



## INTERNATIONAL RELOCATION ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

Atlanta, Georgia

June 12, 2011

- 7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 8:15 a.m. Meeting Call to Order.....Vivian Howell, Relocation Committee Chair  
Vivian announced incoming Relocation Committee Chair as Donna Harrison  
Vivian announced the incoming Relocation Committee Vice Chair as Janet Cruppi
- 8:20 a.m. Roll Call .....Florence Green, Secretary

Members Present: Stephen Adams, Lisa Barnes, Tami Benson, Michelle Colby, Pete Campbell, Annette Favia, Florence Green, Michele Folk, Janet Cruppi, Donna Harrison, Vivian Howell, Mike McParland, Bob Merryman, Deanna Walker, Donna Roche, Marshall Wainwright, Darryl Root, Arlene Kaplan, Mack Dickerson, Barbara Meekins, Karen D'Angelo, Rhonda Young

Guest – Fred Ackermann, Andrea Baldwin, Matt Harrison, Carla Price, Sunny Lofton

8:45 a.m.

### Region Reports

#### Region 1 – Michele Folk

- The real estate market continues to still spiral down
- The issue of negative equity continues.
- One transportation agency within the Region increased the reestablishment benefit limit to \$50,000. for one project only.
- There are 10 RW/RAC candidates.

#### Specific needs:

- Needs guidance on how to get the agency to understand the need for professional services
- Consider developing a workshop on Advisory Services

A written report has been provided.

#### Region 2 – Karen D'Angelo

- There were no responses from the various chapter presidents.
- Senate Bill 18 requires significant changes to the Eminent Domain process
- SB 18 requires all agencies to implement the URA
- 8 scheduled for 2011

### Region 3 – Bob Merryman

- The availability of replacement properties has been reduced
- There is no new legislation
- There were 6 relocation courses held during the last fiscal year
- 4 courses are scheduled for 2011
- There are no RW/RAC candidates in the region
- The highway department is not building any new projects
- Arkansas has a little building going on
- Most states are becoming maintenance only

### Region 4 – Mike McParland

- 20K reestablishment benefit has been established
- Course 501 is scheduled in 3 locations in the region
- Course 502 will be offered
- There are 19 members with the RW/RAC certifications
- There are 6 RW/RAC candidates

### Region 5 – Carla Price

- Indiana is building a new Interstate I-69 from the NE to the SW to connect with St. Louis.
- The state is not offering any relocation courses

### Region 6 – Lisa Barnes

- No Chapter Presidents responded
- Florida has the same issues with upside down mortgages
- The region is offering course 505 in the fall
- Alabama and Mississippi each held two courses
- There are 4 RW/RAC candidates

### Region 7 – Michelle Colby

- Agencies are interpreting regulations more stringent in an attempt to justify reasonableness for **not** paying for relocation expenses
- Due to economy and impacts of lay-offs, owners are finding it difficult to obtain financing for replacement homes.
- May owners are finding themselves "upside down" in the mortgage
- Tenants are finding it difficult to get approved if they have been unemployed or have collections due to the economy.
- Alaska DOT has plans to rewrite their ROW Manual in near future

### Region 8 Canada

### Region 9 Lee Hamre

### Region 10 – Canada

## **Sidebar: Valarie Fries**

- IRWA curriculum department has been dissolved due to numerous complaints relative to the course materials
- V. Fries will now perform a quality check on everything that goes out
- Is verifying all classes.
- The 900 series is being reviewed
- The 500 series is being reviewed
- The exercises are not in correct location in the course material.
- The exercises do not always reflect course material
- The exercise answers will be placed where the committee recommends
- Version control will be implemented
- There will be 3 level of changes
- Level 1 changes will not come to committee - typos
- Level 2 changes has to come to committee – material course mistakes
- Level 3 changes are laws and regulations
- USPAP – Facilitator guide will be available online
- The changes will take 18 months for completion
- 500 series will be complete by years end
- IRWA will utilize professional proofreaders
- PowerPoint's will be reviewed
- Course Materials will be provided in word version
- There are test questions that are not in the course material
- The committees will review course materials.

## **John Reed IPDC with Texas DOT**

- Working forward to specialization

## **Wayne Goss**

- Member of IRWA 21 years
- Served in all Chapter offices, Region Vice Chair and Region Chair
- Goal is to cultivate local agency participation in IRWA

## **Lisa Harrison**

- The Relocation Committee will review the experience matrix and advise if the experience applies to the RAC designation.
- Marketing Study being conducted to establish the importance of various designations
- IPDC needs guidance in evaluating RAC criterion certification
- IPDC wants to ensure that RAC certification are not just a run through
- The task force views facilitation from organizational standpoint
- The current facilitator clinic is not working
- It is a good measure of presentation skills only
- The task force has determined that the clinic is not sufficient and structure will be modified to include a 2-tier approach

- Existing facilitators have to recertify every 5 years
- IPDC will review recommendations
- Continuing education requirement of 16 hours will now be required and implemented within a year.
- NHI has an instructor to develop the clinic – The evaluation is in the classroom and critique

Donna Harrison - The Sub-Committee reporting will be deferred. The fall meeting scheduled to be held in Boston may move to another location due to the excessive hotel cost or the schedule dates may change. Lee has offered her office in Denver if the decision is made to go there. Bob Merryman has suggested an alternate hotel which Mike will contact for rate information.

11:30 Experience Task Force and Working Session .....Donna Harrison

Committee review and recommendations of experience to be considered for various certifications.

12:15 p.m. Adjourn