

BOND REIMBURSEMENT & GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 18, 2019

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Teleconference

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Elwin Blackwell, Acting Chair
Randy Williams
Dale Smythe
James Estes
David Kingsland
Don Hiley

Staff

Tim Mearig
Larry Morris
Sharol Roys
Lori Weed

Additional Participants

None

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL at 2:00 p.m.

Acting Chair Elwin Blackwell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call and introduction of members and guests present; Heidi Teshner, Rep. Tammie Wilson, Sen. Cathy Giessel are excused; William Glumac, not present. Quorum of six members.

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Elwin noted his filling in for Chair Heidi Teshner.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Elwin requested the agenda be modified so that the Subcommittee Report on Space be moved to the top of the section, to accommodate Dale Smythe's early departure.

Agenda reviewed and approved as amended by unanimous consent.

DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

Tim Mearig directed members of the committee to the department briefing paper, which provides updated information for the committee.

On June 1 the department notified districts of their compliance of their preventive maintenance program, primarily based on information provided during the department's site visits. Only 44 of 53 districts were certified for eligibility for FY2021 CIP. This is a larger number than the department has seen since the initial years of the program. Districts have until August 1 to demonstrate that they've implemented a compliant program. Dale expressed surprise that the two largest rural districts were on the list and asked what the largest issues were. Tim responded that the past few years tracking of energy consumption and training plans have been the most common issues, this year maintenance management issues were a bit of a surprise. Don commented that SERRC is seeing more districts having issues meeting the more strictly enforced standard, particularly for small bulk fuel installations serving multiple small boilers and for waste heat tracking.

Tim noted that the annual May CIP workshop was held in Anchorage by Larry Morris and Lori Weed, it was expanded into a two-day workshop, able to dive into details of using department

tools to put together an application. Feedback was positive, Tim encouraged committee members to pass on to the department all positive or negative feedback they hear.

Tim stated that the new 18th edition of the Cost Model was published and used. Don found some glitches that the department had rectified by HMS. Geographic cost factors were briefed with the committee last December. Department has been working with the consultant on some areas of concern. The hope was that the geographic cost factors would be implemented with the 18th edition, but they weren't quite ready. The final product was just received by the department. Plan to brief those to the committee in the future

For legislative action, nothing is currently solid. There is indication of funding for the major maintenance grant list and a partial veto for the REAA fund appropriation. Senator Cathy Giessel has been appointed to the committee membership.

PUBLICATION UPDATES

Tim presented briefly on a DEED leadership retreat. Reminded committee of the department mission and vision and that the purpose of the department is “to provide information, resources, and leadership to support an excellent education for every student every day”. That is the work of the committee as well. Additional thoughts were to “inspire demand for excellence”, “require improvement”, and “expand options” and provide resources. Dovetails into the work of the department and committee in providing a series of publications.

Swimming Pool Guidelines

Tim noted that no comments were received during the public comment period. Lori stated that, in addition to posting on the Alaska Online Public Notice site, direct emails were also sent to school district superintendents, facilities managers, and a selection of borough and city managers for municipalities that have pool facilities. Issues related to water safety and competitive swimming edits, as discussed in the prior meeting, had been incorporated.

Elwin called for any discussion and noted that this publication has been before the committee a number of times. With an opportunity for the main stakeholders to have reviewed it, it may be time for it to be made official. Tim observed that once the committee has approved it, the department will then use it to provide guidance, but until the State Board of Education adopts it into regulation the 1997 publication remains the official document.

Dale moved to approve the department's proposed update of the *Swimming Pool Guideline* and recommend the State Board of Education and Early Development proceed to update the publication reference in regulation; David seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous roll call vote.

Handbook to Writing Educational Specifications

Tim reminded the committee of the major changes to this version, handling equipment and fixed furnishings, language on alternative project delivery methods, sustainability supplement now incorporated as an appendix. Good comments were received during the public comment period, many spoke to the tabulated equipment and furnishings list. No substantive changes were made based on comments. Elwin observed that this is not part of the regulation structure and is utilized as a guideline.

Jim moved to approve the department's proposed update of *A Handbook to Writing Educational Specifications* for issuance and use by the department; Randy seconded the motion.

Don stated that he was one of the commenters, and in other conversations he's had they all feel that the FF&E tool is premature; the tool is good but too specific for that early a stage. Would like clarification on why it's being requested. Tim responded that Don is correct that it is not cited in regulation, there is a regulation that sets out the elements of an educational specification (ed spec) and one of those is that the ed spec include 'recommended equipment requirements'. The handbook is providing guidance about what the regulation means, and it requires a tabulated list of equipment with budget information. Where points are assigned for a complete ed spec; the committee could have different opinion on a standard for the application, but he doesn't recommend it. Don expressed concern that equipment and furnishing are likely to change between the writing of the ed spec and when a project is funded. Tim observed that many planning items are subject to change and disputed that it is a reason to not include it. This acknowledges that this area has been deficient and that the goal is to inspire excellence and provide a tool to help improve. Lori pointed out that, based on Appendix B, an ed spec was already providing a specific list of equipment and furnishings; the tool created by the department is a method for compiling the lists and costs. Elwin agreed it is an early planning and estimating tool.

Roll call vote. Motion passed with 5 in favor, 1 opposed.

ASHRAE 90.1-2010 Checklist Update

Tim stated that this was one of the more successful public comments periods, with a lot of good comments and feedback from practitioners. Larry agreed that the comments were helpful and that the department had made edits and clarifications in response. Tim clarified that this is a tool used for department project review, to ensure compliance with the energy efficiency standard in regulation.

Randy moved to approve the department's proposed ASHRAE 90.1-2010 Checklist for use by the department; seconded by Dale. Approved by unanimous consent.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Design Ratios

Dale stated that the subcommittee has come a long way, with the finalization of the consultant report, with modeling by Coffman and cost estimating by HMS. Expressed gratitude to Larry for providing review and analysis of the report information. Next steps are to continue review of the report, which is provided in the packet. Larry provided highlights from his review.

School Space

Dale explained that no meeting has been set at this time, there has been community interest; A4LE is targeting a related workshop in late August discussing adequacy and accuracy of current space allocations.

Dale left the teleconference. Quorum of five members.

Model School

Don reviewed the subcommittee report. New Cost Model incorporating enhancements recommended by the committee was issued; he has used it already this summer and has found it helpful. Could potentially develop more options. Thinks more refinement is needed before it would work as a regulatory cost limiter. The Model School Standards Feasibility Study by McDowell Group has been completed; different organizations had different and interesting reasons for establishing standards. The cost-benefit tool is not complete and will take work to make useable. Looks forward to additional A/E input in future stages. Tim noted the subcommittee recommendation to move the analysis and development of the Cost Model as a cost control tool from the subcommittee to the department, to be reviewed with the work plan. Tim highlighted the cost-benefit tool, noting that the tool is built to be project-specific. Will likely work to develop project data and bring it back through the subcommittee.

Commissioning

Randy requested information on the status of the commissioning regulations. Lori stated that it was currently under review with the Department of Law, there is a potential issue with how it was noticed. Department should hear back within the week whether the regulation will be forwarded to the Lieutenant Governor or sent back for additional noticing. Tim confirmed that it would not come back to the committee for action. Randy stated that the action before the subcommittee was developing standards for commissioning agents. After research, he identified two groups that already had developed standards. Committee will meet again in August to finalized the commissioning certification requirements.

BR&GR CALENDAR AND WORK PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE

Tim noted that many of the dates have passed by, some are useful items to keep as reference. Lori presented upcoming meeting dates, including potential life safety matrix review in January and the CIP application approval meeting in April. Committee reviewed proposal and discussed changes. Suggestion to propose break-out session for the December A4LE conference to discuss the reuse of prior school design plans, get feedback or edits to application question or other implementation strategies.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.