

MINUTES OF THE
MAG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
November 20, 2002
MAG Office Building - Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Terry Ellis, Peoria, Chairman
Jim Huling for Mike Hutchinson, Mesa,
Vice Chairman
George Hoffman, Apache Junction
Todd Hileman, Avondale
Joe Blanton, Buckeye
Jon Pearson, Carefree
Usama Abujbarah, Cave Creek
Donna Dreska, Chandler
Stuart Brackney, El Mirage
Tim Pickering, Fountain Hills
Shane Dille, Gila Bend
Urban Giff, Gila River Indian Community
George Pettit, Gilbert
Dana Tranberg for Ed Beasley, Glendale
Jerene Watson for Stephen Cleveland,
Goodyear
Tom Morales, Guadalupe

Horatio Skeete, Litchfield Park
Tom Martinsen, Paradise Valley
Frank Fairbanks, Phoenix
#Cynthia Seelhammer, Queen Creek
Jacob Moore for Bryan Meyers, Salt River
Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Steve Olson for Jan Dolan, Scottsdale
#Bill Pupo, Surprise
Shannon Wilhelmsen for Will Manley, Tempe
Reyes Medrano for Ralph Velez, Tolleson
*Jerry Stricklin, Wickenburg
Mark Fooks, Youngtown
Dale Buskirk for Victor Mendez, ADOT
Mike Sabatini for David Smith,
Maricopa County
Bryan Jungwirth for Ken Driggs,
Valley Metro/RPTA

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
Participated by videoconference or telephone conference call.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Ellis, Peoria, at 12:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Ellis stated that transit tickets were available following the meeting from Valley Metro/RPTA.

Chairman Ellis stated that due to unavoidable circumstances, some of the information was received late for agenda item #8, Status Update on the June 30, 2002 Single Audit and Management Letter Comments, MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and OMB Circular A-133 Reports (i.e., "Single Audit") for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2002. He suggested that the item be removed from the agenda and brought back in January. Chairman Ellis stated that he had been informed that no problems would be incurred by delaying action. He asked if there were objections. None were noted.

Chairman Ellis stated that an email was sent out notifying Committee members of the high pollution advisory issued for November 20th. He announced that Cynthia Seelhammer, Queen Creek, and Bill Pupo, Surprise, would participate in the meeting via telephone conference call. Chairman Ellis asked members to make sure that their microphones were on when speaking so that the offsite members could hear comments. Ms. Seelhammer and Mr. Pupo acknowledged they were present and could hear the discussion.

3. Call to the Audience

Chairman Ellis stated that public comments have a three minute time limit and there is a timer to help the public with their presentations. When two minutes have elapsed, a yellow light will come on notifying the speaker that they have one minute to sum up. At the end of the three minute time period, a red light will come on. Chairman Ellis stated that for members of the audience who wish to speak, comment cards are available from the staff. Staff will then bring the cards to the Chairman. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for non-agenda items.

Chairman Ellis recognized public comment from Mark Farmer, who stated that he appreciated the opportunity to address such an astute group. The Management Committee is the perfect forum to hear about his proposal. Mr. Farmer stated that his proposal deals with excess dirt in the Phoenix metro area. He stated that there is no forum to address the large amount of stockpiled dirt in the region. Mr. Farmer stated that he proposes adding an information exchange for concrete and asphalt, in addition to dirt. He stated that he would like members to consider the proposal as an environmental advancement and a way to save money. Mr. Farmer stated that it is difficult to get a project implemented without the support of the backbone of the region, the cities. Mr. Farmer mentioned that he had brought materials and those interested could contact him. Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Farmer and advised him to speak with staff about the proposal.

Chairman Ellis recognized public comment from Blue Crowley, who commented on the air quality alert in effect until 10:00 a.m. that morning. He noted that there was an alert last month, as well, and it was starting to be a pattern. Mr. Crowley asked whose doorstep do we lay this at? For agenda item #13, Update on Executive Director Recruitment, Mr. Crowley stated that MAG should look under its nose for the best candidate, Dennis Smith. Mr. Crowley stated that he liked the job Mr. Smith has done, and appreciated the outreach efforts. Why waste time looking at other candidates? For agenda item #11, Air Quality Update, the air quality alert speaks for itself for the second month in a row. Mr. Crowley asked what have we done to find out if pollution sources are organic or inorganic? He stated that it needs to be legislated that one in five government workers need to take alternative transportation. Mr. Crowley stated that it is his air also that is being polluted by vehicle emissions. For agenda item #9, Update on the Valley Metro/RPTA Regional Transit System Study, he commented on station locations along routes. Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments.

Chairman Ellis recognized public comment from Joe Ryan, who commented on an article on light rail in the November 21, 2002 Arizona Republic Editorial page. Mr. Ryan stated that when the transit tax was sold to voters, they were told that the rail lines would go to the ball park and football stadiums. He stated that photos of light rail are dummied up and convey incorrect information. Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Ryan for his comments.

Chairman Ellis introduced Tim Pickering, new Town Manager, Fountain Hills. Mr. Pickering stated that he was previously in St. Louis, where they have a similar regional government. However, their management committee is composed of county board members, who change frequently. Mr. Pickering stated that he was glad that the city managers here have input and there is a level of stability.

4. Interim Executive Director's Report

Dennis Smith stated that today is Arizona GIS Day. MAG is hosting a GIS Day event to give GIS personnel from MAG staff and MAG member agencies the opportunity to display maps or posters showcasing their uses of GIS. Mr. Smith stated that 13 agencies responded with 28 maps or posters. He added that their work was on display in the Saguaro Room and the halls of second floor.

Mr. Smith stated that Congress has not passed a transportation appropriations bill for 2003. Continuing Resolutions have been enacted to continue funding at the FY 2002 level at \$31.8 billion for highways, and OMB has only agreed to support a \$27.7 billion appropriation for highways, a 12.8 percent cut. Mr. Smith advised that in the MAG region this would mean approximately a \$5 million cut in STP, a \$5 billion cut in CMAQ funds, and would set a lower base for TEA III appropriations. Mr. Smith stated that the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee challenged the Appropriations Committee to enact specific language to force OMB to continue funding at the full \$31.8 billion level. The Committee was successful and funding was restored before Congress recessed to campaign for elections. The total funding level for the year will be finalized when the Transportation Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2003 is enacted into law, expected to occur in December.

Mr. Smith stated that a meeting was held with ADOT, RPTA, and the Pima Association of Governments to discuss working together on TEA III coordination. He added that another meeting is being planned to develop a unified position for Arizona.

Mr. Smith stated that MAG was awarded a \$45,000 grant from Governors Office to help fund the MAG Domestic Violence Program.

Mr. Smith updated the Committee on the Transportation Policy Committee. He stated that a timeline of their activities was at each place. Mr. Smith stated that a request was made for member agencies to submit their transportation projects to MAG by November 1, 2002. He advised that if project lists have not yet been submitted, there is still time for HDR Engineering to compile these projects into a database. Mr. Smith advised that three consultants will work on public involvement: Public input to the Plan, Gunn Communications; Cantelme Kaasa Associates, Plan Development Advisor; Public outreach (business community), S.R. Beard, approval of which will be considered by the Executive Committee on November 21st. Mr. Smith stated that concern was expressed for enabling legislation, so the TPC directed staff to work with the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council, the COG Directors Association, the League, and the County Supervisors Association. He noted that a meeting has been scheduled for November 25th to discuss a legislative strategy for transportation funding. Mr. Smith added that a report on the meeting will be made to the TPC at their meeting on December 18th. Mr. Smith advised that Behavior Research is developing a poll, which could be discussed at the

December 18th meeting, also. He stated that a summary of 32 recent transportation elections was presented to the Committee. Of the elections, 15 were approved, and 17 defeated.

Mr. Smith announced that the Legislature is considering taking \$10 million from the \$22 million 911 fund. He advised that this has happened in the State of Oregon, however, Phase II has already been implemented there. He noted that without taking this funding, it is anticipated that by 2008 the fund will have a projected deficit. Mr. Smith stated that the Phase II wireless project has not been implemented, which will be costly to implement. He advised that a meeting is scheduled for this Friday and additional information may be forthcoming. Mr. Smith added that if our 911 system avoids being hit in the Special Session, it may be targeted in the regular session.

Mr. Smith stated that the BLM, through a consultant effort, is conducting an environmental impact modeling study and presentation for BLM land in the Northwest planning area. A map of the planning area was displayed. An event is being planned for December 16-17, 2002.

Mr. Smith announced that the COG Directors Association Website was developed and hosted by MAG to disseminate information on regional planning on a statewide basis. Mr. Smith acknowledged the technical expertise of Gordon Tyus for his work on putting the website together.

Mr. Smith introduced Imelda Lopez, MAG's new Receptionist. Ms. Lopez attended Eastern New Mexico University in Roswell, New Mexico. She has previously served as a receptionist for Friendly House in Phoenix. Mr. Smith introduced Constance Kish, Office Services Specialist, who replaces another employee who was promoted after Brande Mead left MAG. Ms. Kish attended Glendale Community College and will be assisting the Regional Development Division, Fiscal Services and Office Services.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chairman Ellis stated that public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for action items on consent. Each speaker is provided with a total of three minutes to comment on the consent agenda.

Chairman Ellis recognized public comment from Mr. Ryan, who stated that he attended a public meeting in 1999 when a consultant, Steve Beard, was selling the trolley. He stated that estimated speed for the trolley then was 65 miles per hour, which has since been reduced to 55 miles per hour. Mr. Ryan stated that a standardized system needs to be created. Planners should not waste time and money evaluating systems that are excessively costly or impractical. Mr. Ryan stated that there are 3,000 accidents at grade crossings per year. He mentioned that a City of Surprise police officer was killed in a grade crossing accident. Mr. Ryan mentioned questions on congestion at rail crossings asked by Mayor Roy Delgado, El Mirage. He commented on configuration factors that limit the maneuverability of trolley cars. Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Ryan for his comments.

Chairman Ellis stated that agenda items #6, and #7 were on the consent agenda, agenda item #8 having been delayed until January.

Chairman Ellis asked for a motion to recommend approval of agenda items #6 and #7. Mr. Pettit moved to recommend approval, Mr. Dille seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of October 16, 2002 Meeting Minutes

The Management Committee, by consent, approved the October 16, 2002 meeting minutes.

7. Proposed 2003 Revisions to MAG Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction

The MAG Standard Specifications and Details Committee is completing its review of proposed 2003 revisions to the MAG Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction. It is anticipated that the annual update packet will be available for purchase in early January 2003.

9. Update on the Valley Metro/RPTA Regional Transit System Study

Stuart Boggs, Valley Metro/RPTA, and Linda Cherrington of LKC Consulting Services, gave a presentation on the Regional Transit System Study. Mr. Boggs stated that the Study is one of several studies currently under way that will provide input into the Regional Transportation Plan. The Study will provide a fiscally constrained multi-modal regional transit plan and will guide operational and capital investments in transit over the next 20 years.

Mr. Boggs introduced Linda Cherrington, consultant on the project. Ms. Cherrington stated that it is important that the transit plan be a part of the long range plan. She explained that public outreach is a significant effort in the Study. Ms. Cherrington stated that an Agency Advisors Group (AAG) has been meeting monthly to provide input into the project. She noted that the AAG includes representatives from Valley Metro/RPTA, MAG, ADOT, Maricopa County, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and the cities of Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale, Chandler, Glendale, and Avondale. Ms. Cherrington stated that a two-day workshop was held on October 30-31, 2002, to discuss the approach to the plan and the elements. She noted that the Study will coordinate with ongoing studies, such as the High Capacity Transit Plan, the Area Transportation Studies, the Bottleneck Study, the HOV/HOT Lane Study, and ultimately, the Regional Transportation Plan. Ms. Cherrington displayed a map of the study area. She explained that their efforts include quantifying transit need in the region and based on that need examining transit investments that address those needs in all areas of the region.

Ms. Cherrington reviewed the scope and schedule, components, and methodology for the Study. She noted, by displaying maps, the areas of future transit need, work trip destination density, and trip patterns. Ms. Cherrington displayed a map of proposed and existing regional connections. She spoke about the methodology to develop paratransit services. Ms. Cherrington displayed a map of local network and rural transit access. She noted they are working on ways to connect remote communities to the urban transit network. Ms. Cherrington reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings and events that include several MAG public forums, another round of stakeholder workshops and Agency Advisors Group meetings to discuss service plans and implementation strategies. She added that input received will be incorporated into the draft service plan and networks. Chairman Ellis thanked Ms. Cherrington and Mr. Boggs for their report and asked the Committee if there were questions.

8. Status Update on the June 30, 2002 Single Audit and Management Letter Comments, MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and OMB Circular A-133 Reports (i.e., "Single Audit") for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2002

Chairman Ellis stated that he had received a request from a committee member to reconsider this agenda item. He noted that no action would be needed for reconsideration because no action had been taken to delay it.

Becky Kimbrough stated that MAG had received two reports on the financial audit of MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Single Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002. An unqualified audit opinion was issued. There were no reportable conditions in MAG's internal control over financial reporting that were considered to be material weaknesses, no instances of noncompliance considered to be material and no questioned costs.

Mr. Skeete stated that although he would have liked a longer time for review, he did not want to place an obstacle in the way of staff receiving national recognition. Mr. Skeete stated that all of the information in the audit is historical, and therefore, cannot be changed. MAG approved the auditor, and the report from the auditor is as good as a report can get.

Mr. Skeete moved to recommend acceptance of the MAG Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2002. Mr. Brackney seconded.

Before a vote was taken, Mr. Smith mentioned to members that staff could apply for a 30-day extension, if that would make members more comfortable. Ms. Kimbrough stated that an extension can be requested every other year, and MAG has never applied previously. Therefore, MAG is eligible to request an extension. Chairman Ellis asked members for comments.

Mr. Dille stated that he brought his concern to the attention of Chairman Ellis. He commented that there was a similar problem last year, and he wants to ensure that efforts were made on working toward a more timely receipt of material. Mr. Dille stated that he understood the circumstances and had no problem with moving forward on the item.

A vote was taken on the question, which passed unanimously.

10. Conceptual Scope of Work for Regional Transportation Plan Phase II

Eric Anderson stated that HDR, Inc. is now under contract to assist the Transportation Policy Committee in their development of the Regional Transportation Plan. He stated that Mike Connors will serve as the project manager. Mr. Connors has more than 30 years experience in transportation and engineering, including tenure at MAG.

Mr. Anderson stated that two of the important elements of the planning process include the development of the criteria that will be used to prioritize projects and the performance measures that will be used to evaluate alternatives. Mr. Anderson explained that the performance measures will also provide the basis for monitoring system performance as the plan is implemented. Mr. Anderson stated that Bill Loudon, DKS and Associates, will assist on this effort. He noted Mr. Loudon's prior experience in developing performance based planning processes. Mr. Anderson explained that one of the advantages of performance based planning

is the ability to deal with multiple modes, especially transit, because it can incorporate objectives of mobility and accessibility. He stated that in the past, plans tended to concentrate on rush hour movement without consideration of the need to provide mobility options. Mr. Anderson stated that the scope of work and schedule are being refined. The schedule of the important decision points will be presented to the TPC at their December 18th meeting. He added that a final draft plan will be ready for the air quality conformity analysis in September 2003.

Mr. Anderson stated that four tasks are currently underway. 1) A telephone survey, to provide insight into the public's sentiment toward transportation and the sales tax extension, is being prepared with the results available for the December 18th TPC meeting. 2) Development of the project database that will contain all of the planned and proposed projects for the region. Mr. Anderson noted that this preliminary list, which will be presented at the December 18th TPC meeting, includes the projects submitted by member agencies, projects from local plans, and projects identified in the planning studies currently underway. 3) Revenue projections, which will include federal, state, and local sources, as well as the sales tax extension. Mr. Anderson stated that \$8 to \$9 billion is being projected for a 20-year extension, and an additional \$3 billion for a 25-year extension. 4) Prioritization and Evaluation Framework for the plan, which will be a major activity for the TPC in January and February. Mr. Anderson stated that other activities include preparing information on modeling assumptions, including socioeconomic projections, as requested by the TPC.

Mr. Smith noted that HB 2660 requires performance based planning. He added that some believed that this would eliminate transit because it could not compete. Mr. Smith stated that setting the criteria is under the control of the TPC, and the consultant will be only be assisting them in this effort. He added that the consultant also understands transit and can work it into a performance based plan. Chairman Ellis thanked MAG staff for the report.

11. Air Quality Update

Lindy Bauer stated that the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest filed a lawsuit challenging EPA's approval of the MAG Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10. Ms. Bauer stated that the main arguments are that the Plan fails to include CARB diesel fuel, and agricultural controls do not comply with requirements for best available control measures and most stringent measures. She added that the brief says that the EPA abused its discretion in granting the State an extension of the attainment date to December 31, 2006. Ms. Bauer stated that the Center requested that the Plan be determined as inadequate, and EPA's determinations on the plan be vacated. The Center also requested that EPA be required within six months to revise the determinations, require the State to revise the Plan, or impose a federal plan. Ms. Bauer displayed the lawsuit timeline, which has recently been revised to reflect the extension of the due date for EPA's brief to December 19, 2002. She added that a copy of EPA's brief would be provided to the Committee when it is received. Ms. Bauer stated that if the Center wins the case and the court vacates the approval, consequences could include loss of federal highway funds, stoppage of major transportation projects, and imposition of EPA's own plan, if the situation is not remedied. Ms. Bauer stated that at their October 30, 2002 meeting, the Regional Council approved developing a unified strategy for effective representation for the region. Ms. Bauer stated that the brief is under careful review.

Mr. Smith asked Ms. Bauer to elaborate on the CARB diesel issue. Ms. Bauer stated that this measure has been evaluated by MAG for some time. MAG has done a most stringent measure analysis and a Brown Cloud report, which includes a measure for clean burning fuel. Ms. Bauer stated that the Legislature has control over fuels, and has never taken action to require CARB diesel, to which the Center has objected. She noted that justification by the Legislature for not taking action on CARB diesel is included in the Plan. Ms. Bauer stated that CARB diesel would increase the cost of diesel fuel by six cents per gallon.

Chairman Ellis asked what it would take to satisfy the plaintiffs in regard to agricultural measures. Ms. Bauer stated that the suit cited the California agricultural measures as more stringent. She stated that this includes no tilling on high wind days, which is not workable in Maricopa County. Chairman Ellis thanked Ms. Bauer for her report.

12. Regional Development Scope of Work and Preferred Funding Option

Jack Tomasik stated that in May, funding for three staff members to report on regionally significant projects was placed in contingency until the Regional Council could discuss the scope of work for the regional development project. Jack Tomasik 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 and the region 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 stated that new economic datasets have been developed and will be improved. Mr. Tomasik stated that staff could assist in economic development 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. Mr. Tomasik also explained that MAG staff could provide expertise and technical assistance in economic and community development, from a regional context, to member agency staff if invited. 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 economic development issues. He added that the City of Mesa requested a meeting with MAG staff to assist on Williams Gateway.

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. Mr. Tomasik noted that there has been recent discussion on whether the comparisons would be done on a sub-region or city basis. He noted that an 18 month evaluation period has been suggested, at which point the development of an annual report would be evaluated.

Regarding the impact of regionally significant development projects, Mr. Tomasik stated that an information sharing role for MAG may be most appropriate and useful. Staff would prepare information on regional costs and benefits of regionally significant development projects. After that, a private meeting would be held with the member agency. A written report would be drafted, if desired by the member agency. He stated that an 18 month evaluation has been suggested, at which point the approach would be reevaluated.

Mr. Tomasik stated that funds have been held in contingency that could be used to enhance this program. He explained that there is \$269,500 in the current budget for alternative staffing positions and four options were available: Option 1: Additional Full-Time Staff. This option is to follow the work program and hire the Senior Planner, Planner I and GIS Analyst at \$134,750 for remaining six months of FY 2003. Option 2: Consultants/associates to perform the tasks described above. By using consultants/associates, the effort can be evaluated to determine if full-time staff will be hired. (estimated \$180,000). Option 3: This option is the same as Option 2, but more intensive work tasks would be taken out, thus reducing the consultant/associate budget to \$130,000. Option 4: Hire a GIS Analyst only and to complete the remainder of the work scope with consultants or associates (estimated \$171,000). Mr. Tomasik stated that the Regional Council focused on Option 2 and Option 4. He stated that staff recommends Option 4, because MAG has a significant workload in the GIS department.

Chairman Ellis asked for clarification that Option 4 would be to hire a GIS Analyst and the remainder of the work would be conducted by consultants. Mr. Tomasik replied that was correct. Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Tomasik for his presentation.

Chairman Ellis recognized public comment from Mr. Ryan, who stated that his background is planning. He recommended not approving this money. Mr. Ryan stated that planners are guided by strategy. He does not see this organization developing a strategy. Mr. Ryan stated that government does a poor job of planning. He recommended adopting strategies that encourage the private industry, because they do a better job. He commented on an unsuccessful I-17 design that was implemented because the model said to do it that way. Mr. Ryan stated that when a route is put in, that causes people and industry to move there. All he sees are bigger systems with more government control. Mr. Ryan asked why no one votes on issues the public brings up, such as safety concerns. Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Ryan for his comments.

Chairman Ellis recognized public comment from Mr. Crowley, who stated that he was confused about the four options. He stated that he could not tell what each option would accomplish and which would provide the biggest bang for the buck. Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments.

Mr. Smith stated that the Executive Committee discussed whether the annual report would be looked at by sub-regions or by city. He stated that this item was on the Executive Committee meeting the following day, and it would be helpful to have Management Committee comments to pass along. Mr. Skeete commented that it made no difference to him whether the comparisons were by sub-region or city.

Chairman Ellis stated that he was critical of the Regional Development scope of work at the beginning, but he liked the revised approach. It is not regulatory, which was a great concern earlier. Chairman Ellis stated that this scope is a good solution and he could foresee no problem

with Option 4, which could be tried out for awhile and reevaluated. Chairman Ellis asked if there was further discussion or comment.

Mr. Brackney moved to recommend approval of Regional Development Scope of Work and funding Option 4: Hire a GIS Analyst only and to complete the remainder of the work scope with consultants or associates (estimated \$171,000). Mr. Skeete seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Update on Executive Director Recruitment

Chairman Ellis provided an update on the recruitment of the MAG Executive Director. He stated that the Executive Committee, charged with the search for the new executive director, hired Shannon Associates as the recruitment consultant. Chairman Ellis added that the Executive Committee also asked the Management Committee to assist in the process, thereby forming a Subcommittee that includes himself, Frank Fairbanks, Cynthia Seelhammer, and Mike Hutchinson. He stated that Shannon Associates had solicited applicants nationwide and received 51 applications. Chairman Ellis stated that the Subcommittee met with Shannon Associates to cut the field to a smaller group of 13, which will be interviewed by the firm. After the interviews, Shannon will meet with the Subcommittee in a couple of weeks to cut the group to five or six. Chairman Ellis stated that the Executive Committee had requested that the Subcommittee recommend the final interview group. Chairman Ellis reviewed the demographics of the applicants. He stated that a reception is scheduled for December 19, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. at the Hyatt, where the Regional Council, Management Committee, Intergovernmental Representatives, and MAG Managers will be able to meet the candidates. Chairman Ellis noted that this event will be an informal event, not an interview process. An interview panel consisting of the Executive Committee and Management Subcommittee is scheduled for December 20, 2002, when it is anticipated that the Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Regional Council. Chairman Ellis encouraged all to attend the reception on December 19th. He asked members if there were questions.

Mr. Skeete asked if there would be an opportunity to share opinions after the reception. Chairman Ellis stated that component is not formally a part of the process, however, if there are strong opinions, they could be conveyed.

Mr. Morales asked for clarification of the upcoming events. Chairman Ellis replied that the reception would be about four hours long and is scheduled at the Hyatt on December 19th. He advised that the interview panel on December 20th is restricted to the Executive Committee and Subcommittee.

Mr. Crowley spoke from the audience and asked if the interviews were open to the public. Chairman Ellis replied that they were not public meetings.

14. Comments from the Committee

Comments from the Committee is an opportunity for Management Committee members to present a brief summary of current events. The Management Committee is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Chairman Ellis spoke about the recent water issues in Peoria. He stated that recent tests conducted by the Centers for Disease Control resulted in suspicious results for the water from a private water company and a Peoria well. Chairman Ellis stated that the well was shut down as a precaution on November 2nd. He stated that the source of contamination is puzzling, and there are concerns that the pathogen could be in the aquifer. Chairman Ellis advised that it is important to realize that the pathogen can be killed by chlorination. He stated that private wells and private water companies are sometimes not chlorinated. Mr. Olson commented on protection from residual chlorine levels.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary