

Minutes of Meeting of the
REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR TERRITORIAL ASSISTANCE

August 26, 1977

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Chairman Renda opened the first meeting of the committee by welcoming the members and giving a brief report on the genesis of the Committee. A discussion followed concerning the comparison of the functions of this committee with those of the Washington committee of Interagency Territorial Assistance. It was pointed out that the primary purpose of the Washington committee is to provide coordination at the policy level while the Regional committee will be primarily responsible for coordination and implementation of field operations and programs.

The Chairman also noted that the former TTPI/NMI transition subcommittee of the Western Federal Regional Council (WFRC) has been or will be abolished in view of the creation of our committee. We will, however, continue to work closely with WFRC on matters of mutual concern.

The Committee's attention was called to the fact that unlike the limited scope of the WFRC subcommittee, our committee will cover federal activities in all of the U.S. Pacific territories: American Samoa, Guam, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands (including the Northern Mariana Islands).

Committee members were introduced and those who had not previously received one were furnished with a copy of a basic briefing or reference book on the Pacific territories which was prepared by the Chairman. A list of attendees is attached.

OBJECTIVES OF COMMITTEE

General discussion concerning a definition of the committee objectives followed and the committee agreed that our objectives should be:

1. Coordination of territorial Federal programs.
2. Surface and resolve program related issues.
3. Effect interagency exchange of data and information of mutual interest or concern.
4. Identify and establish proper channels of communication and authority with the Pacific territories.
5. Respond to requests for assistance from the territories.

6. Keep the Interior Office of Territorial Affairs and the Washington Committee for Interagency Territorial Assistance advised concerning issues and problems.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The Committee discussed several alternative approaches to accomplishing the above objectives. It was finally decided that we should set only temporary procedures at this time until we have obtained more information as to the exact nature of the problems and issues with which we will be dealing. Accordingly, the Committee agreed to adopt the following temporary procedures:

1. The best approach for dealing with specific problems appears to be the creation of subcommittees which will permit the utilization of staff with subsequent recommendations to the committee;
2. The Chairman will act as liaison with the office of Territorial Affairs and the Washington Committee;
3. All committee members will immediately institute a procedure within their respective Departments wherein the Chairman will be notified by carbon copy or otherwise of travel, programs, grants, and other matters dealing with the territories. The Chairman will effect subsequent distribution of such information as appropriate;
4. The Chairman emphasized that in order to be effective each committee member will be expected, in most matters, to have broad authority to speak and make commitments for the Department or agency represented by the committee member;
5. Initially, the committee will hold bi-monthly meetings unless sooner called by the Chairman.

ACTIONS BY COMMITTEE

Compilation of Federal Programs:

It was agreed that a compilation of current active federal programs in the territories, as well as those authorized but not active, is essential for the Committee's future actions. In this regard, the Chairman informed the committee that Interior is under a Congressional mandate to make a comprehensive compilation of all Federal programs available to the territories. This compilation is to include: (1) what Federal programs are now available to each territory, including those in the Atlantic as well as the Pacific; (2) what programs would be of benefit to each territory if made available; (3) what changes or modifications of each program should be made to improve the effectiveness and operation of each program; and, (4) the estimated cost of each program.

Interior has not yet determined how to accomplish this request, by staff or contract. It will be at least 6-8 months before it is completed.

The Committee felt that we could not await the Interior report and that we should obtain such information as pertains to the Pacific territories as may be readily available without extensive research. The Chairman, therefore, designated a subcommittee to obtain such data for the committee. Mr. Thompson of EPA was given the chairmanship of the subcommittee which also included HEW and SBA.

The Program Compilation Subcommittee was then instructed to prepare and distribute to committee members a questionnaire seeking to obtain information on current active programs as well as inactive but authorized programs. The exact content of the questionnaire was left to the discretion of the subcommittee but they were directed to schedule their actions so that a report could be presented to the committee by its next meeting.

Specific Problem Areas:

Each committee member was requested to direct a letter to the Chairman by October 17, 1977, identifying the major problem areas in their territorial programs which they believe should be addressed by the committee.

Report on Briefing of Washington Committee:

The Chairman gave a report on the August meeting of the Washington committee. He summarized the presentations by Interior officials and furnished information on current activities concerning the territories. For informational purposes, a copy of the presentation in Washington by Ms. Ruth G. Van Cleve, Director, Office of Territorial Affairs, is attached.

Contact with the Territories:

The Committee discussed the question of how and when the committee should make contact with the territories to advise them of our existence and to open avenues of communication. It was decided that we should first of all get our committee established and have a better idea of how we are to proceed before we offer our assistance to the territories. Consequently, it was decided to devote our first few meetings to organizational matters and to postpone extending invitations to territorial representatives until the first meeting of the coming calendar year.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the committee was scheduled for October 26, 1977, at 10:00 a.m. in the Federal Building in San Francisco. The Chairman will obtain a conference room and will advise the committee thereof, along

with a suggested agenda, prior to the meeting. (The room has just been obtained; it will be the Park Service's conference room, room number 14217).

The first meeting of the committee was adjourned.

List of Attendees
REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR TERRITORIAL ASSISTANCE
August 26, 1977

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Charles R. Renda, Chairman
Ralph G. Mihan

ACTION

Patrick J. Twohig

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Lowell Pannell
Dennis Stewart
Jack Boozer

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Tom Marker

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mary Dee Beall

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Stan Allen

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

James E. Thompson

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Tom Hannon
Aki Nakao

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

None

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Calvin Lew

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

George A. Johnson

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Charles R. Hertzberg
Lawrence Wodarski

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LT. Dennis L. Bryant, USCG

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Robert F. Welch

WESTERN FEDERAL REGIONAL COUNCIL

Alan M. Raznick