

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 21, 2002
MAG Offices
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr Queen Creek,
Chairman
Mayor Joan Shafer Surprise, Vice Chairman
Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa

Mayor Bill Arnold, Goodyear
* Mayor Roy Delgado, El Mirage
Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
* Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix

* Not present

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Wendy Feldman-Kerr at 12:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the August 19, 2002 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Mayor Keno Hawker moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2002 Executive Committee meeting. Mayor Bill Arnold seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Transportation Policy Committee Update

Dennis Smith provided an update on the Transportation Policy Committee Retreat, which was held on September 20-21, 2002 at the Carefree Inn. He stated that a draft of the new Regional Transportation Plan is expected in one year. Mr. Smith mentioned that 20 out of the 24 TPC members attended the Retreat. He stated that the MAG staff was directed to develop an air quality strategy. He also noted that the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council was invited to attend the October 23, 2002 TPC meeting at the APS Building. The items on the agenda for discussion include the consultant selection for the Regional Transportation Plan and the RFQs for the Information Program and the Transportation Plan Advisor.

Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated that it is appropriate to put these items on the next Regional Council agenda. The Executive Committee agreed.

4. Air Quality Update

Lindy Bauer reported that a lawsuit has been filed by the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest challenging the EPA approval of the Revised MAG 1999 Particulate Plan for PM-10. Ms. Bauer stated that the brief should have been received today, and issues are expected to include

CARB diesel and more stringent agricultural measures. According to EPA, violations at the Salt River monitor might also be a factor. Ms. Bauer stated that new federal engine and clean diesel fuel standards may work in EPA's favor. Ms. Bauer stated that if the Center wins and the court vacates the approval, major industries would be hit immediately. She stated that in next five months, three things would happen if the situation is not remedied: the loss of federal funds, stoppage of major transportation projects, and imposition of EPA's own plan.

Ms. Bauer stated that the timing is a concern. Ms. Bauer noted the possible court decision could take place in July 2003. She stated that the lawsuit will coincide with the development of the new RTP and the process of going out for the extension of the half cent sales tax. Ms. Bauer stated that state action may need to be taken on CARB diesel and more stringent agricultural measures. She advised that congressional relief may be forthcoming. Ms. Bauer stated that at the September TPC meeting, Dave Berry vocalized his concerns and suggested that we develop a unified strategy for effective representation for the region. The ideas the TPC came up with include forming a stakeholders group of private attorneys to assist the EPA; and a letter writing campaign to EPA, the Governor's office, and the US Attorney General. Ms. Bauer stated that the letters would emphasize the importance of the lawsuit and request that they mount a strong defense. She stated that Dave Berry also suggested that the private sector attorneys from those industries that could be impacted could lend assistance and expertise. She noted that MAG had received a request from the Center for the PM-10 Plan and documents.

Mayor Manross asked if there is any idea as to what form that legislation would take. Ms. Bauer stated that she would need to see the brief first. Mayor Hawker asked the impact of CARB diesel. Ms. Bauer explained that the tail pipe emissions for PM-10 is a small percentage and the CARB diesel would have a small impact. Mayor Hawker asked the amount of funds that would be lost. Ms. Bauer stated \$4.5 billion in the Transportation Improvement Plan.

Chairman Feldman-Kerr asked if the Committee had any other questions. She stated that this item was for information and discussion only.

5. Discussion of Regional Development Scope of Work

Mr. Smith provided the Committee with background on this item. At the Regional Council meeting in May, the Regional Council had concerns with hiring three individuals to report on regionally significant projects. Several member agencies have advocated a more incremental approach, focusing on information sharing, informal review and the development of an annual report. Mr. Smith suggested looking at the San Diego Report, which measures San Diego against its peers. MAG fell at the bottom of this list.

Jack Tomasik distributed a map that identifies community job centers. He stated that the overall goals of the draft scope of work are information and analysis of the region to assist member agencies in decision-making and to help communities prosper. Mr. Tomasik explained that MAG has a wealth of knowledge, including existing MAG datasets, that can be applied to economic development and can be supplied to member agencies for their own use. He added that new datasets have been developed as a result of the funding received through the TCSP grant. He noted that MAG is working with GPEC on information sharing on a regional basis that can be used on

their own regional development work. Mr. Tomasik stated that staff could assist in strategic planning, if invited to do so by cities.

Mr. Tomasik stated that the REMI regional model, recently approved for purchase by the Regional Council, will be used for projections and impact analyses and will provide alternative growth scenarios and new dataset projections, and can be used to evaluate revenue projections, impacts of quality of life measures, and economic/demographic impacts of significant development projects. He noted that REMI can project five years out, be used to alter growth scenarios, and look at the quality of life measures. Mr. Smith stated that it would help to answer questions such as, “What would be the impact of jobs on the half cent sales tax?” Mayor Shafer stated that is an important issue now. Mr. Smith noted that MAG will have the model installed in four weeks if approved.

Mr. Tomasik noted that staff has already provided assistance to member agencies in addressing a number of planning issues: for example, the Goodyear General Plan Citizens Advisory Task Force; the Estrella Mountain Ranch regional transportation impact for general plan cost of development element; Queen Creek fiscal balance and options; and the Goodyear City Council with economic development issues. He added that a request had just been received from the City of Mesa to assist on Williams Gateway and the GM Proving Grounds.

Mr. Tomasik stated that an annual report would be prepared after the close of each calendar year, when data becomes available. The report would have two dimensions – first, comparing the region to competitor regions and second, reporting on geographic growth changes. The former would be prepared by coordinating with the Greater Phoenix Economic Council to avoid duplication of effort. The latter would show geographic changes through maps and tables by sub-region, not member agency. Mayor Hawker asked for an example of a sub-region. Mr. Tomasik stated that would include areas such as the southeast valley, central valley, or the southwest valley. Mayor Hawker asked if the data base could just do cities. Mr. Tomasik stated that it can be done by municipality if that is the communities desire. Mayor Shafer agreed that the cities and towns need to know their strengths and weaknesses. Mayor Hawker agreed that there is also value in the regional aspect. He noted that municipalities can benchmark the first year and see how they improved or need to improve. He stated that we can benchmark as a region also.

Mayor Manross asked what the information would be that they receive in Scottsdale. Mr. Tomasik stated the number of quality jobs, housing and job ratio, commute sheds and quality of life measures. Mayor Manross stated that every bit of information is helpful and feels it is important to look at subregions. Mr. Smith noted that MAG received a lot of comments including an 18 month evaluation period. Mayor Manross stated that the Committee does not want to be dictated to, and currently could have as many as four entities giving community input. Mr. Smith noted that if a project is regionally significant, then the city would have a discussion with MAG staff, MAG would run the model and then meet with the community. The community then takes that information and uses it as best they can. He noted that MAG will also give reports if asked to do so.

Mayor Hawker stated that Mesa welcomes MAG's expertise. Mayor Manross stated that it would be good to take this first step where the cities can limit MAG's involvement. Mayor Arnold agreed with an 18 month test period. Mayor Hawker offered Williams Gateway as a test pilot area.

Mayor Hawker asked how this information relates to GPEC. Mr. Tomasik stated that GPEC does the regional marketing. He noted that GPEC does community profiles at 20 percent, and MAG reaches beyond that 20 percent surface. He also noted that MAG is planning oriented and GPEC is market oriented, which compliments each other well. Mayor Hawker suggested that we invite Rick Weddle from GPEC to endorse this at Regional Council.

6. Executive Director's Recruitment Update

Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated that the process is on track. She noted that the recruitment brochure will be handed out at the next Regional Council meeting.

7. Adjournment of Executive Committee

There being no further business, Mayor Hawker moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Arnold seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary