

National Roads Authority
Minutes of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Board held
At the NRA Offices, 370 North Sound Road, George Town,
Grand Cayman, Thursday, May 18, 2006 at 3:00p.m.

Present: J L Hurlston Chairman
Troy Whittaker Deputy Chairman
Michael Barnett
Edward Howard
Justin Woods
Steve McField
Debra Welcome
Carson Ebanks
Colford Scott
Dean Walton
Frank McCoy
Kenross Conolly
Gary Rankin

Lois A. Hall-Vaughan Executive Secretary

Apologies: Gina Ebanks-Petrie

1. Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. and convened with a word of prayer.

2. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members in attendance to the meeting and the new Board Members. The Chairman noted that after many meetings over the past months, a quorum was finally reached at this meeting.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes previously circulated by email were accepted as is and seconded. The Minute Book has arrived on the island and will be available at the next meeting.

4. Matters Arising

(i) General Report by MD

a. Staff

Input regarding the Personnel Policy Manual which was circulated in October 2005 is still being requested. It was suggested that inputs be submitted to the Human Resources Manager.

Interviews for the post of IT Administrator were completed and an offer made to Nicholas Graham. He is expected to begin working June 12, 2006.

b. Paving

The first two pieces of equipment, Ingersoll Rand roller, have arrived. The three trucks are expected within a week or two. The arrival of the Blaw Knox PF161 paver is now scheduled for late June 2006.

c. Road Register

This is being worked on and the Permanent Secretary will be updated on the status at the weekly meetings.

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

The decision to amend the Traffic Law to enforce a 15mph speed limit in the school zone is still to be decided by the Minister.

e. Paving/Kerbs/Drains-Roundabout, Elgin Avenue/Connector Highway

Concrete kerb work is scheduled to start on May 20, 2006 and asphalt paving on June 3, 2006. Completion is expected by June 30, 2006. Drainage wells have been drilled and boxed. This project will result in a 4 lane road with a right turning lane between Smith Road and Shedden Road via the Elgin Avenue dual lane roundabout.

It was noted that the Elgin Avenue roundabout is showing signs of stress and delays are not improving the situation. With the rainy season approaching it would be best for this project to be completed as soon as possible.

f. Esterley Tibbetts Highway Extension

Sub-base work has been completed from the Hyatt to Canal Point and partially completed between Canal Point Drive and to the Ritz Carlton's southern boundary.

Base work is complete between Canal Point and Snug Harbour Drive on 4 lanes and is continuing south across Palm Heights Drive on 2 lanes.

The water mains have been installed as far north as Palm Heights Drive and electricity mains are in the process of being installed from the Hyatt roundabout to Snug Harbour Drive along with two large access vaults (junction boxes). Sewer lines and telephone & data lines will be installed commencing at the end of the month.

Utilities have been relocated on Canal Point Dr.

Eleven drainage wells have been drilled starting from Canal Point Dr. and progressing southwards.

The link through the Ritz property is being coordinated through the Ministry with input from NRA engineers.

Peninsula Avenue has been closed to through traffic by blocking Raleigh Quay Road at Foster Bay apartments and Governor's Way at West Bay Road. Local traffic has access.

Material delivery improved during the end of April through the first half of May but slowed in the last few days. Most of the private truckers are reportedly hauling mulch and debris from the temporary disposal site at Frank Sound to the George Town land fill for government contractor Alfredo Powery.

It was suggested that the trucks delivering aggregate be checked when they leave the company site and when they arrive to deliver the material.

- g. Kirk Motors/Dorcy Drive – roundabout
The 'mal function junction' has been redesigned and converted into a small roundabout and paved. Dual approach lanes on each of the three approach legs separate left and right turning traffic for improved traffic flow and management.
- h. Clarinda Bay Wall
This is still under construction by the sub contractor.
- i. Street lights
The inventory of street lights has been received from CUC. The NRA is now compiling the data to verify working/nonworking street lights.
- j. Drain Register
The locating and mapping of all government drains on the island have been done. This is being compiled on a data base. On completion a copy is to be forwarded to the Ministry.

The question was raised if there was a plan to periodically check drains and roads. The availability of the register will enable the period check of drains to be done more effectively.
- k. Savannah Gully/Seawall
This project has been referred back to the core of Central Government to be done as a consultancy project. Funds have been identified for the design of sea defenses.
- l. Marina Drive
Concerning the completion of this project a document is currently being prepared for discussion with the Chief Financial Officer.
- m. Performance Appraisal of the Managing Director
Mr. Scott and other non Board members were requested to leave the meeting while this appraisal was reviewed.

(ii) Financial Report

The ten month period ended April 30, 2006 with the NRA within budget.

With ten months gone in the budget year, expenditure on NRA3 amounts to \$3,995,171 which represent 87% our annual budget.

In regards to our executive assets, expenditure to April 30, 2006 amounts to \$6,638,062 which is 40% of our annual budget. In addition commitments amounting to \$1,077,536 will go to \$7,715,598 which is 47% of the annual budget.

Based on the figures for the ten months ending April 30, 2006 the NRA should be able to accomplish its objectives within the budget.

BUDGET 2006 – 2007

The NRA is in the process of finalizing the budget for 2006 – 2007. Our proposed NRA 1, 2, & 3 budget for the year is \$5,151,194 an increase of \$76,126 or 1.5%.

The proposed budget for Executive Assets is \$10,250,000 and increase of \$1,199,000 or 13%. Of this amount \$2.4m is for the Esterley Tibbetts project, \$1m for the East End sea wall at the Lower End of the Bay and \$2m for the East/West Arterial. The NRA needs to agree with the Ministry on a list of projects to be undertaken for the balance of the \$4.9m.

The equity injections proposed for the year is \$300,000 a reduction of \$1,020,000 or 77%.

Amendment: 'Ms. Debra Welcome requested a different format of the report representing revenue and expenditure details to see full asset and liability picture of the NRA'.

5. Other Business

1. Ministerial concerns

The members discussed points raised by the Hon. Minister in a letter to the Chairman. Copies of the draft response were circulated to members for review.

Some of the issues raised as a result were: why did the 'malfunction junction', the Road Register, Street Light projects take so long to be done, is the NRA sufficiently staffed to undertake various projects effectively, why did the closing of the Peninsular Avenue take so long to be done? Why does the NRA Board not have the autonomy to do things. It was noted that many of the staff now working at the NRA were former PWD workers and have not changed their work attitude and this has to change.

It was suggested that a list of projects for the new financial year be copied to the Board.

2. New Telecom company

Infinity Broadband has applied to be part of the utility group that is allowed to use the public road corridors to provide services. The present utility group consists of CUC and Cable & Wireless (island-wide), WAC south and east of Eastern Avenue/North Church Street intersection, WC north of the WAC franchised area.

The NRA is concerned that with liberalization of the telecom industry any number of providers may require to use the road corridors. The NRA is seeking input from the Board and Ministry on this matter.

3. Staff Appreciation function

Approval for a staff appreciation function is being requested for the end of June 2006 to mark the second anniversary of the NRA and the substantial completion of the Esterley Tibbetts Highway – Phase III. This was considered and approved.

4. Summer Students

The question was raised if there was a plan in place for the delegation of work for summer students. It was noted that 40 students were working with the NRA last year during the summer and plans were being made to accommodate students this year.

5. NRA Audit – 04-05

This audit is still being done.

6. NRA Board Meetings

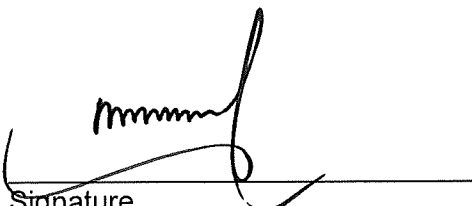
It was decided by the Board members for meetings to be held twice a month (the first and third Thursdays), beginning at 2:00pm instead of 3:00pm.

6. **Next Meeting**


The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, June 1, 2006.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm. (after the review of the Performance Appraisal of the Managing Director).



Signature
Board Chairman
Confirmation of Minutes –18.05.06
Date: 01.06.06



Signature
Executive Secretary
Seconded: Confirmation of Minutes
Date: 01.06.06