

MINUTES
BLUEGRASS REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
May 26, 2020

The May 26, 2020 meeting of the Bluegrass Regional Planning Council (BRPC) was held online as a ZOOM webinar. In attendance were:

Name	Agency
County Judge Executive Orbrey Gritton	Anderson County
Pete Beaty	Jessamine - Wilmore P & Z
Robert Hewitt	Franklin County P & Z
Andrea Lacy	Bourbon County Joint Planning Commission
Shane New	Bluegrass ADD
Natalie Flores-Esquivel	Bluegrass ADD
Ed Taylor	Carlisle Planning
Matt Summers	Georgetown-Scott Co. Planning
Shawn Moore	Harrodsburg/ Mercer County P & Z
Lloyd Jordison	Madison Health Department
Jason Hart	Richmond Planning
Janice Westlund	Bluegrass ADD

Handouts were sent prior to the meeting and included were the agenda, minutes from the January 28th meeting, and bylaws with proposed updates from the January meeting.

Pete Beaty called the meeting to order. Mr. Beaty initiated roll call which included a review of panelists and attendees. There were ten panelists attending, one attendee, and one phone call in.

Mr. Beaty then initiated discussion and approval of the minutes. A motion was made to approve the January minutes by Ed Taylor and then seconded by Andrea Lacy. County Judge Executive Orbrey Gritton, Chairman of the Bluegrass ADD's Executive Board and Executive Officer of the BGADD Regional Planning Council, advised on the voting process. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimously passed. Mr. Beaty reintroduced the proposed bylaw amendments from the January meeting. Shawn Moore made a motion to approve the bylaws and the motion was seconded by Ed Taylor. Bylaw amendments were passed unanimously.

Mr. Beaty introduced the Transportation presentation being presented by Natalie Flores-Esquivel, Transportation Planner for the Bluegrass ADD. Ms. Flores-Esquivel began her presentation about Transportation projects and the Six-Year Plan, and the process of getting a transportation project from idea

to funding. She discussed how the State's Highway Plan had not been enacted yet probably due to the pandemic's effect. She explained the purpose of Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow (SHIFT). SHIFT is the process through which projects occur from funding by the gas tax. She described how active projects are initiated, and how the beneficiaries from the project are accounted for. Then she described the next step of the Active Project Listing or the initial meeting about the project, in order for the project to be listed in the database to ensure the project is scored through prioritization.

Ms. Flores-Esquivel gave the five criteria upon which each project is scored and how the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet weights each of these criteria. She noted that sometimes the weights are adjusted based upon the region of the project.:

- Benefit/cost 15%
- Economic growth 15%
- Safety 20%
- Asset management 10%
- Congestion 10%

15% of the scoring comes from each of the local MPO or ADD, and the highway district office for the other 30%. Final scores go to the state regions to compete for funding.

Ms. Flores-Esquivel's presentation continued with how public input affects the project selection process. Public Input on transportation projects includes public input to their local public officials, public input to the Regional Transportation Committee, and public input given to the legislators (Governor, House of Representatives, and Senate).

Ed Taylor asked if the transportation funds were a set amount that is distributed and what happens if the amount is reduced for unexpected circumstances such as the gas tax after the pandemic. Ms. Esquivel-Flores responded that a gas tax bill wasn't passed as of date of the meeting, that emergency funding will be established in July, and the Two Year Highway Plan hasn't been enacted yet and will depend on funding.

After Ms. Flores-Esquivel's presentation, open discussion was initiated for any questions and comments about the transportation presentation. Mr. Beaty asked if population is used in weighting selection on projects. Ms. Flores-Esquivel responded that it doesn't directly but indirectly it does since road mileage is a factor. The other factors were the SHIFT and any mega projects in a region. Ms. Westlund asked about how to connect any transportation project to support a comprehensive plan and/or its future land use map to the selection process, and Ms. Flores-Esquivel recommending working with their ADD and their highway district to communicate the need for a project and/or add it to the project list.

Mr. Beaty thanked Ms. Flores-Esquivel for her presentation and then asked if there were any other topics of business to discuss. Janice Westlund added that the Goals and Objectives for Harrodsburg-Mercer County's Comprehensive Plan were on the agenda for the March meeting which was cancelled due to the pandemic, and that their Goals and Objectives had been adopted. Ms. Westlund invited Shawn Moore to give the committee an update on Harrodsburg-Mercer County Comprehensive Plan process. Mr. Moore gave the committee an update on their Comprehensive Plan progress and that the Community Facilities element final draft was near completion.

Mr. Moore initiated a discussion about solar panels on agricultural land. He asked about any other planning unit's experiences with solar farms and/or zoning text for solar panels on agricultural land. Ms. Westlund reported it was a requested topic by several of the RPC members starting with Andrea Lacy's request in early 2019. Since then Martin Richards requested solar panels on farms as a topic for the upcoming year

at the January 2020 RPC meeting, and at this meeting several other members acknowledged interest in solar farms and zoning for that use. Robert Hewitt recommended possibly consulting with the National Guard and Airport Commissions on locations for solar panels since he learned of electrostatic interference caused by solar panels during a recent small area plan. Matt Summers reported that Georgetown-Scott County had been researching and evaluating zoning text for solar by other communities and they haven't settled on zoning text to propose for their planning unit. Mr. Moore reported that solar companies are looking to acquire land and that making it a Board of Adjustment conditional use in Agriculturally zoned land was probably best way to go. Mr. Beaty noted that taxes on an energy providing entity and the tax status of farms is an important consideration when revenues are involved.

After asking for any additional comments or business that needed to be discussed, and being none, Mr. Beaty requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Lacy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Regional Planning Council meeting ended at 3:19 p.m. Attendance will count as 1.25 hours of continuing education credit per KRS 147A.027.

The next meeting will be held on July 28, 2020, and it will be a virtual online zoom meeting. The topic will be solar farms. The invites with zoom links will be sent later, as well as, the presenter of the meeting.