

BOND REIMBURSEMENT & GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

March 30, 2017

Teleconference

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Heidi Teshner
Rep. Sam Kito III
Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Mark Langberg
Dale Smythe
Robert “Bob” Tucker
William “Bill” Murdock
Doug Crevensten
Don Hiley

Staff

Tim Mearig
Lori Weed

Additional Participants

(None – Committee Work Session)

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL at 1:32pm

Heidi Teshner, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Roll call of members: Bob Tucker is absent; Sen. MacKinnon and Rep. Kito are excused. Quorum of 6 members.

REVIEW and APPROVAL of AGENDA

Sen. MacKinnon joined the meeting.
Agenda reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.

REVIEW and APPROVAL of MINUTES

Bob Tucker joined the meeting.
Minutes for February 28, 2017 reviewed and approved as submitted by unanimous consent.

BR&GR MASTER LIST WORK PLAN

Tim noted that this is a carryover from the February 28 meeting. The department would like to bring back a process for long-range and annual planning for the committee. This specific tool was previously used through 2006. The work topics have been organized by statutory responsibilities; the list includes items from 2006 and those noted by the committee more recently.

Rep. Kito joined the meeting. (Full complement of 9 members.)

Tim offered that the document is a work in process and anticipates DEED to have a supporting role. Bob noted that some items have been on the list for quite some time and suggested a brief synopsis of each item and a determination of which topics should remain on the list and those that are not relevant. Tim concurred but observed that some items, such as the space allocation issues, are so old as to be current again. The document should be edited to be a useful tool for tracking topics, and look at responsibilities and due dates.

Tim reviewed the first section, noting the committee is tasked with putting forward an application for ranking projects. The committee was created in SLA 1993, it established the application and prioritization process for FY96, and has since been responsible for annually approving an application for the major maintenance and school construction grant fund process.

Under section 2, the statute asks the committee to review projects. Reference the February 28 meeting, discussing committee options to review projects and make recommendations. This section includes items relating to how the committee can help the department plan school construction and renewal around the state, including a related topic on funding.

Responding to Sen. MacKinnon's question, Tim clarified the work item "state's role in design and construction" has been on the list as a discussion item as to whether or not the department can have different levels of involvement between rural and organized boroughs, as many municipalities are recognized jurisdictions for code reviews. DEED has implemented regulations as a result of this work topic to enable districts to enter into a memorandum of agreement to do their own design reviews and the department primarily reviews scoping and bidding documents. Bob clarified that the committee does not participate in these arrangements. Tim indicated that the committee had likely been involved in drafting the regulation.

Sen. MacKinnon noted that the state suspended the debt reimbursement program and she has currently introduced a bill (SB 87) to try to gain energy efficiencies for long-term operating costs. She is very interested in the role the committee plays in developing regulations around energy efficiency, construction management, and design and construction.

Section 3 relates to developing criteria for cost-effective school construction. Several items have been implemented in this area, but the committee has not produced a document or standards. Tim observed that this section is a resource intensive effort, and is hard to do on a volunteer basis.

Section 4 is prototypical design analysis. The committee has attended to this previously, adopting prototypical school design guidelines. There was a 2015 prototype analysis report.

The annual topic in Section 5 is the drafting and approval of the project application. Included in that is the committee's responsibility for a ranking system. Related to the area of CIP application and scoring, there is an opportunity to touch on many aspects of school planning, design, and construction. [Note: on reaching this section, Tim modified that Section 1's emphasis was mis-stated and should have been the committee's review of grant priorities.]

Section 6, "CIP Approval Process Recommendations", is based on statutory requirement for recommendations to the state board on making changes to the approval process for grants. The work topics documents have traditionally included regulations and handbooks in this section.

Section 7 was added in 2010, relating to setting standards for energy efficiencies for schools for construction and major maintenance; the committee addressed this in 2011-2012, recommending DEED implement standards in regulation.

Tim asked whether any committee member could speak to 6.5.1, 6.5.2, or 6.5.3. Don stated that 6.5.3 ("ADM by Grade Level (for SERRC?)") came from trying to do enrollment projections based on cohort survival worksheets. Rep. Kito clarified that 6.5.1 (Consolidation into Single Database) was based on DEED having multiple databases and spreadsheets being copied forward every year in support of the CIP process, and looking at whether those could be combined. Item 6.5.2 (Coordination with Unity Project) was DEED looking into whether it would be useful to integrate with the U.S. DOE database. Lack of staff and resources prohibited looking into these issues. Tim stated that the department will conduct an internal review of these two topics.

Sen. MacKinnon suggested that work on *School Design & Construction Standards* not wait until 2020 as currently listed. If the school debt reimbursement program returns in 2020, it would be beneficial for the committee to take up school design and construction standards to support the legislature as it looks at what to do with school construction and major maintenance. Committee agreed to revise the publication timeline.

In response to Mark's suggestion to retire the *Swimming Pool Guidelines*, Tim clarified that the publication does not provide design standards but is based on statutory requirement to provide districts information on allowable pool size and when they would qualify for a state-funded pool. Rep. Kito also observed that if the lower level of the debt reimbursement program were not reinstated, the *Guidelines* would need to be revised and statute would need to be reviewed.

BR&GR 2017 WORK PLAN

Committee members reiterated their desire to move the *Construction Standards* to the 2017 work plan. Tim stated that it would be helpful to remove the *Life Cycle Cost Analysis* and replace it with the *Construction Standards* publication. Sen. MacKinnon noted that any changes to the process, in order to introduce or modify existing legislation, would be needed by January 2018.

Tim suggested that the committee schedule another short teleconference session prior to the September meeting; he can provide an overview of the publication status. Mark suggested that the committee plan on several telephonic meetings prior to September. Tim noted that one or more subcommittees to work on the publication may be needed. General concurrence for a preliminary meeting to frame the topic, followed by a few longer efforts on the publication.

Mark noted there were no surprises in the prototype report and recommended removal. Sen. MacKinnon summarized the report's finding not use prototypical designs, noting, however, the bill she introduced that addresses standardized components for various systems by climate region. Bob asked that DEED send the committee the legislation under consideration.

Tim noted that SB 87 includes a provision for the committee to review school plans for the potential application of standardized systems and components. He will reach out to committee members to work on position paper for the September meeting on how to take on that role if the bill is passed. Bob offered to collaborate as needed. Discussion on procurement rules, ability to sole source materials and equipment, and limiting contractor mobilization/ de-mobilization costs.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

Heidi stated that the next meeting date and time will be discussed via e-mail. She asked for approval for 2017 work topic plan changes: remove prototype report review, add briefing paper on the pending legislation (SB 87), remove *Life Cycle Cost Analysis Handbook* update, and add new *Construction Standards* publication. Committee approved by unanimous consent.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Committee members expressed support of shorter telephonic "work sessions" in-between regular bi-annual meetings and appreciation that the full membership was able to attend and participate.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The committee adjourned at 2:48 p.m.