

KNIK ARM BRIDGE AND TOLL AUTHORITY
BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES #4-04

Board of Directors' Meeting, October 14, 2004, Wasilla Multi-Use Sports Complex, Wasilla, Alaska.

The meeting progressed in accordance with the previously established and published agenda, which is attached and part of these minutes.

The meeting was duly noticed on October 5, 2004 in the legal section of both the "Anchorage Daily News" and "The Frontiersman" as public meeting notices.

Numbers in these minutes correspond with the numbers in the agenda.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chairman George Wuerch.

1. Roll Call by Chair George Wuerch

A quorum was established with five voting directors in attendance:

Dave Haugen, Darcie Salmon, Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Tom Boutin via teleconference from Juneau, and DOT&PF Central Region Director Gordon Keith.

Also present: Board Members Senator Lyda Green, Representative Bill Stoltze, Executive Director Henry Springer, Sr. Assistant AG/Project Counsel Bill Greene, and Professional Services Contractor Darryl Jordan.

Recorder: Betty Fauber, KABATA

There were twelve members of the public in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved as presented.

Action #46-4-04.

Approved by unanimous vote.

3. Approval of Minutes from Meeting #3-04 (August 4, 2004)

With no additions or corrections noted, there was a MOTION by Haugen, second by Salmon, to approve.

Action #47-4-04.

Approved by unanimous vote.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman Wuerch introduced and thanked Wasilla's Mayor Dianne Keller for inviting KABATA to hold the Board meeting at Wasilla's Multi-Use Sports Complex.

Wuerch announced the KABATA Public Open Houses, one to be held this evening in the same location from 6 PM to 9 PM and another to be held Tuesday, October 19 in Anchorage at the Loussac Library.

Wuerch thanks Dave Haugen for being available to be interviewed by ABC's 20/20 last week. Haugen indicated that the program should air in late November 2004.

Wuerch thanked the Board for their energy and commitment to the project as KABATA had reached its first anniversary in September. He reported that the draft Purpose and Needs statement submitted by the consultant team is a good starting point that the team will continue to develop.

Regarding project funding, Wuerch advised that the TEA-LU House transportation bill had not yet passed but expects a new bill will be put before the new Congress in January. He indicated that the delay in funding would not adversely impact any progress that KABATA has scheduled at this time. Disapproval of FHWA reimbursement for the Administrative Consultant Services' contract extension has been challenged and restoration requested.

5. Executive Director's Report

Springer reported on the progress made since the annual meeting including the completion of the Agreement between DOT&PF and KABATA and the expansion of contractors' scopes of work for research on socio-economic impacts and traffic projections.

Technical evaluation studies were presented by Figg, PND and HMM had interesting insights from actual projects. Permission has been granted from Port MacKenzie for PND to place ice pressure gauges onto their dock pilings to gather data for the next two years. Also, he advised that at the request of PND the University of Alaska Fairbanks would be customizing their seismic evaluation study to include Knik Arm.

Springer distributed a Post-NOI contract schedule indicating tasks to be completed by January 17, 2005.

6. Old Business

a. Agreement with DOT&PF and KABATA

Greene gave an overview of the Agreement that was signed by Commissioner Barton and Chairman Wuerch on September 30, 2004 after which

there was a MOTION by Salmon, second by Haugen, to approve as its authorized act and to grant authority to the Chairman to execute the agreement on behalf of KABATA.

Action #48-4-04.

Approved by unanimous vote.

b. Transition Documentation

Wuerch reported that the three consultants have been instructed to prepare final reports encapsulating work completed during the current NEPA feasibility and planning process; due by November 24, 2004. A compilation of these documents will accompany the request to FHWA to file the Notice of Intent (NOI). The reports will be a starting point for the new EIS consultant to be hired by mid-January 2005. It is contemplated to move the filing of the NOI to December 1, 2004.

c. Update on Field Work

Springer reported that the Beluga whale watchers, trained by LGL, are still observing belugas in the upper Knik Arm: final reports will include interesting new data. The Knik Arm hydraulic studies are completed and a report is being prepared. With the influence of the two ports, joint fisheries studies are being done. Thus far no negative impact on the project has been found. The beluga and fisheries research contracts have been extended to December 31, 2004.

d. FY05 Budget Adjustments

Springer stated that the Authority is operating within the approved budget.

To fulfill the requirements of the 1999 FHWA and DOT&PF operations agreement and the September 30, 2004 Agreement between KABATA and DOT&PF, and to comply with the Federal guidelines recommendations for Mega Projects, Springer requested authorization to create and staff two new managerial positions within the FY05 budget; a Deputy Executive Director/Project Manger (Range 25) and a Director of Regulatory and Environmental Affairs (Range 23). There was a

Action #49-4-04

MOTION made by Haugen, second by Salmon, to discuss.

After discussion the Board voted unanimously to authorize as presented.

7. New Business

a. 2006 Budget Presentation/Resolution #3-04

Springer summarized the resolution authorizing KABATA staff to proceed, concurrently with the EIS process, to begin to develop a financial plan for construction within the cost range of \$400 million to \$600 million.

There was a MOTION made by Salmon, second by Haugen, for a discussion after which the Board took

RESOLUTION #3-04 under consideration. There was a MOTION by Haugen, second by Salmon, to amend the resolution by adding after the fifth paragraph the following:

“Whereas recent soil studies and alternative design concepts revealed potential reduction of project costs and contingencies; and”

With the inclusion of the amendment the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

b. Public Open House Meetings/NEPA Planning

Greene emphasized the importance of understanding the formal NEPA process of which the public open houses are a requirement and will become a part of the Administrative Record. Board Members were given an outline describing the planning for the open houses and a Board Package that included samples of some of the information that will be on-hand.

Wuerch encouraged Board Members to attend the open houses. Public comments offered at the open houses will be documented and contact information collected from the sign-in sheets will be added to the master database of interested parties.

c. NOI/Resolution #4-04

Wuerch summarized the resolution authorizing KABATA staff to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

After which the Board took

RESOLUTION #4-04 under consideration and there was a

MOTION by Haugen, second by Keith, to approve as presented. Approved by unanimous vote.

d. Contract Authority/Resolution #5-04

Jordan summarized the resolution requesting authorization for Executive Director Springer to contract for professional services for the completion of the NEPA EIS process, permitting, and preliminary engineering.

After discussion the Board took

RESOLUTION #5-04 under consideration and there was a

MOTION by Salmon, second by Haugen, to approve as presented.
Approved by unanimous vote.

8. Board Members' Remarks

Vice Chair Salmon stated that he appreciated the very informative meeting and that he is very excited about the future of the project.

Keith stated his interest in the upcoming portion of the project and stated his appreciation for the work done by the experienced consultants. Wuerch thanked Keith for his assistance in the process.

Haugen urged continuation of good progress and encouraged continued aggressive efforts.

Boutin thanked the Board for the opportunity to join the meeting telephonically.

9. Public Comments

Mayor Keller thanked the Board for holding its meeting in Wasilla and relayed her support of the project.

As requested by Wuerch, the public in attendance introduced themselves. John Isaacs, a URS consultant, encouraged the public's participation at the Public Open Houses. Paul Laverty requested that copies of resolutions being discussed be available to the public.

10. Announcements

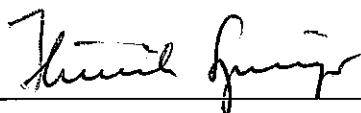
Wuerch asked the availability of the Board for possibly holding the next meeting the week of December 17; all responded favorably. Members and the public will be notified as to the exact details at a later date.

11. Adjournment: 3:56 PM

Action #50-4-04

MOTION by Salmon, second by Haugen; vote unanimous.

Minutes Approved: Unanimous Board approval at December 15, 2004 Board Meeting.

Attest: 

Date: 12/27/04