

SUMMARY REPORT
JOINT EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
December 7, 2009

The Executive and Finance Committees met in joint session the afternoon of December 7, 2009 in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. The minutes from the September 2009 Joint Executive/Finance Committee were approved with a couple of modifications made by Chairman Cupka. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

1. Status of the CY2009 Council budget

Bob Mahood briefed the committee on the status of the CY2009 budget. He directed the members to Attachment 1 which shows that the expenditures for the year are below what would be expected and the projected balance is positive. This is primarily because of the length of time the continuing budget resolution was in place and the uncertainty in the level of the CY2009 budget, which necessitated the Council limiting activities and expenditures during the first part of the year. Bob indicated the Council is in good shape financially and will have adequate funding to accomplish the activities specified in the Activities Schedule during 2009. On a positive note, the Committee was informed that the Council's request for a no-cost extension of the 2005-2009 Grant was approved. This will allow the Council to carry unexpended funds forward to conduct activities in 2010 that were initially scheduled in 2009.

2. FMP/Amendment Timelines

Bob pointed out that the timelines will need to be adjusted depending on the outcome of this meeting and the funding the Council receives in the 2010 budget.

4. CY2010 Budget

Bob explained that we had hoped to have a 2010 budget by now, but unfortunately as in recent years we are under a Congressional continuing resolution. He noted that the proposed budget is the same one provided to the Council at the last meeting. He then reviewed the total proposed budget. It is anticipated that with the expected funding for 2010 and the approval to carry unexpended funds forward to complete work started in 2009, the Council will be able to conduct the activities necessary to meet its mandates under the MSRA. Brian Chevront asked about the increases in Council

member compensation and advisory panel travel between 2009 and 2010. Bob indicated this was directly related to the number of scheduled meetings for advisory panels and Council members in the 2010 activities schedule. Chairman Cupka reminded everyone that we had to limit meetings and other travel related activities in 2009 as we did not receive a budget mark until well into the year. During discussion of the budget committee members asked how the increases in the liaison funding for the states was determined. Bob provided an explanation of how the various funding levels were determined relative to a base level and state personnel participation on the SSC. It was recognized that the Council receives a much greater benefit from the state's participation than the funding provided.

5. Status of the FY2010 Congressional budget

The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved a budget mark that proposes Council funding levels similar to the President's budget, which would be positive for the Councils. However, the House has not acted and it appears that the Commerce Department's budget will not be approved in the near term. If the funding levels in the proposed President's/Congressional Committee's budgets are maintained, we will be in pretty good shape in FY2010.

6. Council and SSC Compensation for Participation on Webinars

The committee discussed in depth the issue of Council member and eligible SSC member compensation for participating in webinars. A motion was made for Council members and eligible SSC members to receive compensation for participation in webinars.

7. Other Business

George Geiger recommended that a SEDAR Committee be scheduled at every Council meeting. He (and other members) discussed this possibility and the Committee gave direction to staff to implement Mr. Geiger's recommendation.

MOTION: Council members and eligible SSC members should receive compensation for participation in webinars.

STAFF DIRECTION: Schedule a SEDAR Committee meeting during every Council meeting.