Council on Water Transportation Acting Steering Committee Call
Tuesday, September 3, 2019

Attendees:
• Secretary Kevin Thibault, Florida DOT – Chair
• Deidre Smith, Arkansas Waterways Commission – Vice Chair
• Thaddaeus Babb, Oklahoma DOT – Inland Representative
• Cheryl Ball, Missouri DOT – Inland Representative
• Chris Collins, Louisiana DOTD – Region 2 Representative
• Dan Harmon, Texas DOT – Region 4 Representative
• Ron Pate, Washington State DOT – Deepwater Representative
• Andrew Sinclair, Virginia Port Authority – Deepwater Representative
• Denise Soisson, Pennsylvania DOT – Region 1 Representative
• Trey Daniell, Georgia DOT
• Jeremy Edgeworth, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
• Dan Fitzpatrick, Florida DOT
• Michelle Kratzer, Missouri DOT
• Dan Pallme, Tennessee DOT
• Elisha Wulf, Michigan DOT
• Shayne Gill, AASHTO
• Avital Barnea, AASHTO

Welcome and Roll Call
• Avital read the names of those on the phone
• Deidre Smith welcomed new Chair Secretary Kevin Thibault to the Council on Water Transportation

Introduction of New Council Chair
• Secretary Thibault stated he is looking forward to working with everyone and to meeting members at the Council’s meeting in St. Louis

Steering Committee Status and Council Vacancies
• With the addition of Secretary Thibault as Chair and Denise Soisson as the Region 1 representative, all ten steering committee positions are now filled:

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<th>Council on Water Transportation Steering Committee Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>Secretary Kevin Thibault</td>
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The steering committee will continue to meet on an acting basis until the amended charter is approved by the AASHTO Strategic Management Committee.

- The Council has 13 states with no voting representation: AL, AZ, CO, KS, MT, NE, NV, NM, ND, OR, SC, VT, WY
  - One of the goals outlined in the action plan is to encourage State DOTs to name a representative from their state to the Council.
  - Secretary Thibault stated that he will reach out to Alabama and other states to try to fill these vacancies.

Committee Action Plan

- AASHTO staff were tasked to provide updated action plans for all committees/councils to the Strategic Management Committee (SMC) in advance of the Annual Meeting in October.
- On August 12, Avital sent the acting steering committee the 2018-2019 action plan to review and provide updates by August 30.
  - Several members responded that besides updating the goal to form a steering committee (which we’ve done), the Council should stay the course on most of the goals.
  - On September 3, Avital sent a draft 2019-2020 action plan to the acting steering committee with these changes.
- A final draft is due to the SMC by September 6; Avital will send to the SMC.

Fall Meeting in St. Louis

- The Council’s second in-person meeting of the year is confirmed for Sunday, October 6 from 1:00-5:00 PM.
- Currently, the four-hour agenda is primarily devoted to a business meeting with the following topics:
  - State Updates – roundtable from states on waterway topics; this may be refined as the meeting date draws closer.
  - Waterway Funding Mechanisms by State – an overview and follow-up of waterway funding write-ups submitted by the states in spring 2019.
  - Recommendations to the Transportation Policy Forum – any items the council wishes to elevate within AASHTO.
  - Best Practices in Emergency Management: Working with FEMA.
  - Council-Sponsored NCHRP/Research Ideas.
  - Partnerships with Other Industry Groups.
- Cheryl Ball requested to expand the discussion on key legislation to include surface transportation reauthorization, including the topic of flexing funds into the water system.
  - Avital will add to the agenda.
- Chris Collins suggested inviting Congressional staffers who serve the St. Louis area.
  - Cheryl added that Missouri has several legislators on key transportation committees, including Rep. Sam Graves (Ranking Member on the House Transportation and...
Infrastructure Committee) and Sen. Roy Blunt (member on the Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Senate Appropriations Committee); in
addition, members of Congress and Senators from Illinois have offices close to St. Louis
and their staff may be able to attend
  o Avital will make note of this and assist with outreach to Congressional staffers
• Kevin Thibault requested adding an agenda item for planning the 2020 meetings
  o Avital will add to the agenda
• Deidre Smith requested during the NCHRP portion of the meeting, to discuss how the Council
can support research on creating a curriculum and repository for waterway education,
  o At the meeting in Baton Rouge, the Council heard from Dr. Janey Smith Camp at
    Vanderbilt University on this topic
  o Dr. Camp was alerted that NCHRP research needs statement submittals are now open,
    but we have not heard back from her
• Cheryl Ball requested that the emergency management session include discussion on how to
  apply for FHWA emergency relief funds
  o Avital will add to the agenda
• Avital mentioned that Cheryl Ball had suggested a few days earlier to add a guest speaker to the
  agenda – someone from the US Department of Agriculture to talk about their newly released
  report on *The Importance of Inland Waterways to U.S. Agriculture*
  o Avital suggested that since this is an inland waterways-focused topic, the Council could
    also invite a speaker who focuses on deepwater issues
  o Cheryl noted that the report was well received by people from outside the water
    transportation industry and would be of interest to all Council members, particularly
    those who transport agricultural products via water
  o Cheryl also mentioned that MoDOT did a waterways return on investment study last
    year and would be happy to present at the meeting about how they’ve used it and its
    success with the state legislature; in addition, BJ Miller with the Illinois DOT put out an
    RFP on a broader study
  o Deidre mentioned that she has the USDA report and it has a lot of statistical data and
    information that Council members can use to educate others on the impacts of
    waterway transportation; she supports inviting a speaker from USDA to discuss the
    report at the meeting
  o Cheryl mentioned that the Special Committee on Freight, which is also meeting in St.
    Louis in the morning of October 6, may also want to hear about the USDA report and/or
    transporting agricultural products; she recommended Mike Steenhoek from the Soy
    Transportation Coalition as a possible speaker
    ▪ Avital will reach out to USDA to see if they can provide a speaker for the Water
      and Freight meetings in St. Louis
• Cheryl Ball is also leading planning for a water freight facility tour, tentatively scheduled for
  Monday, October 7 from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM
  o The tour will probably be of the Lock and Dam at Alton – how the lock and dam impacts
    the inland waterway system as well as seaports
  o Depending how long the lock and dam tour will be, there may be time to also tour an
    inland port
    ▪ Cheryl mentioned that Dennis Wilmsmeyer, Executive Director for America’s
      Central Port, may be able to speak to the group
  o Deidre asked if it would be possible to tour a hydropower plant
Cheryl stated that she is not aware of one in the area the group could tour, and also since the tour is for both the Council on Water Transportation and the Special Committee on Freight, she wants to keep it focused to a water freight facility.

- Cheryl also stated that she had considered doing a river cruise tour, but the river is so volatile right now that it would not be prudent to plan on this; last time she scheduled a river cruise tour, it was cancelled the day before due to weather and there was no backup tour option – feels best to avoid this scenario again.

Other Business:

- Several people wished those who are in the path of Hurricane Dorian to fare well.
- Avital noted that this is her last week with AASHTO, as she will be leaving to take a job with the California State Transportation Agency.
  - Shayne Gill thanked Avital for her work as the Council liaison and laid out a transition plan following Avital’s departure.
    - Shayne will send an email to the Council in the next week letting everyone know who from AASHTO will staff the meeting and tour in St. Louis.
    - Over the next couple weeks AASHTO will post the vacancy for the Program Manager for Freight and hope to fill it soon, though realistically not before the meeting in St. Louis.

The call adjourned at 2:38 PM EDT.