

IOWA VERTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**November 03, 2011
Meeting Minutes**

The Governor's Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee met via conference call.

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Chairman Scott Norvell. Those in attendance were as follows:

Scott Norvell, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Tom Nichols, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Eve Palmer, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Dan Prymek, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Camille Valley, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member

Mike Carroll, Dept. of Administrative Services
Caleb Hunter, Dept. of Administrative Services
Jennifer Moehlmann, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
Paul Carlson, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
Mickel Edwards, Dept. of Corrections
Kathy Shannon, Iowa Veterans Home
Shauna Callaway, Iowa Veterans Home
Karalyn Kuhns, Dept. of Human Services

The following committee members were absent:

Tara Barney, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Gary Benshoof, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member

Consent Agenda

Skipped.

Other Business

Chairman Norvell reviewed the main purpose of the call, which was to determine the Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee's purpose and value and recommend a direction to move forward. He said that the Department of Administrative Services agrees that the Committee's value has changed over the last 12 years. Chairman Norvell had asked for information on the legal process for the Committee to disband and received information that the process is for the Committee to recommend to the Governor that it cease to exist and then the Governor would make a decision and, if appropriate, issue an Executive Order dissolving the Committee. Mike Carroll clarified several times that the Governor's office didn't offer an opinion on whether the Committee should dissolve, but gave information on what the process would be should the Committee make that recommendation.

Dan Prymek asked for more background on why the Committee was considering a recommendation to dissolve. Chairman Norvell said that neither the Committee nor DAS has a lot of resources to work with. There is a significant backlog of major maintenance work, and only \$3 million in funding in FY12. With such limited resources, the question is whether the Committee is duplicating work DAS is already doing.

Dan Prymek requested agency input on whether they felt the Committee was valuable. Kathy Shannon said she was very concerned that the Committee was considering disbanding because she thinks the Committee is more important when money is tight so that one agency among twelve doesn't decide who gets the money. She thinks the Committee is helpful in getting funding from the Legislature as well and has served the Iowa Veterans Home well. Karalyn Kuhns said she appreciates the effort the Committee has made and feels it has been critical in getting more funding. She said the Committee had raised important questions for agencies to consider as well. Mickel Edwards said he was concerned because he

didn't know what the alternative would be if the committee disbanded and noted it was difficult to get funding prior to the Committee's existence. He said it was nice to have an arbiter and it seemed appropriate that citizens were involved. Karalyn Kuhns questioned what the process would be if the Committee disbanded and how would funding allocated to DAS be handled. Dan Prymek commented that it sounds like there is value in the Committee for the agencies.

Camille Valley said she thought the Committee should do their due diligence and go through the original Executive Order to see what doesn't need to be done, what can be done better, and make it a thoughtful process.

Tom Nichols said he believed the Committee is an advocate for all the agencies; he is amazed by the state employees at the facilities and wants to help them all that he can.

Eve Palmer agreed with Dan and Tom. She stated her concern is for the agencies; if the Committee can help and support, she's all for that.

Chairman Norvell noted the Committee didn't seem ready to make a decision on disbanding. He was hearing that the primary purpose of the Committee is advocacy, but the Executive Order language focuses the Committee's activities on prioritization. Chairman Norvell said he had asked many times if the Committee had ever reversed DAS recommendations on project funding and heard it hasn't been done very much if at all. Mike Carroll recommended that the Committee pay attention to the Executive Order and make sure their activities are in line with the Executive Order.

Dan Prymek suggested Chairman Norvell should have a conversation with the Governor's office to determine the Governor's level of interest in the Committee. Camille Valley suggested the Committee should provide Chairman Norvell with pros and cons to take with him.

Tom Nichols made a motion to table the discussion on the Committee's future until the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 17th and to collect pros and cons of the Committee's current operations for consideration at that meeting. Camille Valley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Dan Prymek requested the agencies provide something in writing that demonstrates the Committee's value to the agencies.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 am.

