

Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. Meeting Minutes:
1974 July 9

3:12

FRTF
file

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

WILKES COLLEGE

~~HOTEL STERLING~~ 165 South Franklin Street
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701

717 - 829-1981

JUL 9 1974

MINUTES

President's Office

Flood Recovery Task Force Executive Committee Meeting

July 1, 1974

Hotel Sterling, Blue Room, 12:15

Present: Hourigan, Kiley, Lashford, Michelini, Morgan, Quinn, Rose, Rosenn, Schechter, Sordoni, Rubinstein, Shaw, B. Schechter.

Sordoni opened the meeting by noting that it would be the last formal one the Task Force would hold. He said that in view of the group's flood emergency orientation, it was fitting that it suspend operations at this time. Turning to the Task Force's accomplishments, he said that, although many are difficult to pinpoint, it can be definitely stated that, as a result of efforts by Task Force members, individual flood victims in Wyoming Valley received more comprehensive disaster recovery assistance than have the victims of any American disaster, before or since Tropical Storm Agnes.

I. Task Force Finances

Shaw directed the group's attention to the attached July 1, 1974 accounting of Task Force expenditures, outstanding obligations, and proposed expenditures connected with the closing-out of Task Force activities. Noting that of the FRTF's \$261,000 grant from EDA, \$44,377 will remain unspent, he proposed that a request be made to EDA for permission to allocate \$25,000 to the Susquehanna River Basin Association as seed money to enable it to become self-supporting. He said that such an allocation would make sense on three counts: 1) the Federal Government is represented on the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the official organization with whose activities the SRB Association is concerned; 2) flood damage prevention is one of the SRB Association's prime concerns; 3) the SRB Association makes it possible for citizens of the Susquehanna River Basin to keep up to date on the activities of the SRB Commission. Shaw added that if the allocation he proposed were to be made, the Task Force's remaining unspent, funds, approximately \$20,000, could be returned to the Federal Government.

Morgan provided further clarification of the SRB Association's functions. He said that the three Susquehanna River Basin states - New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland - are represented in the Association either by one or more of its officers, or on its Board of Directors. And he noted that the SRB Association provides a vehicle for the rallying and expression of citizen support for the work of the official SRB Commission.

Agreeing that it would be logical to allocate unspent Task Force monies to the SRB Association, Kiley suggested that the Task Force try to arrange for allocation of all, rather than part, of its unspent funds to the SRB Association.

Schechter asked whether there is a good reason to try to return a sizeable sum to EDA. Sordoni said that one reason to do this is to show that the Task Force had operated economically and efficiently. A general discussion of whether or not it is desirable to return funds to the Federal Government rather than try to allocate them to an organization concerned with disaster damage prevention ensued.

Shaw said that, in any case, he recommended allocating only \$25,000 to the SRB Association, explaining that he believes the SRB Association is more likely to become self-supporting within a reasonable amount of time if it starts out with a relatively small, seed money allocation.

Lashford suggested that in view of Task Force plans to turn over its unfinished work to ongoing community organizations, it would be advisable for the Task Force to make grants to those organizations which would make it possible for them to undertake and carry out the new obligations.

Kiley moved that, if the EDA approves the allocation, the Task Force make \$25,000 of its funds available to the Susquehanna River Basin Association. During the discussion that ensued, it was suggested that the organization should either return all of its unspent monies to the Federal Government, or try to allocate all of them to appropriate groups, but not allocate some and return some. Kiley's motion was put to the vote and it carried. Rose and Rubinstein opposed. Hourigan left the meeting before the call on the question.

II. Task Force Programs

Shaw reviewed the work programs the Task Force has undertaken with the consulting firms of Direction Associates and Wilbur Smith and Associates. He noted that the Wilbur Smith survey of public opinion on the workings of local governments had been completed and that its results were proving useful. He added that some of the reports connected with the Direction Associates work program on Housing has been acceptable while others had been rejected, and that Wilbur Smith and Associates had completed its information gathering work on the Appearance and Image work program, but had not yet presented a report on the program in acceptable form. Shaw said that the staff is working with the consultants on the still unfinished work and that he expected it would all be completed by July 30th.

III. Task Force Recommendations

Morgan asked that the Task Force officially urge delineation of future land use in Wyoming Valley. Responding to this, and to a suggestion Rubinstein had made earlier to the effect that the Task Force should produce a permanent

record of the problems it had addressed and what it did about them, Rosenn moved that the organization issue an official statement of its achievements and recommendations in the form of a Summary Report. The motion carried. Shaw said that he will draft such a report and send it to Committee members for their comments.

IV. Phasing Out of Task Force Activities

Shaw proposed that the Task Force staff continue to work through the month of July in order to oversee completion of the consultant work programs, and to write and distribute the organizations's Summary Report. He proposed that \$5,000 be allocated for this purpose. He said that the staff will see to it that the organization's records are put into good order and stored properly.

Shaw added that the work he did with the Task Force and the associations he made as a result of it were extremely gratifying to him. He paid tribute to the organization's leadership, and pointed to it as an important benefit to the community that had emerged from the Agnes disaster.

Rosenn asked that it be recorded that the organization expressed appreciation to its professional staff for its intelligent, conscientious work. Rosenn also asked that a resolution be prepared commending the chairmen of the Task Force's standing committees for the outstanding, selfless service they gave the community in its time of need. Responding to a request by Sordoni, Rosenn agreed to draft such a resolution.

In closing the meeting, Sordoni asked that the FRTF corporation be dissolved as soon as practicable. Shaw replied that this would be done as soon as all Task Force business is completed.

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

~~XXXXXX~~ 165 South Franklin Street
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

July 1, 1974

Expenditures to date		\$ 120,816
Cash on hand	\$ 35,807	
Final Allocation Request	<u>60,000</u>	
Monies Available	\$ 95,807	
Less Contractual Obligations *		<u>90,600</u>
Remaining for Close Out of Task Force Obligations		\$ 5,207

Note: Normal Monthly Expenditures Approximately \$2,000

Contractual Obligations *

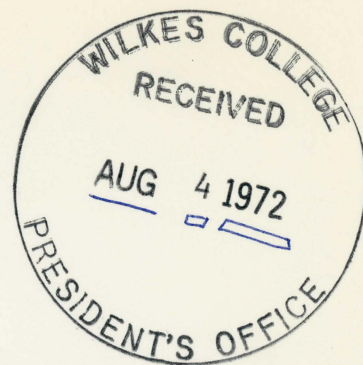
Direction Associates	\$ 59,500	
Paid to date	<u>11,900</u>	
Outstanding		\$ 47,600
Wilbur Smith and Associates	\$ 64,900	
Paid to date	<u>21,900</u>	
Outstanding		<u>43,000</u>
TOTAL OUTSTANDING		\$ 90,600

RECAPITULATION

Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. Grant	\$ 261,000
Total Proposed Expenditures	<u>216,623</u>
Remaining Funds	\$ 44,377

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.
92 SOUTH FRANKLIN ST.
WILKES-BARRE, PA.
PHONE 823-2101

825-8596
824-4681



August 3, 1972

TO: MEMBERS OF THE FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.
FROM: JUDGE MAX ROSENN, TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

A meeting of this group will be held on Tuesday, August 8 at the Treadway Inn. The meeting will be at 12:15 p. m. and will be a luncheon meeting.

Please make every effort to attend as important matters will be reviewed and discussed.

