

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Minutes of Meeting of April 17, 2008

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM
1401 19TH STREET, THIRD FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY
APRIL 17, 2008
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cheryl Wegman at approximately 7:10 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Tarver, Scrivner, Lessenevitch, Morgan, Florez, Wegman, McQuiston, Rubio

Members Absent: Ramirez, Mock, Rosson, Thompson, Smith

Alternates: Vernon, Treese

Congestion Management Agency Ex-Officio Members: Warren, Ehlert, Silver

Others: Approximately 5

Staff: Brummett, Collins, Hildebrand, Ball, Pacheco, Palomo, Smith, Snoddy and Randolph

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Council on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Council. Council members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Council at a later meeting. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD PRIOR TO MAKING A PRESENTATION.** None heard.

- III. CONSENT AGENDA/OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by Kern COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken. **ROLL CALL VOTE.**

A. Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2008

B. Concurrence in Actions of TPPC

C. Response to Public Comments (None)

D. Local Clearinghouse

E. Preliminary Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) FY 2008-09 Financial Plan

MOTION BY DIRECTOR MORGAN, second by Director Lessenevitch, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. Motion carried with a roll call vote.

IV. KERN COG:

- A. Election of Officers

Director Rubio stated that Chair has done a good job, he nominated her for another year and nominated Director Morgan as Vice Chair, he believes it would be a good balance of somebody from the west and the east. Director Morgan thanked him. Director Florez second. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Chair Wegman thanked Director Florez for her job as Vice Chair last year.

V. KERN REGIONAL BLUEPRINT:

A. Report Kern Regional Blueprint Project

Mr. Hildebrand stated that first of all he would like to announce the Phase I reports are in their final form and on the website for the Blueprint and we have all Phase II reports complete but they are still in draft form and they will soon be on the website. We have participated in a variety of meetings, including with the Kern County Health Department, a couple of working groups for the Partnership and a presentation made to the Kern Fat Tire Club, a bicycling group here in Bakersfield. We have also completed our 2008 Community Survey, a random survey of 1200 residents, the actual telephone interviews are done, but we have not received the data yet, it is being compiled and we expect to have it within the next two weeks. The planning staff completed all of its one on one meetings with the staff of all the member agencies – the planning and community development staff, so we have been to each city and the County to discuss in a smaller forum how the entire process has come together with respect to each of your jurisdictions. Those meetings are complete and are shaping how the Phase II material will be reported and how we will move forward ultimately to the Summit on June 26th here in Bakersfield. There are a couple of events coming up, first of all a week from tomorrow on the 25th will be the Executive Forum, a meeting being hosted by the Great Valley Center amongst the eight county participants in the Central California Blueprint. The purpose of the meeting will be to focus on elected city and county officials and it will in essence be an orientation to the project as it is going to be conducted Valleywide, it will have some discussion on what has occurred up to this point and input from the elected officials on their interests and concerns. We currently have seven elected officials registered to go, we will work the phones next week to bring that up a little bit more, it is important, so any of you that can get there, there is a lot happening. It's starting to show up legislatively in SB 375 and AB 32 greenhouse gases. We are trying to put together something here that is of value not only on a regional level but for all of you to maintain your competitive position for resources. If you have the time, please attend. Our Summit is coming up on June 26th, a Thursday night. One final bit of good news that I wanted to mention is that we finally received word on our third year funding. We received Valleywide amongst the eight counties \$1.375 million. Kern in conjunction with Inyo and Mono counties also applied for an Eastside Blueprint going up the Owens Valley in the amount of \$50,000. This completes the iteration of the first year funding, it is a three year cycle. We will be shifting to a multi-county forum but it will be important that your voices from here in Kern County be heard so that we end up with something that is of value to all of us.

VI. TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY: (None)

VII. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY: (None)

VIII. KERN MOTORIST AID AUTHORITY:

A. Safe of 119 Committee Report

Mr. Hildebrand stated that as you recall your Board entered a contract with California Highway Patrol (CHP) in the amount of \$100,000 to finance approximately 1,200 overtime hours for increasing patrols on SR 119. We started that Program on November 19th. Council Member Cliff Thompson from Taft gave an initial report that included data through the end of February, but that was kind of ragged, so we invited Lt. Doyle Green, Commander of the Buttonwillow office of the CHP to come and give you a report on what has occurred during the first quarter of the 08 year.

Lt. Green said everyone should have a copy of the memo with some stats on it. First off he said he would like to talk about the accident picture quickly and why we put this together. In 2005 we had one fatality and in 2006 there were two fatalities and in 2007 four people were killed, so that is why we put together the Safety Task Force of which Mr. Hildebrand is a member. This last quarter there have been ten accidents, normally we would have twice that, we have done very well and there have been no fatal accidents since this first started in November, so that is really great. We have had seven injury accidents, with 13 people injured and we would like to keep trying to decrease those. We have used a little over a third of the grant on this project. It has been successful and we are going to keep plugging along to try to reduce the injuries and fatalities out there. He said he also applied for an Office Safety Grant out of Sacramento and there is a good chance that will start in April of 09 for additional enforcement. Chair said these stats speak wonders for your grant, you can't argue with this. You are doing a great job! Mr. Hildebrand stated although the officers are getting paid, they are using their personal time to do this. We want to express our appreciation for them to their dedication for doing this, it is very admirable. The impact is very real and very direct. Director Scrivner asked if any letters of support from our legislative representatives could help with that second grant. Lt. Green said they have already been received the letter of acceptance.

B. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to Share in the Sacramento Region's 511 Traveler Information System

Mr. Brummett stated that 511 is a nationally designated and recognized traveler information number. As part of the Surface Transportation Act of 2005, the Federal agencies directed the states to develop a 511 Traveler Information System. In California that has been delegated down to the regional areas. Los Angeles, the Bay area and Sacramento have had them for quite some time. SACOG has offered the eight San Joaquin Valley COGs the opportunity to be a part of that phone tree. So if you are here and you dial 511 it will give you the opportunity to pick your language first and then go to your local area and then have choices whether you want to go to Caltrans roads condition, weather, etc. We plan on starting off fairly basic and building over time. We also plan on starting a website so people could go on there and make connections to some of those places. It works real well with our Greenride Program that we have with the rideshare, we could combine all of that together, put on all the transit schedules, the Amtrak schedule, all those kinds of travelers information. This Agreement only deals with the cellular portion of it, we will have to individually negotiate the language with each of our local phone companies. This would allow us at no cost to come on, the only cost is a couple of cents per call, that we would have to reimburse SACOG. There is no cost to set it up. San Luis Obispo is spending \$100,000 to start it up and do it on their own. By approving this Agreement you would be allowing us to work with SACOG and start the 511 system, it would take us a few months to get it going, but this is the first step. It is an allowable cost under the Motorist Aid Authority, so it is not coming out of the regular Kern COG budget.

MOTION BY DIRECTOR MORGAN, second by Director Rubio, TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND THE SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO ALLOW ACCESS TO SACOG'S 511 SERVICE. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mr. Brummett pointed out that you actually approved a version of this a few months ago, but then they revised it so we brought it back. Director Vernon asked if there are plans to move forward and get the land line approved as well. Mr. Brummett said yes there is, but we are going to do this in baby steps, we already have the website designed, this will allow us to get the cell line going and then we will negotiate with the phone companies for the land line as well.

IX. MEETING REPORTS:

A. So. California Water Commission

Director Lessenevitch stated that he attended the quarterly meeting of the Southern California Water Commission in March and the only subject on their mind is a bond proposal for water storage mitigation of environmental issues in the Delta, and perhaps development of a peripheral canal to facilitate water delivery to Southern California. You have seen headlines in the newspaper this week, but he said he doesn't know how to emphasize how important the Delta is to the water in the San Joaquin Valley.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- A. Warrant Register
- B. Timeline
- C. 3rd Quarter Financial Statements
- D. Call Box Statistics

Mr. Brummett stated that we have not received any call box statistics, it seems that the contractor is going through a reorganization and we have been unable to get them, we will get them to you as soon as they are available. He said he wanted to reemphasize the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Executive Forum on April 25th in Fresno. Also please reserve the date for the Kern Regional Blueprint Summit on June 26th here in Kern County, he said we had the Chair sign a letter tonight to KEDC who has programmed a dinner on that same date, and we are asking them to move their dinner to another night so that we don't divide our elected officials between the two activities. He said he has tried to negotiate with the KEDC staff and talk to them about moving the date and not scheduling on top of us and they were not willing to do that. So we will send the letter that the Chair has signed to have them change the date because they should be participating in this Summit as well.

Chair presented Mr. Peter Smith, Senior Planner with Kern COG with a plaque for twenty years of dedicated service.

X. MEMBER STATEMENTS: On their own initiative, Council members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. In addition, Council members may ask a question of staff or the public for clarification on any matter, provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, or request staff to report back to the Council at a later meeting concerning any matter. Furthermore, the Council, or any member thereof, may take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. None heard.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (None)

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting May 15, 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald E. Brummett, Executive Director

ATTEST:

Cheryl Wegman, Chair

DATE: _____