

ALABAMA RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MEETING

September 2023

The Alabama Resource Advisory Committee convened for its second meeting at 9:30 A.M. on September 21, 2023, at the USDA Forest Service Supervisor's Office, Montgomery, Alabama. Tammy Freeman Brown Designated Federal Officer of the Alabama Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) opened the meeting and discussed its purpose. She briefly explained the counties eligible for Title II funding allocations and ensured that a quorum was reached for voting participants. She also discussed that the RAC term will end in 2025 and the need for members. She asked members to share information when it's available to friends, colleagues, and community members in the Spring of 2024.

In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Committee members present:

Dr. Brian Keener (In-person)
Dr. Tina Jones (Virtual)
Zack Brannon (In-person)
Keith Gauldin (In-person)
Michael Henshaw (In-person)
Cedric Hudson (Virtual)
Debbie Quinn (Virtual)
Nisa Miranda (Virtual)
Keith Tassin (In-person)
Renee Raney (Virtual)

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Tammy Freeman Brown briefly discussed counties eligible for Title II funding allocations, voting participants, New RAC formation in 2025 and the need for members to solicit RAC position openings for FY24 to friends, colleagues, and community members in the Spring of 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Dawn Suiter, Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, took roll call. A quorum was reached with 10 out of 15 committee members present (either in-person or virtual) to proceed with the meeting. Dawn thanked committee members for their participation and turned the meeting over to Dr. Brian Keener, RAC Chairperson.

Dr. Keener led the committee in reviewing submitted project proposals. There was input given from virtual and in-person attendees on submitted proposals over the next hour. All four project proposals submitted were approved to receive funding. The amounts offered to counties were agreed upon by all committee members.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS TITLE II FUNDING BALANCE

Tammy Freeman Brown, DFO reviewed available funding for project proposals submitted from Winston, Lawrence, and Clay counties for fiscal years 2014, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

BUDGET

Dr. Brian Keener reviewed the budget tables presented to the Committee. Nisa Miranda expressed concern about the funding amount requested from applicants and the amount of funding available.

COMMITTEE-INITIATED DISCUSSION

Committee members discussed funding amounts requested and voiced their concerns regarding the cost analysis breakdown from some of the submitted applications.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflicts involving institutional affiliations already had been identified. Members were asked to absent themselves also during discussions of any applications in which there was a personal or professional conflict that was not readily apparent.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS


Committee reviewed 4 applications requestion \$556,875. The applications included: 3 trail improvement projects and 1 road improvement project. A total of 4 applications requesting \$312,500 were recommended for funding approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Tammy Freeman Brown
Designated Federal Officer
Alabama Resource Advisory Committee


11/09/2023

TAMMY
FREEMAN
BROWN

Digitally signed by
TAMMY FREEMAN
BROWN
Date: 2023.11.09
10:58:33 -0600

Brian Keener, Ph.D.
Chairman
Alabama Resource Advisory Committee

 9 Nov 2023

These minutes will be formally considered by the Committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.