

RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023

ENTITY	MEMBER	ATTENDING	PROXY
AVOCA	MAYOR ROBERT WHITEHORN		
BELLA VISTA	MAYOR JOHN FLYNN	X	
BENTON COUNTY	JUDGE BARRY MOEHRING (CHAIR) JOSH BEAM JAY FRASIER/DEAN KLINGMON	X X	
BENTONVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE ORMAN SHELLI KERR	X X	
CAVE SPRINGS	MAYOR RANDALL NOBLETT		
CENTERTON	MAYOR BILL EDWARDS (SECRETARY) LORENE BURNS	X	
DECATUR	MAYOR BOB THARP		
ELKINS	MAYOR TROY REED	X	
ELM SPRINGS	MAYOR HAROLD DOUTHIT		X Matt Casey
FARMINGTON	MAYOR ERNIE PENN (VICE CHAIR)		X Melissa McCarville
FAYETTEVILLE	MAYOR LIONELD JORDAN CHRIS BROWN JONATHAN CURTH	X X	 Chris Brown
GARFIELD	MAYOR GARY L BLACKBURN		
GATEWAY	MAYOR CHERYL TILLMAN		
GENTRY	MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON		
GOSHEN	MAYOR RUSSELL STROUD		
GRAVETTE	MAYOR KURT MADDOX		
GREENLAND	MAYOR JIM RENFROW		
HIGHFILL	CASSIE ELLIOT	X	
HINDSVILLE	MAYOR STEPHANIE CASEY		
HUNTSVILLE	MAYOR TRAVIS DOTSON		
JOHNSON	MAYOR CHRIS KEENEY (TREASURER)	X	
LINCOLN	MAYOR DOUG HUTCHENS		
LITTLE FLOCK	MAYOR JEFF VAN SICKLER	X	
LOWELL	MAYOR CHRIS MOORE	X	
PEA RIDGE	MAYOR NATHAN SEE		
PRAIRIE GROVE	MAYOR DAVID FAULK	X	
ROGERS	LANCE JOBE JOHN McCURDY SHAWN GRISNDSTAFF	X X	
SILOAM SPRINGS	MAYOR JUDY NATION ALLAN GILBERT		X Ben Rhoads
SPRINGDALE	MAYOR DOUG SPROUSE PATSY CHRISTIE JIM ULMER	X X	 X Tim Conklin
SPRINGTOWN	MAYOR TERRI GLENN		
SULPHUR SPRINGS	MAYOR SHANE WEBER		
TONTITOWN	MAYOR ANGELA RUSSELL		X Mark Latham
WASHINGTON CO.	JUDGE PATRICK DEAKINS BRIAN LESTER SAM ATA	X X	
WEST FORK	MAYOR HEITH CAUDLE		
WINSLOW	ANN MALKIE		
ARDOT PLANNING + DISTRICTS	BRAD McCALEB JASON HUGHEY (DISTRICT 4)		X Sunny Farmahan X Sunny Farmahan
BEAVER H2O DISTRICT	LANE CRIDER	X	
MCDONALD COUNTY	COMMISSIONER BRIAN HALL		
MoDOT	DAVE TAYLOR (BRITNI O'CONNOR)		
NAT. AIRPORT AUTH.	AARON BURKES	X	
PINEVILLE, MO	MAYOR GREG SWEETEN		
RAZORBACK TRANSIT	GARY K. SMITH (ADAM WADDELL)	X	
U OF A	SCOTT TURLEY (JAY HUNEYCUTT)	X	
OZARK REG. TRANSIT	JOEL GARDNER (NON-VOTING)		
ARDOT TRANSIT	GREG NATION (NON-VOTING)		
HWY COMMISSION	PHILLIP TALDO (NON-VOTING)		

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

NWARPC STAFF: Elizabeth Bowen; Nicole Gibbs; Tim Reavis; and Cristina Scarlat

OTHERS: Dennis Birge (Bentonville); Nicola Hoofard (Centerton); Bridget Russell and Catherine Baker (Washington County); Jackie Crabtree (ARML); and Andy Brewer (Olsson).

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY; VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED AS NWARPC REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The hybrid, in-person and virtual NWARPC/Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Treasurer and Acting Chair, Mayor Chris Keeney at 1:30 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

In-person attendees introduced themselves and Tim Conklin named the virtual attendees. Nicole Gibbs recorded member names and tallied votes. A quorum was reached.

(3) APPROVAL OF JULY 26, 2023 RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes and hearing none, requested a motion to approve the July 26, 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Sunny Farmahan made a motion to approve the July 26, 2023 RPC/Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mayor Doug Sprouse provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT/CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin said the Clearinghouse Report was distributed to the Board. He said the Regional Planning Commission is the designated entity to conduct reviews of federal grant applications on a local level. He said we have entities in Benton and Washington Counties applying for grants that are being processed through the state and back through regional planning. He said we do not vote on this item; it is just for informational purposes. He said any time you need additional information, please reach out to us.

Conklin said Tim Reavis was moved into the Multimodal Transportation Planner position and will be working with ORT, Razorback Transit, and the member jurisdictions on multimodal transportation projects, including the \$180,000 FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) grant to improve access to bus stops and improved bus shelters in our region. He said this position was funded in our current budget.

Conklin said NWARPC, with the support from the NWA Council and ARDOT, submitted two Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants (MPDG) Applications: \$160 million application for US 612 from I-49 to Hwy 265 and \$25 million for Highway 112. He thanked the Board's staff, who has been actively working with our staff and ARDOT to obligate approximately \$13 million of previously awarded federal STBGP-A funds, and at the same time, later on the agenda, the Commission will be awarding an additional \$14 million dollars for regionally significant projects.

Conklin said NWARPC will be migrating our email to Microsoft Outlook the first week of September. We have been having significant email issues getting through security firewalls and NWARPC email being undelivered to members using our current approach to send and receive emails. After the

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

migration to Outlook, we anticipate that @nwarpc.org will no longer have as many issues for us to communicate with our members and will have additional security features being available to protect NWARPC computers and data along with our members computers and data.

Conklin said as mentioned last month, the NWARPC continues to watch ground level ozone levels for our region. He said we met with ARDOT and Arkansas Energy and Environment this past Monday to discuss where we are as a region, the implications of potential exceeding the established level, and what we can do as a region to better prepare. He said as we discussed at the last meeting, the ozone value exceeded the EPA limit at the Springdale monitoring station for 2023. He said the established level is a three-year rolling average.

A. RESOLUTION #2023-16 – Authorizing an Engagement Letter with Harris CPAs LLC for the NWARPC Independent Annual Single Audit

Conklin said at the last Board meeting, we discussed advertising for a three-year engagement for a CPA to do a single audit for the NWARPC. He said we received a CPA engagement letter from Harris CPAs LLC to prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 single audit, July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, and including two additional years. The fee for the FY 2023 audit remains the same as last year with tiered increases for FY 2024 and 2025. He said our grant agreements with ARDOT and MoDOT as well as federal law, require that we do these single audits for the Commission.

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-16 Authorizing an Engagement Letter with Harris CPAs LLC for the NWARPC Independent Annual Single Audit.

MOTION: Mayor John Flynn made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-16 Authorizing an Engagement Letter with Harris CPAs LLC for the NWARPC Independent Annual Single Audit. John McCurdy provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

B. 2024 Membership Fee Request

Conklin said he did send out a memo, as requested at the last meeting, to each of the jurisdictions that potentially would see a change. He said he received feedback and provided additional information to one member. As discussed last month, NWARPC is trying to position the organization to be able to match the increase in federal funds that we anticipate coming to the region starting next year.

Conklin said we continue to support our member jurisdictions on local planning issues, as we have over the last 50 years, and make sure projects with federal funding continue to meet all requirements for transportation planning programming and implementation. He said the most recent example, the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan that the Board adopted in June, allowed Bentonville, Fayetteville, and Rogers to apply for approximately \$73 million in SS4A Implementation Grants on July 10th. He said collectively, we are trying to ensure that cities, counties, and the state can apply for federal grant opportunities. He said when you add it all up, over the last two months the region collectively has applied for approximately \$258 million of federal grant opportunities.

Conklin said he does not anticipate bringing membership dues back for a long time. He said the dues are based on the decennial census, with the next census likely to come out in 2032. He said following the board decision on the proposed fee structure, we will be sending out the official Budget Request Letters to all members at the end of this week, or early next week. He thanked the

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

Board for their consideration and said he appreciates all the questions over the last four to six weeks regarding membership dues.

Judge Patrick Deakins said Washington County will be voting against the fee increase, which is not a reflection on the Commission or the staff, but they are looking at it strictly from an accounting perspective and are having a hard time justifying the increase in terms of the benefit they receive.

MOTION: Mayor Doug Sprouse made a motion to move forward with sending out funding requests for setting membership dues at 85 cents per capita for the 10 jurisdictions currently paying 70 cents per capita. John McCurdy provided the second. Motion passed with Washington County opposed.

(5) FFY 2024 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP PROJECT SELECTION

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Elizabeth Bowen summarized available funding anticipated as follows, saying actual funding is contingent upon Congressional action:

NWARPC FY 2024 Programs:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A) | approx. \$ 11.5M |
| • Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) | approx. \$ 1.2M |
| • Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) | <u>approx. \$ 1.3M</u> |
| | approx. \$ 14M |

Bowen summarized the FY 2024 funding programs timeline as follows:

- Call for Projects – March 23, 2023
- Application Deadline (Resolution Required) – July 14, 2023, at 4:00pm
- Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee – July 20, 2023 at 10:30am
- Selection Committee Site Visits/Scoring/Rec – August 2 & August 9, 2023
- Selection Committee Recommendation to TAC – August 17, 2023 at 10:30am
- **TAC Recommendation to RPC/Policy – August 23, 2023 at 1:30pm**

Bowen said we received 35 applications from 13 different communities and showed the following table of applications received, and noted that highlighted project request amounts signify funding that was requested in multiple categories; nine (9) projects were submitted for consideration in two or more funding programs:

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

Year	County	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	TAP-FEDERAL	STBGP-A-FEDERAL/HIP	CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM	TOTAL FEDERAL
2024	Benton	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354			\$ 120,354
2024	Benton	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases		\$120,354		\$ 120,354
	Benton	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases			\$120,354	\$ 120,354
2024	Benton	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Construction/Cost Eng/Utilities		\$640,000		\$ 640,000
2024	Benton	Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Ventdor Boulevard	Construction	\$650,000			\$ 650,000
2025	Benton	Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Ventdor Boulevard	Construction			\$650,000	\$ 650,000
2024	Benton	Bentonville/Centerton	Greenhouse Rd	ROW/Utilities		\$3,799,532		\$ 3,799,532
2024	Benton	Centerton	City Sidewalk Project	Construction			\$227,000	\$ 227,000
2024	Benton	Centerton	City Sidewalk Project	Construction	\$227,000			\$ 227,000
2024	Benton	Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Widening Project	Design/Environmental		\$200,000		\$ 200,000
2024	Washington	Fayetteville	Millsap Rd/College Ave Inters Impvts & N Hemlock Ave Impvts	ROW/Utilities		\$1,600,000		\$ 1,600,000
2024	Washington	Fayetteville	Safe Routes to School Planning Grant	Planning			\$100,000	\$ 100,000
2024	Washington	Fayetteville	Drake Street Trail Connection	Construction	\$500,000			\$ 500,000
2024	Benton	Gravette	Hwy 59&72 Intersection Improvements	Construction		\$1,000,000		\$ 1,000,000
2024	Benton	Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	Design/Environmental		\$404,400		\$ 404,400
2024	Benton	Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	Design/Environmental			\$404,400	\$ 404,000
2024	Benton	Lowell	Hwy 71B/Hwy Int Imp	Construction		\$250,000		\$ 250,000
2024	Benton	Lowell	Hwy 264/Belleview/Spring Creek Int Imp	Construction		\$891,850		\$ 891,850
2024	Benton	Pea Ridge	Lee Town Rd Trail	Construction	\$600,000			\$ 600,000
2024	Benton	Pea Ridge	Lee Town Road Multi-Use Trail	Construction			\$650,000	\$ 650,000
2024	Benton	Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	Construction			\$332,872	\$ 332,872
2024	Benton	Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	Construction	\$332,872			\$ 332,872
2024	Benton	Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements (priority 3)	Construction	\$500,000			\$ 500,000
2024	Benton	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I (priority 1)	Construction	\$220,948			\$ 220,948
2024	Benton	Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph 1 (priority 2)	Construction	\$500,000			\$ 500,000
2024	Benton	Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements (priority 6 of 6)	All Phases			\$500,000	\$ 500,000
2024	Benton	Rogers	Hwy 94/Hudson/Hwy12 Sidewalks	Design/Environmental			\$260,000	\$ 260,000
2024	Benton	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I (priority 1 od 6)	Construction			\$220,948	\$ 220,948
2024	Benton	Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph I (priority 2 of 6)	Construction			\$500,000	\$ 500,000
2024	Benton	Siloam Springs	Hwy 412 and Hwy 16 Intersection Improvements	Design/Environmental		\$216,000		\$ 216,000
2024	Benton	Siloam Springs	East Kenwood	Design/Environmental		\$295,233		\$ 295,233
2024	Benton	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext	Construction		\$5,020,000		\$ 5,020,000
2024	Washington	Tontitown	N Barrington Rd and US 412 Inters Impvts	Design/Environmental		\$360,000		\$ 360,000
2024	Washington	Washington County	Jackson Highway Bridge Lincoln Lake	Design/Environmental		\$200,000		\$ 200,000
2024	Washington	Washington County	Wheeler Rd Bridge	Design/Environmental		\$200,000		\$ 200,000
					\$3,651,174	\$15,197,369	\$3,965,174	\$22,813,717

Bowen said excluding duplicate requests across all three funding programs, 25 projects were submitted for consideration, totaling over \$19.1 million in requests.

Bowen said to sustain the funding program over time, we typically need a mixture of existing projects and new projects coming into the pipeline due to the variability of project phases and timelines and the ability to obligate federal funding. She said the funding formula is based on the population for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urban Area (UA) and she illustrated changes to the UA between 2010 and 2020. She said the new 2020 Urban Area population will be used from 2024 to 2034.

Bowen said a memo was distributed to the committee summarizing the review committee’s discussion and recommendation, and she highlighted aspects of the review committee’s discussion, including changes to the Urban Area between 2010 and 2020; requirements in the ARDOT Local Public Agency (LPA) Manual, which must be followed to receive the NWARPC program federal funding; and other discussion points including:

- Resolution
- Eligible projects
- Project readiness
- Min/Max of program(s)
- Functional classification

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

- Regional significance
- Up to 20% available to non-regionally significant project(s)
- Has the project reached 80% federal/20% local matching (in cash)?
- Has the project applied for other funding?
- Does the project have partners?
- Following ARDOT Local Public Agency (LPA) Manual federal-aid process (**ARDOT TRAINING SEPT. 12**)
- Who is designing project?
- Scoring/points ranking of projects
- Fund entities not applied before
- Equitable distribution
- Balance of existing/new projects in “pipeline”
- Which program to fund projects?
- Fund at full or reduced amounts?
- Can the project be obligated by Sep 2024?

Bowen said several changes were made to project requests based on the review committee’s discussions prior to making the recommendation, including the following:

- Several projects changed the phase(s) due to timeline/project readiness concerns
- Several project requests were reduced to the max allowed
- Project sponsors discussed the priorities of their communities' projects

Bowen noted that if projects do not receive requested funding recommended, they may apply for the next cycle anticipated to begin in January 2024.

Bowen said other provisions made in the review committee’s recommendation include:

- Existing STBGP-A Projects (8) – the larger cities made provisions to reduce the amount requested for their larger project requests (projects requesting over \$1 million), and all smaller funding requests were recommended except for the lowest ranked project.
- New STBGP-A Projects (7) – the four highest ranked projects (out of 7) are recommended at their full request.
- TAP Projects (9) – the three highest ranked projects were awarded \$500,000, \$400,000, and \$300,000 respectively (note: Bella Vista Mercy Way Project was ranked 3rd, but recommended under STBGP-A).
- CRP Projects – once projects that were recommended under other funding programs were removed from consideration, the next highest ranked projects were recommended in the CRP category.

Bowen presented the following award recommendations by the review committee, noting the yellow highlight signifies a requested change of phase or funding maximum; orange/tan signifies the projects submitted under multiple funding programs; and strikethrough signifies a request to remove the project from a funding category:

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - TAP Projects								
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking	Award Rec.
Washington		Fayetteville	Drake Street Trail Connection	Construction	\$500,000	720	1	\$500,000
Benton		Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Vendor Blvd	Construction	\$600,000	694	2	\$400,000
Benton	90436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354	668	3	STBG
Benton	90631	Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph 1	Construction	\$500,000	658	4	\$300,000
Benton		Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I	Construction	\$220,948	634	5	CRP
Benton		Pea Ridge	Lee Town Rd Trail	ROW/Utilities	\$600,000	562	6	CRP
Benton		Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	ROW/Utilities/ Construction	\$332,872	546	7	CRP
Benton		Centerton	City Sidewalk Project	ROW/Utilities/ Construction	\$227,000	527	8	\$0
Benton	90584	Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements	Construction	\$500,000	523	9	\$0
				Total	\$ 3,601,174			\$ 1,200,000

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - CRP Projects								
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking	Award Rec.
Benton	90564	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks Ph I	Construction	\$220,948	707	1	\$220,948
Washington		Fayetteville	Safe Routes to School Planning Grant	Planning	\$100,000	704	2	\$100,000
Benton	90436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354	662	3	STBG
Benton		Bentonville	SW Bentonville Trail from Morning Star Trail to Vendor Blvd	Construction	\$650,000	653	4	TAP
Benton	90631	Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks Ph I	Construction	\$500,000	648	5	TAP
Benton		Rogers	Hwy 94/Hudson/Hwy12 Sidewalks	Design/Enviro	\$260,000	631	6	\$260,000
Benton		Pea Ridge	Lee Town Road Multi-Use Trail	ROW/Utilities	\$650,000	612	7	\$386,180
Benton		Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	ROW/Utilities	\$404,400	605	8	STBG
Benton		Pea Ridge	N Davis Street Sidewalk Ext	ROW/Utilities/ Construction	\$332,872	600	9	\$332,872
Benton		Centerton	City Sidewalk Project	ROW/Utilities/ Construction	\$227,000	551	10	\$0
Benton	90584	Rogers	Rogers Ped Improvements	All Phases	\$500,000	500	11	\$0
				Total	\$ 3,965,574			\$ 1,300,000

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - STBGP-A (Existing Projects)								
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking	Award Rec.
Benton	90524	Lowell	Hwy 264/Belleview/Spring Creek Int Imp	Construction	\$891,850	187	1	\$891,850
Washington	40717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext	Construction	\$5,020,000	182	2	\$3,000,000
Benton	90628	Bentonville/ Centerton	Greenhouse Rd	ROW/Utilities	\$3,799,532	182	2	\$3,333,396
Washington	40943	Fayetteville	Millsap Rd/College Ave Inters Impvts & N Hemlock Ave Impvts	ROW/Utilities	\$1,600,000	174	4	\$1,300,000
Benton	90601	Lowell	Hwy 71B/Hwy Int. Improvements	ROW/Utilities/ Construction	\$250,000	174	4	\$250,000
Benton	90524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Const/Const Engr/Utilities	\$640,000	159	6	\$640,000
Benton	90436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Corridor Improvements	All Phases	\$120,354	139	7	\$120,354
Benton	90606	Siloam Springs	East Kenwood	Design/Enviro	\$295,233	121	8	\$0
				Subtotal	\$12,616,969			\$9,535,600

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 - STBGP-A (New Projects)								
County	Job No.	Jurisdiction	Project	Phase	Request	Score	Ranking	Award Rec.
Benton		Gravette	Hwy 59&72 Intersection Improvements	Construction	\$1,000,000	182	1	\$1,000,000
Benton		Lowell	Hwy 264 Razorback Greenway Tunnel	ROW/Utilities	\$404,400	155	2	\$404,400
Washington		Tontitown	N Barrington Rd and US 412 Inters Impvts	Design/Enviro	\$360,000	145	3	\$360,000
Washington		Washington County	Wheeler Rd Bridge	Design/Enviro	\$200,000	142	4	\$200,000
Benton		Siloam Springs	Hwy 412 and Hwy 16 Intersection Improvements	Design/Enviro	\$216,000	117	5	\$0
Benton		Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Widening Project	Design/Enviro	\$200,000	115	6	\$0
Washington		Washington County	Jackson Highway Bridge Lincoln Lake	Design/Enviro	\$200,000	105	7	\$0
				Subtotal	\$ 2,580,400			\$ 1,964,400
							TOTAL STBGP-A	\$ 11,500,000

Bowen asked whether there were any questions regarding the funding recommendations and there were none.

Bowen said as previously discussed, we plan to move the FFY 2025 funding program cycle up to better accommodate the obligation process, and summarized the following proposed timeline:

FFY 2025 Programs Timeline:

- Call for Projects Jan 2024
- Application Deadline (Resolution Required) Mar 2024
- Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee Mar 2024
- Selection Committee Site Visits/Scoring/Rec Mar/April
- Selection Committee Recommendation to TAC April 2024
- TAC Recommendation to RPC/Policy April 2024

Bowen said representatives for each awarded community will need to attend an ARDOT LPA training on September 12, 2023 at NWARPC from 10:00am – 11:30am. She said award letters are anticipated to go out early next week to recipients and to ARDOT to initiate the LPA process.

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve the FFY 2024 STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP project awards as shown in the funding allocation tables.

MOTION: Mayor Bill Edwards made a motion to approve the FFY 2024 STBGP-A, TAP, and CRP project awards as shown in the funding allocation tables. Mayor Stephanie Orman provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(6) NARTS FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #2 – Suballocated FTA Section 5307 FY 2018 Federal Apportionment to ORT

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Tim Conklin explained that a TIP amendment was requested by ORT, ARDOT and FTA. He said we held a public comment period from August 7, 2023 to August 21, 2023 and we did not receive any comments. He said the additional funding coming to our region will be used to purchase seven (7) Dodge Ram vans to support the on-demand transit being deployed in Bentonville, Rogers, Springdale, and Fayetteville. He said ORT has been successful with their Via On-Demand platform and ridership continues to increase. He said these funds are coming from the Conway Urban Area and were about to lapse. ARDOT reached out to

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

transit providers across the state and Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) responded. He said they will be receiving \$936,626 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 funds to support the purchase of those seven vans. He said this requires an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the funds are proposed to be added to our program as follows:

2023-2026 NARTS TIP - AMENDMENT #2 PROPOSED CHANGES									
JOB	COUNTY	ROUTE	TERMINI	LENGTH	TYPE WORK	ESTIMATED COST Funding Breakdown (in thousands)	AGENCY CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT	FFY	MPO
ADD:									
NARTS16			Capital - Rolling Stock - Conway Funds	-	Transit	1,102 - TOTAL 937 - FTA 5307 165 - Local	Local-ORT	2023	NARTS
Suballocated Conway FTA Sec. 5307 FFY 2018 Federal Appropriation									

Conklin said NWARPC is the FTA designated recipient for FTA urban programs and we would typically be splitting these FTA funds – 45% to Razorback Transit and 55% to ORT. He said he has had a discussion with Razorback Transit and Razorback Transit has had a conversation with ARDOT. He said in the future, when there is money that comes to the region, the process will come through Regional Planning.

- A. RESOLUTION #2023-17** – Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a motion to approve Resolution #2023-17 – Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

MOTION: John McCurdy made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-17 – Amending the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (NARTS) FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mayor John Flynn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

(7) PROJECTS AND OTHER UPDATES

A. FY 2023 STBGP-A/TAP/CRP Project Development

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item and Nicole Gibbs said we are under triparty agreements as of FFY 2023. She thanked those who are sending their quarterly reports to NWARPC and asked LPAs to continue to do so. She said we are helping to track and guide project development through both the federal and state process from now on. She said we experienced significant delays this year in receiving the triparty agreements for projects awarded last year, partly due to the significant restructuring in ARDOT. She said that is mostly settled and the division is staffed up so most agreements are now in place except for two new project agreements and a few supplemental agreements. She said we have verbally been told that supplemental agreements will not hold up project development and we can continue to obligate funding toward those projects prior to receiving the supplemental agreements.

She showed and summarized the FFY 2023 awards and highlighted the projects that we anticipate meeting the obligation deadline. She said we need all projects to continue working towards obligation even if you are not represented in our obligation scenario.

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

COUNTY	JOB	JURISDICTION	PROJECT	PHASE	TAP	STBGP-A	CRP	Notes	AoU Rec'd
2023 AWARDED PROJECTS									
Benton	090678	Cave Springs	W Wallis Rd & Sands Rd Sidewalk Extension	Construction			\$ 10,784		7/17
Benton	090706	Centerton	McKissic Trail Phase 2	Construction			\$ 500,000		4/10
Washington		Fayetteville	LED Lighting and Video Detection of Major Intersections	Construction			\$ 400,000		8/18
Washington	040947	Johnson	Razorback Greenway Lighting	Construction			\$ 339,300		4/10
Benton	090707	Lowell	Traffic Signal Improvements	Construction			\$ 131,764		6/19
Washington	040948	Springdale	Watkins Ave. - S Pleasant St Trail Feasibility Plan and Design	Plan/Design			\$ 100,000		revising
Washington	040917	Farmingington	Creekside Park Trail	Construction	\$ 500,000				6/21
Benton	090504	Gravette	Gravette Trail System Phase II	Construction	\$ 408,974			Supp.Agr.	6/1
Benton	090630	Bentonville	I49 Razorback Greenway Relocation	Construction	\$ 500,000			Supp.Agr.	4/10
Washington	040717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext.	Construction		\$ 4,500,000		Supp.Agr.	6/5
Benton	090436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	All Phases		\$ 326,845		Supp.Agr.	7/6
Benton	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Utilities/Eng/Constr		\$ 800,000		Supp.Agr.	6/5
Washington	040887	Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North St to Township St) **	Construction		\$ 1,800,000		Supp.Agr.	5/23
Benton	090238	Centerton	Hwy 102 Sidepath **	Construction		\$ 600,000		Supp.Agr.	6/5
Washington	040943	Fayetteville	Millsap, College, N Hemlock	ROW/Environ		\$ 320,000			1/30
Benton	090675	Rogers	W Pleasant Grove Rd & Hwy 265 Roundabout	Design/Env		\$ 168,000			3/24
Benton	090674	Rogers	Hwy 265 and Hwy 94 New Hope Rd Roundabout	Design/Env		\$ 200,000			3/23
Benton	090601	Lowell	US-71B/HWY264 Intersection Improvements	Construction		\$ 240,000		Supp.Agr.	6/22
Benton	090433	Lowell	Hwy 264/Bellview/Spring Creek Rd Inters. Impvts. **	Construction		\$ 560,000		Supp.Agr.	5/22
Benton	090709	Lowell	Monroe from Oak St to Hwy 265	Utilities/Eng/Constr		\$ 439,258		missing res.	3/23
Benton/Washington	012450	NWARPC	Comprehensive Safety Action Plan - Vision Zero	Planning		\$ 400,000			X
Washington	040809	Springdale	Dean's Trail Phase 3A	Construction		\$ 240,653		Supp.Agr.	supp.agr.
Benton	090564	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks (existing ARDOT TAP-18 project)	Construction		\$ 290,653		Supp.Agr.	supp.agr.
Benton	090679	Decatur	Rooster St to Hill Ave Sidewalk Improvements (ARDOT TAP-22)	Construction		\$ 183,000		Supp.Agr.	supp.agr.
Benton		Centerton	Fish Hatchery Rd Trail Project	Design		\$ 25,000			w/in 2wks
2023 Projects Awarded by RPC/Policy Committee:									
STBGP-A and TAP – August 2022									
CRP (1 st Call) – December 2022									
CRP (2 nd Call) – March 2023									
					\$ 1,408,974	\$ 10,354,103	\$ 2,221,154		
					TOTAL AWARDED 2023		\$ 13,984,231		



Gibbs summarized the current obligation plan scenario and said we have been working with Communities and ARDOT to reach the obligation goals. She said the plan includes 2023 awards previously discussed; older projects that are in shape to obligate this fiscal year; and large ongoing projects that are requesting more funding in the 2024 funding cycle that were just awarded by the Board, earlier on the agenda:

YEAR	JOB	JURISDICTION	PROJECT	PHASE	TAP	STBGP-A	CRP	Notes	AoU Rec'd	ANTICIPATED TO OBLIGATE - 2023			TOTAL ANTIC. OBL. 2023		
										TAP	STBGP-A	CRP	HIP		
2023 AWARDED PROJECTS															
2023	090504	Gravette	Gravette Trail System Phase II	Construction	\$ 408,974			Supp.Agr.	6/1					OBLIGATED	
2023	090630	Bentonville	I49 Razorback Greenway Relocation	Construction	\$ 500,000			Supp.Agr.	4/10	\$ 500,000				\$ 500,000	
2023	040717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext.	Construction		\$ 4,500,000		Supp.Agr.	6/5					OBLIGATED	
2023	090436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	All Phases		\$ 326,845		Supp.Agr.	7/6					OBLIGATED	
2023	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Utilities/Eng/Constr		\$ 800,000		Supp.Agr.	6/5					OBLIGATED	
2023	040887	Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North St to Township St) **	Construction		\$ 1,800,000		Supp.Agr.	5/23	\$ 1,800,000				\$ 1,800,000	
2023	012450	NWARPC	Comprehensive Safety Action Plan - Vision Zero	Planning		\$ 400,000		X	X					OBLIGATED	
2023	040809	Springdale	Dean's Trail Phase 3A	Construction		\$ 240,653		Supp.Agr.	supp.agr.			\$ 240,653		\$ 240,653	
2023	090564	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks (existing ARDOT TAP project)	Construction		\$ 290,653		Supp.Agr.	supp.agr.			\$ 290,653		\$ 290,653	
										\$ 500,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 531,306	\$ -	\$ 2,831,306	
EXISTING/ONGOING PROJECTS (UNOBLIGATED)															
2019	090338	Rogers	Walnut Street/US 71B Sidewalks	Construction	\$ 212,047					\$ 212,047				\$ 212,047	
2022	040887	Fayetteville	College Ave Complete Street (North St to Township St) **	Construction		\$ 1,500,000					\$ 1,500,000			\$ 1,500,000	
2022	090163	Bentonville	SW Regional Airport Blvd. / S. Vaughn Rd. Intersection Impr.	Design and Enviro		\$ 500,000					\$ 500,000			\$ 500,000	
										\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	N/A	\$ -	\$ 2,212,047	
EXISTING/ONGOING PROJECTS TO REQUEST FFY 2024 FUNDING* (PROJECTED)															
2024*	040717	Springdale	Don Tyson Parkway Ext.			\$ 3,000,000					\$ 2,722,932		\$ 277,068	\$ 3,000,000	
2024*	090436	Bella Vista	Mercy Way Bridge and Road Imps - Razorback Greenway Ext.	All Phases		\$ 120,354							\$ 120,354	\$ 120,354	
2024*	090524	Benton County	Wagon Wheel Rd Bridge Replacement	Constr/Eng/Utilities		\$ 640,000							\$ 640,000	\$ 640,000	
2024*	090564	Rogers	Hwy 94 Sidewalks PH1 (existing ARDOT TAP project)	Construction			\$ 220,948					\$ 220,948		\$ 220,948	
2024*	090631	Rogers	Hudson Rd Sidewalks PH1 (existing ARDOT TAP)	Construction	\$ 300,000						\$ 300,000			\$ 300,000	
										\$ 300,000	\$ 2,722,932	N/A	\$ 1,037,422	\$ 4,281,302	
										NET ANTICIPATED OBLIGATION 2023	\$ 800,000	\$ 6,522,932	\$ 531,306	\$ 1,037,422	\$ 9,324,655
										FUNDS ALREADY OBLIGATED 2023	\$ 408,974	\$ 6,026,845	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,435,819

NOTES:

- *2024 amounts are projected; subject to Board approval
- TAP and CRP funds need to be carried over due to delay in receiving LPA Agreements of Understanding
- \$1M carry over limitation per ARDOT policy; in the past, ARDOT partner projects (PP)** did not count toward carry over limitation
- GOAL:** obligate min. of \$9.5M of the \$12.7M remaining FY 2023 obligation limitation

TOTAL AWARDED 2023	\$ 13,934,231
STBGP-A AWARDED 2023	\$ 10,354,103
TAP AWARDED 2023	\$ 1,408,974
CRP AWARDED 2023	\$ 2,171,154

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

Conklin said no one is getting any more money than what has been awarded by the Board. He said we need the current awards to utilize our money for FFY 2023 so that we do not lose any funding coming to the region. He said the FFY 2023 projects that were not able to obligate this year, will likewise use the FFY 2024 funding next year. He said we have never run into a situation where there is no obligation limitation or authority for your projects. He said we are always trying to catch up, which is why we are moving up the funding program to January for 2025 because we are in a constant cycle. He thanked his staff for all the work they put into managing all the moving parts for the Commission to make sure we do not lose any funding coming to the region. Gibbs thanked the Board's staffs for all their work in getting these projects ready for obligation.

Gibbs said we have made good progress on the projects that were previously inactive and on the obligation plan. She said your staff worked very hard to get claims submitted and the projects active so that we can obligate funds on those projects.

Gibbs said the obligation puzzle is increasingly complicated with more funding and projects in various states and in different fiscal years. She said we are researching software to help us better manage and track these processes and to coordinate with ARDOT and all the communities so that everyone can be working from the same playbook. Conklin said the ideal system would be a portal that the Commission, LPA, and ARDOT can enter data into rather than everyone keeping different sets of excel spreadsheets.

B. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant Update

Elizabeth Bowen explained that the NWA Vision Zero Plan was adopted by the RPC/Policy Committee in June 2023. She said we had three (3) entities that were able to apply for the Implementation Grants by the July 10th deadline. She said next steps include the following:

- Huntsville Plan Finalized (draft due 8/23)
- Cities/Counties adopt Plan and Vision Zero Goal
- Implement (apply for grants)
- Complete the rest of the tasks in the contract

Bowen said please continue setting your Vision Zero Goals and send NWARPC the adopting resolutions when you get them done. She said several communities have already adopted Vision Zero Goals, including the following:

2038 2040 2030 2040 2038 2035

					
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NWARPC Bentonville Fayetteville Rogers Springdale Huntsville

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

Bowen said NWARPC was awarded \$300,000 USDOT SS4A Action Planning Grant in January 2023 to complete the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). She said since we adopted the plan prior to USDOT getting the agreement of understanding to us, we are waiting to hear back whether we will be allowed to continue the project using the federal funding, including several items included in the original scope of work that we have not yet completed:

- Individual Plans for “up to 6 of the largest cities if needed”
- Systemic Safety Webinars (2)
- Video/Storytelling
- Safety Demonstration Projects
- Community engagement strategies
- Action Plan Communication Materials

C. Energy and Environment Innovation Plan Update

Bowen said the state has received a \$3 million planning grant through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) formula grant program and gave background for the project, saying we are partnering with the state, Metroplan, and Ft. Smith. She said we are being suballocated \$440,000 (100% federal funding) to complete a regional Priority Action Plan and Comprehensive Action Plan for the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), including Benton, Washington, and Madison Counties.

She said we have many existing plans in place, which highlight activities and projects potentially eligible for the \$4.6 billion nationwide competitive EPA CPRG Implementation Grants. She said the statewide Priority Action Plan (PAP) is due March 1, 2024 and the Implementation Grant deadline is April 1, 2024. She said projects must be covered by this plan to be eligible to apply for implementation grant funding. She said it is a single year program and they plan to award the entire \$4.6 billion nationwide in one year – not in a five-year cycle like other USDOT programs. She said this program is 100% federally funded, without a local match requirement.

Bowen summarized the deliverables timeline as follows:

Deliverable	Due
Priority Plan Supplement	12/1/2023
Comprehensive Plan Supplement	2/28/2025
Status Report Supplements	3/1/2027
Quarterly Region Engagement Meetings	Summer 2023 – Summer 2025
Semiannual Region Meetings	Fall 2025 – Fall 2027
Attending E&E Quarterly Intergovernmental Coordination Meetings	Summer 2023 – Fall 2027

Bowen said we are negotiating a contract with Olsson to complete our regional work and she summarized other next steps as follows:

- ADEE funding appropriation approved (Aug 22)
- Finalize and sign MOA - August
- Procurement process to hire a consultant – August
- Form Steering Committee -August

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

- Website/survey/idea box – August/September
- Review City/County/State plans for action items – August/September
- Community engagement/identify new action items – September/October
- Develop State supplemental data - November
- Develop Regional Action Plans – December-March 2024

Bowen said to ensure you get any specific projects to us that you would like to consider for implementation grant funding so that we can work with you to get them into the regional PAP. Conklin said, for example, projects eligible for the TAP and CRP funding, are also eligible for this funding.

D. Other Grant Opportunity Updates

Bowen summarized current grant opportunities as follows:

USDOT Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs):

- [FY 2022/2023 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation \(PROTECT\) Program](#) - deadline August 18, 2023 @ 11:59 PM EDT
- [Thriving Communities Technical Assistance \(TCTA\)](#) program-(rolling applications)
- [Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant \(MPDG\)](#) program (INFRA/MEGA/RURAL) -deadline August 21, 2023 @ 11:59 PM EDT
- [Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods \(RCN\) and Neighborhood Access and Equity \(NAE\)](#) Combined Program–deadline September 28th, 2023 @ 11:59 PM EDT
- **NEW!** [USDOT Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation \(SMART\) Grants Program](#) – deadline Tuesday, October 10, at 5:00 PM ET

Arkansas State Grant Programs

- [ARDOT Intersection Improvement Program \(IIP\)](#)
- [ARDOT Local Bridge Program \(LBP\)](#)
- [AR Dept. of Parks, Heritage, & Tourism -Outdoor Recreation Grants Program](#)

(8) COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney introduced the item.

A. Active Transportation Committee (ACT)

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the recent meetings of the Active Transportation Committee (ACT) and the NWA Regional BikePed Master Plan Update Subcommittee as follows:

ACT Last Met: Aug 17, 2023

- NWA Equity and Active Transportation Survey - Trailblazers
- Don't Stop at the Street – Fayetteville (from NACTO Conference)
- Razorback Greenway Alliance is in final stages of wayfinding signage (thermals complete, mile markers wrapped),
- SS4A – Vision Zero
- Grant opportunities
- Sub-committee for NWARBPMP June 15, 2023

Next Meeting

- ACT – Aug 17, 2023 at 1:30
- Subcommittee NWARBPMP - July 20, 2023 at 2:30
- Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail Ribbon Cutting occurred Aug 5 at the Pea Ridge National Military Park

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

B. NWA Open Space Coalition

Elizabeth Bowen summarized the following:

Last Met: July 17, 2023

Next Meeting: September 18, 2023 @ 10:30 am

C. MS4 Stormwater Compliance Group

Nicole Gibbs summarized the following:

Last Met: August 16, 2023

Discussion Items:

- April-June Stormwater Education 2nd Quarter Report
- Pick Up Where You Play 2023 (www.uaex.uada.edu/environment-nature/water/stormwater/nwastormwater/litter.aspx)
- Fall Leaves Outreach Feedback
- Employee Trainings – Topics?

Next meeting scheduled: October 18, 2023 @ 10:30 am, virtual (every two months on the third Wed.)

D. NWA GIS User Group

Nicole Gibbs summarized the following:

Last Met: June 13, 2023 (update given at previous meeting)

Next meeting scheduled: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 10:30am, virtual

(9) PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney said there were four comments distributed in the meeting packets and asked whether there were any other comments and there were none.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney announced upcoming meetings as follows:

- **TAC Meeting** – Thursday, September 21, 2023 @ 10:30 AM
- **RPC/Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, September 27, 2023 @ 1:30 PM

B. ARDOT Public Involvement Meetings Hwys. 59 & 72 Corridor Study (Benton Co.):

Meeting #1 – Tuesday, August 29, 2023 @ 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Gravette High School (Commons Area), 325 Lion Drive South, Gravette, AR 72736

Meeting #2 – Thursday, August 31, 2023 @ 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Gentry Public Library (McKee Community Room), 105 East Main St. Gentry, AR 72737

<http://www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings>

C. Beaver Watershed Alliance, Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Forum #6, Leading Change – September 28, 2023 @11:30am, Fayetteville Public Library, Zeigler Room,

<http://www.beaverwatershedalliance.org/events/>

D. ARDOT Transportation Planning Conference – September 19-21, 2023, Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Little Rock, AR, <https://www.ardot.gov/divisions/transportation-planning-policy/2023-transportation-planning-conference/>

**RPC/POLICY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 1:30 PM; APPROVED DECEMBER 6, 2023**

Sunny Farmahan said ARDOT membership on the Policy Board is hard coded as specific positions in the NWARPC bylaws, as being the Division Head of Planning and Research and the District Engineer from 4 or 9. He said with the restructuring previously mentioned, there is no Division of Planning and Research and there are many other changes. He said ARDOT would like to request an amendment to the bylaws to change the language to "as appointed/recommended by the department".

Acting Chair Mayor Keeney asked whether there was any other business.

(11) ADJOURN

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 6TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023

ATTEST:



Judge Barry Moehring, Chair, NWARPC