

Meeting called to order at 9:30AM. Members present were: John H. Fisher, III, Chair; Edwin Carman (for DCA Acting Commissioner Charles Richman); Marvin Reed; Robert F. Casey; Gary Passanante; and Joseph Donahue (for State Treasurer David Rousseau). Absent: Steven M. Cozza.

August 17, 2009 meeting minutes approved unanimously.

August 28, 2009 meeting minutes approved unanimously, Robert Casey abstained.

Executive Director's Report:

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Commission and the Walter Rand Institute (WRI) has been drafted and is under review. The MOU should be ready for delivery to WRI for its review sometime next week. Activities over the next several months will be discussed later on the agenda, however, items not in the meeting packets regarding future plans are: the Road Map project and an update on current consolidation activities by Local Government Services and the Local Finance Board in connection with the County Assessment Pilot program in Gloucester County. Current plan is next month, draft white paper on Emergency Communications, wrapping up Public Health in November and Courts in December. The Executive Director will be meeting with staff in Gloucester County in October. The Executive Director also reminded members that today's meeting will be followed by ethics training.

LUARCC Spending Plan & Budget

The Executive Director presented a two-year spending plan for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 and a proposed Commission budget for Fiscal Year 2010. There was a general discussion of a two year vs. one year spending plan and respective advantages/disadvantages. The Executive Director noted that, regarding the agreement with Rutgers – Camden there is a preference to encumber only the first year of the project during the 2010 Fiscal Year. A commission member was concerned that the plan for 2011 did not start until 7/1/2010 and that police and fire are slated in the 2011 plan rather than the 2010 plan. The concern was that it may delay any studies of these issues the Commission might want to undertake in these areas before that date. One commission member pointed out that the lack of a two year budget will not necessarily delay LUARCC activities until the beginning of next fiscal year. The Executive Director agreed and said that the spending plan could be adjusted during the 2010 Fiscal Year to accommodate changes in Commission priorities. He pointed out that the spending plan was for planning purposes and, as it relates to the State Budget, the Commission's appropriation is in a single line covering only its total allocation. As a result, LUARCC reserves the right to shift budgetary funds as necessary to meet needs and activities. Commission members continued their discussion on the importance of looking at Police and spending more time in this area since that appears to be where the money is most spent. The

mention of the State Police was brought up in terms of the disparity in certain communities that utilize them.

Commission members stated that the minutes must reflect that the Commission can redirect the budget dollars as deemed necessary. A motion was made to set the LUARCC Fiscal Year 2010 Budget at \$350,000 the motion passed unanimously.

Progress Report of Walter Rand Institute (WRI):

(Gwendolyn Harris of WRI was present for this discussion) WRI is looking for project director and staff. Need to develop interview protocols and the pool of municipal experts. Advertisement for project director will be posted September 25, 2009. Question was raised as to how open the selection process will be for the project director and if the project manager had to be in PERS. Initial response was that they did not, however, there is language/special provisions for hiring former government officials. WRI will do further research to get an accurate answer and submit it to the Commission.

During discussion it was decided the North and South subcommittees need to meet with WRI in the next few weeks to discuss the state of their efforts. The Commission must continue to move forward without hesitation. The Executive Director will put a schedule together and send to members for their availability.

Projects Discussion

There must be a "roadmap" as to how to do a consolidation study. Robert Casey has written a publication for the League of Municipalities which can be used as a starting point. The "roadmap" could be a DCA or LUARCC publication but should include consolidation and shared services under the new statute – a step by step on how to organize, assemble, etc. The Commission also agreed that they need to go back to the functional alignments that were discussed a year ago and should now move forward with looking at construction code. Division of Codes & Standards has information LUARCC needs to examine on construction code enforcement at local level and believes the Division has an annual report that might be helpful. For the October meeting, LUARCC can begin to address construction code enforcement. The Commission discussed the major areas that were recommended in the first Report: Public Health, Emergency Communication and the Courts. The Commission would like to bring back the people who gave testimony to see what progress they have made. A Commission member indicated that there was a court decision regarding the role of assignment judges and that we should have the AOC in again to talk about the decision. There were also some changes in Health driven by retirement of Health Officers which the Commission should be updated on. Commission decided that they should bring Health in first. White paper draft will commence after testimony is heard again in the above areas to have a more accurate document prepared.

Finally, the Commission would like staff of LGS to discuss where they are in terms of the LFB and Shared Services so we are working off of one "roadmap". LUARCC

should be a clearinghouse to speed up efforts and be able to find information in one area.

General Discussion:

The Chair asked if any members of the public wished to address the Commission at this time. No one came forward.

Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 10:40 am.