

MINUTES

A meeting of the Alabama Real Estate Commission's Task Force for Review and Award of Grants was held February 17, 2012, at the Alabama Real Estate Commission Training Room, Montgomery, Alabama.

Those present were Task Force Chairman Nancy Wright, Task Force members Carole Harrison and Clif Miller; Commission Chairman Bill Watts; Commissioners Reid Cummings and Steve Cawthon; Executive Director Philip Lasater and Accounting and Personnel Director Mollie Jones. Commissioner Dorothy Riggins-Allen was absent.

The meeting having been duly noticed according to the Open Meetings Act was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Chairman Nancy Wright.

The minutes from the January 18, 2012 meeting were approved.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the feasibility of awarding a grant at this time.

Commissioner Watts brought to the committee's attention that the Governor was planning a special session dealing with budgets only and would target organizations with surpluses and also consider mergers of regulatory boards.

Mr. Lasater addressed the question of possible mergers of departments and that at this point it is only conjecture.

There was a great deal of discussion on the definition of grants and the origin of the idea of awarding a grant. The committee members discussed what we were trying to accomplish in awarding a grant. Is it a good mechanism for going forward with a grant to meet the AREC mission and goals?

Task Force Chairman Wright stated that she was surprised to see how threatened instructors feel and that she doesn't think AREC needs to feel like we have to award a grant to anyone.

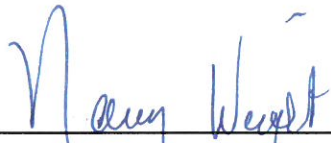
There was additional discussion on why AAR and instructors are feeling threatened by these grants and that the intent was never to take anything away from AAR or instructors when the suggestion was made to provide a grant to ACRE.

Mr. Lasater stated that he sensed that the grant mechanism is not the best avenue at this time. He suggested that the committee consider recommending a standing committee on long range planning charged to develop contracting for capital initiatives in the strategic plan. He could report to the Legislature that we have this committee in place that will be looking at the finances and needs of the Commission in order to accomplish AREC's mission in the strategic plan.

Task Force Chairman Wright stated she felt that the grant concept was getting out of hand and that although we have the authority to provide grants, we do not need to be in the business of giving out grants.

After additional discussion, the following conclusion was reached to be presented to the Commission: Deny the requests from ACRE and USA and establish a standing committee to help promote the necessary items to accomplish the mission in the AREC strategic plan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.



Nancy Wright, Task Force Chairman



Molli Jones, Recording Secretary