



## CLT and RTCA MEETING NOTES

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**DATE:** 09/17/24

**WHERE:** Video Conference

**TIME BEGUN:** 10:00 a.m.

**PURPOSE:** Review tasks as assigned from August meeting; Explore stakeholder analysis

**PRESENT:** K. Pace, R. Eddy Harvey, RTCA, D. Story, J. Cadieux, CLT

### DISCUSSION:

DS:

Has taken more photos but hasn't gotten all tasks as assigned completed for images needed. Asks that these tasks carry over to next meeting.

KP:

Has included a needed shot list in Google Drive.

We want to include all that CL is and has been including the K'beq site and long-time CL people/residents.

We want to consider stakeholders and how they see the project and play into the messaging. They are one of the key audiences but also we want to bring them in and have them take part-ownership.

DS:

Reported on meeting with Sean Holland, SC Regional Director, DOT. Met for >3 hours. He has not committed to solving all our problems but committed to being a better partner. He's creative about finding ways to incorporate our project and move it forward. One big take-away is that the partnership with the Kenaitze needs to be more robust as they could be a link to funding, specifically bridge work that is assigned specific federal dollars. Money has been left on the table in the past that we might be able to partner with them on e.g. Cooper Creek or Schooner Bend bridges.

We have also met with Romorenzo Marasigan, (new) DOT Planner, Ben White, Regional Planning Chief DOT, Joselyn Biloona, Kenai Area DOT Planner. The group reviewed our application for TAP funding. We hadn't gotten the assistance to apply that other groups did but there was an opaque vetting process. We were dropped because of some weaknesses. We learned that some of those criteria are pretty subjective. The biggest reason we didn't get funded is because of a lack of match funds above the basic requirement compared to other projects. Partnering with other groups like Kenaitze might help us with this.

JC:

KPB is going to be a critical partner. Matsu pays much more for e.g. pathways. They have a recreation department. KPB does neither of these. They also commit to maintenance for roads to get them built or to get a pathway built.

DS: KPB can be an effective advocate since they do not appear to be in the position to begin handling maintenance. Outreach to Kenaitze could be handled initially by CLT. He's been careful about fostering the relationship. We made good headway on the last TAP app with Kenaitze. While they didn't follow-through on a letter of support, it did seem to be a breakthrough. AWA has been increasing their relationship through rafting trips and language learning. Their employment camp was a big opportunity.

JC: David please include me in Kenaitze outreach in the future. Possibly not the first meeting but the second.

KP: Do Kenaitze Tribe already have a plan? We can then make our request in that context and respect the work they've done on their plan.

DS: He's looked for that kind of thing and not found. He's seen Kenai transportation efforts, e.g. bussing, transportation hub. Can KP help find anything that might reference something we could identify? They may have compelling reasons why they don't want to highlight important places that they don't want folks reaching and impacting.

Work will take through end of October. Ready to work on this by mid-November. He'll do outreach at that point. Frequent staff changes or shifts very much impact communication with Kenaitze. If he meets in November to introduce ourselves and the project then step two would be to introduce the bridge work.

JC: Sean Holland indicated that Kenaitze may have sites they wish to protect. We've included the concept of protecting sites and directing foot traffic in each of our large grant apps but this effort may not be known to Kenaitze yet.

KP: Have we envisioned the pitch deck incorporating the Kenaitze Tribe partnership or bring the pitch deck to Kenaitze Tribe? Yes, to both but we do not wish to speak for the Kenaitze Tribe before they're 100% on board. We've gotten to the point where they've agreed to write a letter but it's never materialized. We need to ask for discreet items and they would more likely be more willing to finish the task and join as more active partners. If we build success through initial projects, then we have credibility and learn to know if we work well together. We build trust and learn where we can go in the future and what to avoid. We're open to what they might be more willing/interested in to start with, e.g. Schooner Bend or Cooper Creek bridges.

KP: Likes that approach to the Tribe and likes the idea of starting with one distinct project. DS will ask for meeting in November. Introduce the project. In-person.

DS: Find out what they'd be interested in vs. what can we help them with. We cannot realistically contribute to their bussing work in Kenai. Ask what they think is the important priority in our area.

KP: You've starting working on the DOT relationship. You will work on the Kenaitze Tribe this winter. When might the KPB relationship be worked upon?

DS: KPB relationship should be an easier task and can begin next week via email. If DOT is able to act on the plan for a Kenai Peninsula DOT office, they may be better able to develop their relationships with KPB. We invited Romo Marasigan to make an outreach to KPB. DS will be introducing Romo to key individuals like Robert Ruffner. Next week we can write the email that brings Romo Marasigan together with Robert Ruffner. An email for introduction of Rhys

Miranda, DPOR will also be done. We may be able to accomplish a meeting via video conference easily with these partners. A meeting with Kenaitze would need to be in-person. KP: Do we still feel we need to include in the story map and pitch deck the partners as identified?

DS: Both Romo and Rhys seem to be nuts and bolts type people. Can they actually help put those together for us. Robert Ruffner would be an additional person but he's not got much time for that.

KP: Let's consider inviting them to one of these meetings.

DS: Gone Nov 5-13.

JC: Gone Sep 22-Oct 7.

KP: Next meeting of RTCA and CLT October 15, 10:00 a.m.

REH: Will add examples from other pathway projects to the Google Drive.

#### **TASKS ASSIGNED:**

DS:

- Reference shot list and take as many pics as possible given that the season has changed and traffic will not be the same.
- Send out emails of introduction in the coming week between Romorenzo Marasignan of DOT and (1) Robert Ruffner of KPB, (2) Rhys Miranda of DPOR.
- Progress report to CLCC at Sep 19 meeting
- Attend CAP Budget meeting Sep 21.

JC:

- If able to help with anything on the shot list, will do.
- Prep for CLCC meeting this week
- Attend CLCC meeting Sep 19
- Attend CAP Budget meeting Sep 21

KP:

- Review Kenaitze Tribe online planning documents that include a goal or objective for our area?
- Create October agenda

REH:

- Will add examples from other pathway projects to the Google Drive.

#### **TIME ENDED: 11:00 a.m.**

Further conference held between DS and JC regarding tasks this week related to CLCC meeting and CAP budget meeting. Ended approximately 11:25 a.m.