

National Roads Authority
Minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Board held at the
Department of Environmental Health, North Sound Road,
Grand Cayman, Wednesday, November 10, 2005 at 3:00p.m.

Present: J L Hurlston Chairman
Troy Whittaker Deputy Chairman
Justin Woods
Carson Ebanks
Debra Welcome
Colford Scott
Edward Howard
Michael Barnett

Apologies: Gina Ebanks-Petrie

Absent: Nicholas Johnson
Rollin Jackson
Steve McField
Dan Tibbetts

1. Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m.

2. Opening Remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. He also welcomed the new Executive Secretary, Ms. Lois A. Hall to the meeting and requested her to introduce herself to the members.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

The three sets of Minutes for the previous meetings (21.07.05, 18.08.05 & 22.09.05) were tabled and a motion moved for their adoption. The motion was carried and the three sets of minutes adopted.

4. Matters Arising

There was nothing to report.

5. Unfinished and Deferred Business

- (ii) Report by Deputy MD: Concepts of Road User Charges
This report was prepared by Mr. Edward Howard and will be tabled for future consideration.

- (ii) Improvements to airport junctions at Shedden Road and Smith Road Matter receiving attention.

6. New Business

- (i) General Report by MD

- a. Staff

Mr. Scott reported that the NRA staff has now been relocated to the second floor of PWD office building. Staff is comfortable, with telephone lines, computers and air conditioning functioning. It was noted that the NRA is still on the PWD switchboard, however there is a direct line to the NRA from which calls can be transferred. There are internal extensions, a functioning fax line and a fax line (947-7219) for the Board.

The new Executive Secretary has joined the NRA and the new HR Assistant is expected next week. The new Receptionist (Gina McLaughlin) is also on board. The NRA is now up to full staff compliment.

The two bays in the unallocated stores building (recently handed over to us) will be renovated as the Roads Lab and Sign Shop. The old one has been reassigned to DVES to be used as a mechanical workshop. The two office trailers will be used by the supervisors and some of the field staff with access to computers.

- b. Tenders

Tenders have been received from two local suppliers, Ingersoll-Rand Equipment and Caterpillar for the hot mixed asphalt equipment required for paving operations. Ingersoll-Rand Equipment has been chosen.

- c. Paving

It was noted that the Paving Supervisor, William Boden, is on staff and it is anticipated that the paving equipment will arrive early next year. If this equipment arrives in time the paving projects approved for the eastern districts is expected to commence January/February 2006.

- d. Road Register

It is proposed to use the street naming atlas database from Lands & Survey as the basis of all street names to indicate public roads, and the classification of roads e.g. an arterial road (whether primary or secondary), collector road and access road. It is proposed that by early next year a draft of the Road Register will be completed. In this register based on the type of surface, roads will be classified

into four categories good, fair, poor or failed. This registry is expected to be produced early 2006.

e. School Signals/Speed Limits – Red Bay & Savannah Primary Schools

Discussions are being held at the respective PTA meetings concerning speeding through these areas, as children have to cross the roads. It is proposed to install flashing lights on wires spanning across the road to indicate the beginning of the school zone, and to reduce the speed limit to 15 mph when the lights are flashing. The proposed 15 mph zones will be shorter than the present school zones.

For the schools in the Walkers Road area there are long term proposals with the extension of the Linford Pierson Highway. It is hoped then that the school children would not be dropped off on Walkers Road but Academy Way instead.

f. Expansion of lanes – West Bay Road in vicinity of the Hyatt .

This proposal is currently being gazetted, There are safety issues with this project that are currently being worked on. Work is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2006.

g. Compensation of Land

It was noted that it was becoming increasingly difficult for Government to acquire land for road expansion/construction. In terms of compensation it was felt that little or no value has been placed on the benefits provided by improved transportation whether by direct access or not. It was suggested that the relevant Ministries meet to address the input of the Valuation Office who over the years would appear to have more input than the Roads Law would allow.

h. Central Business District

There are currently improvement plans being done for this area. This is expected to begin in early 2006.

i. Improvements - Junction of Smith Road & Mango Tree Restaurant

Plans for a mini roundabout are currently on the drawing board for this junction and Brian Tomlinson, Senior Projects Manager, CI Airports Authority have been contacted and now awaiting formal approval from David Fredericks. It was noted that Clive Sawyers, the world's renowned expert on mini roundabouts, is currently in the island and held discussions with Paul Parchment and Peter Ogden.

- j. Expansion of Roundabout – Elgin Avenue
This project is proceeding according to plan on schedule.

(ii) **Financial Report**

A draft copy of the Financial Statement 2005 was circulated to the members by Mr. Michael Barnett for review and comments. These will be audited before they are finalized. A report will then be done for inclusion in the annual report.

7. **Other Business**

(i) Allocation & Use of NRA vehicles

The Chairman aired the topic to Mr. Colford Scott for consideration to be discussed at a later meeting. It was noted that use of these vehicles is bordering on abuse by the staff who operates these vehicles after hours and on weekends.

(ii) Salary – Staff

It was noted that the study by the consultants on staff re emoluments is being done and is expected to be presented to the Board shortly for review.

(ii) Recent Flooding – Savannah

Mr. Colford Scott informed that there were two distinct type of flooding recently, one from Hurricane Wilma and the other from the recent rains associated with Tropical Storm Beta. This resulted in water coming over the Pedro Bluff along the gully into the Savannah area resulting in heavy flooding. We are discussing the possibility of constructing a sea wall, approximately 50 feet inland from the edge of the cliff, to an elevation of 20 feet above sea level, to stop or reduce the amount of sea water entering the gully. Trenches are proposed to channel this water back into the sea. This will also be supplemented with a drainage scheme to channel the water into the North Sound. A sketch is being drafted for presentation to the Ministry and residents of the area.

8. **Next Meeting**

This was subsequently changed to Wednesday December 7, 2005 to facilitate the NRA Christmas dinner on the 8th December.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Confirmed: _____

Chairman: _____

