

DRA Discussions in Washington D.C. (Talking Points)

1) **ARC vs. DRA**

- a. successful ARC model is not being followed at all (conduct of business, involvement of alternates and state DRA offices)
- b. Pete now suggesting that DRA move even further away from this model – no longer wants to be a “grant-making” agency, wants to direct programs

2) **Communication**

- a. Pete and Hayes seem to be communicating their intentions and policy ideas to Washington – but not to the member states
- b. real lack of communication on part of DRA on everything from policy directives, planned agency initiatives to project approvals
- c. lack of adequate information being provided to alternates prior to meetings of the Authority, votes being requested by Federal Co-Chair with little time for consideration by alternates

3) **Lack of State Voice in Authority**

- a. seems to be run completely as a federal agency, all employees are loyal to Pete Johnson – nobody (especially not Hayes Dent) seems to be representing the interests of the states within the authority
- b. the only input seems to come at scheduled alternate meetings
- c. State Co-Chair may need to have some employees within the Authority or at least an executive director that balances the federal/state interests

4) **Handling of Grant Applications**

- a. process was completely inept
- b. no communications with Governor’s Office, DRA talking directly with project applicants – requesting revisions to applications without Governor’s Office knowledge or consent
- c. Federal Co-Chairman holding projects hostage – refusing to vote up or down, rather using for political leverage
- d. lack of openness in rating process/reasons for holding up projects coming from DRA, DRA scoring criteria apparently meant nothing

5) **Future Plans**

- a. grant application process – Pete and Hayes are attempting to centralize, have plans for all applications to come to DRA first and then be returned to the Governors – effectively removes Gov’s discretion
- b. federalization of DRA – moving more and more towards federal agency, implementing federal policy in the region, Pete and Hayes have made clear that they want to move away from making grants for state projects to using all federal funds to implement and administer programs