Muskie School graduate degree and was the Transportation Planner for the Strafford Regional Planning Commission for the last three years. She will be starting on March 22nd.

6. EDD Situation

Our efforts to establish our own EDD continue with a new twist. We have once again asked EDA for a decision on establishing an EDD for York and also one for Cumberland County. However, what has now happened is that in other parts of Maine, the EDD structure is also not working well (and is not nearly as amicable as our relationship with GPCOG). So EDA and the state of Maine are now looking to realign the boundaries of the EDD's statewide, including ours.

There is obviously a concern that this "process" might take a long time. If it appears that is the case then I feel we should be prepared to go directly to the congressional delegation. However there are two meetings being set up for next week (with the Maine EDDs and the state) and the following week in Philadelphia with EDA to try and come up with new boundaries. We can see how that goes.

The good part of this scenario is that it may allow us to align our EDD boundary with our Regional Planning Commission boundary (i.e. including Oxford County). It would make a whole lot of sense - and would also need the approval of AVCOG, who has not seemed to object in any initial discussions.

7. Annual Meeting

I would like to get the Annual meeting scheduled for the beginning of June. I would suggest we hold it at the same location with the same caterers as last year, which went very well. We can arrange a guest speaker at a later date and/or discuss ideas now.

8. Energy projects

SMRPC is now directly (and contractually) involved with two energy projects using stimulus money. First we are assisting York County with their \$650k stimulus grant. The primary work involves helping them with reporting requirements but also setting up a grant/loan program for area towns using about \$250k of the stimulus money for municipal projects. We will begin work on that within the next few weeks.

We also wrote (and received) on behalf of the town of Kittery a \$500k Efficiency Maine proposal to set up a residential and small business energy efficiency/retrofit loan program for 6 towns in southern York County. We will primarily be working to help with admin, but also assisting in the development of the Revolving Loan itself.

I would also note we will likely be doing the admin work for the new Goodwins Mills Fire Station for which Tom wrote a successful stimulus grant (quite a feat actually considering the competition).

9. Draft Budget

I am enclosing a draft budget to give everyone an idea of where we are at. Interestingly, we seem to be in a fairly good budgetary position and it may in fact improve with a few grant applications in the wings.

A couple of things I would note is that I would like to provide a pay increase of 3%. We did not receive a pay increase last year. If we were to hold the line again and then calculating in insurance premium increases (we pay 70% of a family plan) the take home pay of employees would be \$25-35 dollars a pay period less than 2 years ago.

I would also point out the addition of some money from DECD. I will explain this at the meeting as it involves some personnel issues, which I would like to discuss with the Board.

Other

Next meeting:

April 29th