

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
April 19, 2004  
MAG Offices  
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek,  
Chair

Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa, Vice Chair

\* Mayor John Keegan, Peoria, Treasurer

Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale

Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise

Mayor Woody Thomas, Litchfield Park

\* Not present

# Participated by videoconference or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Wendy Feldman-Kerr at 12:07 p.m.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Feldman-Kerr noted that according to MAG's public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the public comment cards. She stated that there is a three minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non-action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only.

Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that there were no public comment cards received.

3. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that public comment will be received before taking action on the consent items. Each speaker is provided with a total of three minutes to comment on the consent agenda. After hearing public comments, any member of the Committee can request that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that agenda items #3A and #3B were on the consent agenda.

Mayor Woody Thomas moved to approve consent agenda items #3A and #3B. Mayor Mary Manross seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3A Approval of the February 9, 2004 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

\_\_\_\_\_ The Executive Committee, by consent, approved the February 9, 2004 meeting minutes.

3B. Project and Consultant Approvals for the MAG Pedestrian Design Assistance Program

\_\_\_\_\_ The Executive Committee, by consent, approved the selection of those on the attached list as on-call consultants to provide pedestrian design assistance and to select the following projects to receive the pedestrian design assistance: 1) City of Goodyear Pedestrian Bridge – \$40,000 and 2) City of Phoenix Central Laveen Commercial District Watercourse Demonstration Project – \$80,000. MAG is providing \$200,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding for the Pedestrian Design Assistance Program. MAG member agencies were requested to submit projects in February 2004 to receive the design assistance. On March 9, 2004, the MAG Pedestrian Working Group recommended that nine consultants be included on the on-call list as attached and that the following receive design assistance: 1) City of Goodyear Pedestrian Bridge - \$40,000 and 2) City of Phoenix Central Laveen Commercial District Watercourse Demonstration Project - \$80,000. The Management Committee and the Transportation Review Committee concurred with the Pedestrian Working Group recommendations.

4. Discussion and Update on the Draft FY 2005 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Becky Kimbrough addressed the MAG FY 2005 budget changes and updates. She began by discussing the Freeway Traffic Counts project. She noted that this project has been renamed to the Freeway Network Usage and Performance project to more accurately reflect the performance-based nature of this project. Ms. Kimbrough stated that staff provided additional options for funding the Walking and Bicycling in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century project including changing it to a one-day conference, partnering with ADOT and RPTA to share the cost, and increasing the cost of registration to \$80 or \$100. The MAG cost for the conference is budgeted for \$2,800. Mayor Hawker stated that \$80 for registration seems appropriate. Mayor Manross asked how many are expected to attend the conference. Ms. Kimbrough replied approximately 200 attend. Mayor Manross agreed that \$80 for registration was appropriate.

Ms. Kimbrough reviewed the Transportation Safety Management System (TSMS) project and noted that ADOT requested that MAG manage this project and funding would be provided by the State. She noted that it was suggested the Digital Oasis project continue in the Work Program and that the work be done in-house. The consultant budget for this project was removed from this project's funding. Ms. Kimbrough stated that the proposed Building Codes project is still in the budget funded by a special assessment of \$70,000. She noted that the Management Committee requested additional information on the consequences of waiting one year to start the project and an update will be provided at the May meeting.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that the Building a Quality Regional Community project is included in the current budget draft. She stated that a workshop on this project was first held on March 11<sup>th</sup> and the Jack Tomasik has since held meetings with 10 member agencies to review the project. Two other meetings are scheduled for the end of this week. She noted that this \$300,000 project is

included in the budget, pending a workshop on the project that will be conducted on May 6th. Mayor Hawker asked the scope of work for this project. Mr. Smith replied that we will determine what type of income jobs will produce and what kind of housing would be needed. Mayor Hawker stated that he has suggested that Mesa be a trial community. Mr. Tomasik explained that it would be a substantial cost to do it for just one city.

Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that she spoke at a Morrison Institute function regarding affordable housing, and there seems to be a lot of misinformation in the community. She noted that the proposed regional development project will help communities identify where work centers are, what transportation is needed to get people to work, and if homes fit the job centers. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that this would be a proactive piece of information and is a very important project. She noted that part of the misinformation is the premise that everyone needs, or wants, to own a home. She said that we need to look at education too. Mayor Shafer stated that Surprise just hired an Economic Development consultant and does not want to duplicate these efforts. Chair Feldman-Kerr replied that the information provided by this project would be taken and used by our economic development staff. Mayor Shafer expressed her concern about this being just another study. Mr. Smith replied that it would not be a study, but a tool for cities to use. Mr. Tomasik stated that the economic development staff for the cities and towns understand and appreciate the importance and significance of the information.

Mayor Thomas noted that there are not many residents who are employed within Litchfield Park. He noted that free will plays a big part, and he referenced downtown Phoenix and the jobs versus houses. He stated that he appreciated having more information. Mr. Tomasik stated that the hopeful result is to match houses with occupations or to create the opportunity for houses to match jobs. Mr. Smith stated that this project will return next month for more discussion and input.

Ms. Kimbrough reviewed other minor budget adjustments. Mayor Hawker asked what the bottom line impact was regarding the state retirement. Ms. Kimbrough stated that there is no impact, just a transfer between line items. Mayor Shafer asked if it was a balanced budget. Ms. Kimbrough replied that it is a balanced budget.

Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Ms. Kimbrough for her report.

## 5. Compensation Study Update

Dennis Smith stated that at the February 9<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting, MAG was authorized to move forward with a compensation study with Public Sector Personnel Consultants. Public Sector was provided a list of comparatives. He noted that an advisory group, including Mike Hutchinson, Mesa City Manager, and Greg Eckman, Peoria Human Resources Director, helped with the comparative list. Mr. Smith stated that a mid-point meeting was held and that there is still fine-tuning to be done. Another meeting is scheduled for today. Mr. Smith noted that based on the preliminary results, it would take approximately \$300,000 to bring all employees to mid-point. He noted that one way to offset the budget is to move the funding for the Assistant Director's position. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Eckman suggested that if adjustments are going to be made that they all be made at one time. Ms. Kimbrough reviewed the numbers for the turnover rate at MAG compared to cities. In 2003, MAG's turnover rate was 18.75 percent and 11

percent in 2004. Mr. Eckman stated that cities fall somewhere around eight percent. Mr. Smith stated that it is important to hire quality people and keep them.

Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Smith for the update.

6. Need to Include PM-10 in the CMAQ Allocation Funding

Lindy Bauer stated that MAG has been working for several months to get PM-10 included in the CMAQ allocation funding as part of the federal TEA-21 reauthorization, but it has not yet been included. She noted that we received a report back in December of 2003 that PM-10 was going to be included in the allocation, but later found out that was not the case. Ms. Bauer stated that Congressman Shadegg offered an amendment to include PM-10 in the CMAQ allocation formula on the House floor, but it was withdrawn after two key Congressmen agreed to revisit the language in the upcoming Conference Committee. She noted that Congressman Hayworth sent a letter of support signed by California, Nevada, Utah and Washington. Ms. Bauer noted that the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) is trying to get PM-10 included in the formula. Mayor Manross asked why the resistance. Ms. Bauer stated that it looks like they just added PM-2.5 and forgot to add PM-10. There seems to be a misunderstanding about PM-2.5 replacing PM-10. She noted that PM-10 is more of a western problem and PM-2.5 an eastern problem. Ms. Bauer distributed two maps to show the regional problem.

Mr. Smith stated that NARC has really stepped up their involvement in these regional issues. MAG is currently a member of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) only. Mayor Manross asked what it means if we are unsuccessful in getting PM-10 added to the allocation. Ms. Bauer stated that we would not receive funding for that pollutant. She also noted that the cleaner a region becomes, the lower are the factors for the funding allocation. She stated that PM-10 is our most serious pollutant and will continue to be for a long time. Mayor Hawker asked the scope of the seriousness of not including PM-10 in the allocation. He asked if there was a dollar figure. Mr. Smith stated that we have been unsuccessful in getting information to make that determination. Mayor Hawker asked how do we know if other nonattainment PM-10 areas are added that we would not get less money. Ms. Bauer stated that is another unknown. Mayor Hawker asked if data is collected for PM-2.5 in this region. Ms. Bauer replied that monitoring data is collected in the region and we expect to be in attainment for PM-2.5.

Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Ms. Bauer for her report.

7. Papago Park - Tovrea Castle Centennial Project

Chair Feldman-Kerr introduced Mr. John Driggs. She stated that Mr. Driggs served as the Mayor of Phoenix from 1970 to 1974. In 1972, Mayor Driggs was instrumental in acquiring the necessary signatures to ensure that the State Shared Revenue initiative appear on the ballot. She noted that today, all cities and towns benefit from over one billion dollars in state shared revenue.

Mr. Driggs thanked the Committee for their time and said that it was nice to be back in a MAG atmosphere. He stated that he appreciated Mr. Smith's involvement and help with this project. Mr. Driggs provided the Committee with some history. Mr. Driggs stated that this is a great

opportunity for an intergovernmental project involving the state, county and local government, through intergovernmental agreements and possibly some form of public authority. He noted that the project goal is to integrate policies and programs of Phoenix and Tempe in and adjacent to Papago Park to make it the finest urban regional park in the country. On a map, Mr. Driggs showed how it would be connected to the Phoenix Civic Plaza and the transportation system. Mr. Driggs stated that the characteristics and assets of the park provide a unique focal point for Arizona's centennial in 2012 with a new visitors center planned at the Tovrea Castle site and the Arizona Historical Society museum in the Tempe portion of the park, which can be fully devoted to exhibits and shows on 100 years since statehood.

Mr. Driggs explained that the Phoenix Papago Park Golf Course would be renovated with a new clubhouse and be a contender for a national USGA golf tournament in the centennial year. He noted that all organizations in and adjacent to Papago Park will coordinate to promote a centennial exposition, including the Phoenix Zoo, Desert Botanical Garden, Arizona National Guard, the Arizona Historical Society, Pueblo Grande Museum, Hall of Flame, Arizona State University, and SRP. Papago Park would be designated an historic national monument in signage and promotional material.

Mr. Driggs stated that funding for the project will be a combination of private sector investment with marketing and access opportunities and public bond financing. He noted that the government entities involved could provide their participation through locally generated private sector funds.

Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Driggs for his presentation. Mayor Shafer asked what this project would bring to the West Valley. Mr. Driggs stated that this would involve regional assets, such as a state historical building. Mayor Thomas stated that he supports this project and thinks the West Valley will be impacted by the efforts. He also mentioned the state shared revenue.

8. 2004 Desert Peaks Awards Update

Denise McClafferty provided an update on the progress of the Desert Peaks Awards event. She noted that 35 nominations were submitted and eight judges have been confirmed. Ms. McClafferty stated that copies of the nominations have been mailed to the judges for review and a meeting has been scheduled for May 19, 2004 from 1:30 to 3:30 to choose the award recipients. She noted that eight organizations have agreed to sponsor the event, totaling \$8,000. Based on past years, this is a record for sponsorship for the Desert Peaks program. Ms. McClafferty stated that based on prior discussion, this year we will not have assigned seating. She noted that there will be a few reserved tables. Ms. McClafferty stated that invitations are scheduled to go out around May 26<sup>th</sup>.

9. Legislative Update

Tom Remes provided an update on the legislative bills of importance to MAG. He noted that this is the 99<sup>th</sup> day of the legislative session. He distributed a matrix of MAG related bill summaries. Mr. Remes addressed the State retirement bills, HB2029, HB 2049 and SB1229. He noted that HB 2049 is the one of most interest to MAG. This bill stipulates that political subdivision entities are eligible to participate in the ASRS and provides a definition of political subdivision entities. Mr. Remes stated that this bill passed the Senate Finance Committee with a five to three vote on April

8<sup>th</sup> and will now move to Senate Appropriations and Rules. He noted that there was an amendment to the bill that corrects a financial matter for the State Retirement Board, which is not related to our bill. This amendment does not effect MAG's efforts. Mr. Remes thanked Patrice Kraus for her help with this bill and all the cities and towns for calling their legislators. Mr. Smith added that Mesa and Paradise Valley were very helpful in this vote.

Mr. Remes continues with SB 1341 that requires political subdivisions to file an affidavit of legal value with a deed evidencing a transfer of title and any contract relating to the sale of real property and exempts political subdivision from paying the real estate transfer fee to the county recorder. He noted that this was brought before the Management Committee by Kevin Ross a few months ago. A floor amendment has been added that strikes the exemption to political subdivisions from paying the real estate transfer fee.

Mayor Thomas asked about the bill relating to Luke Air Force Base. Ms. Sintra Hoffman from the City of Surprise offered some information on related bills.

Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Remes for his update.

Mr. Smith provided the committee with information on a potential human services grant. He stated that Debra Determan, MAG Human Services Manager, informed him that there is a domestic violence grant available to fund existing operations. MAG will be applying for this grant and there is a fifty percent change we would receive it.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary