Summary of coffee talks and discussion regarding improvements/changes to AC operations and/or communications.

Presented by Nichole Rodriguez
Purpose

• Check in since moving to a virtual setting
• Feedback/recommendations on council operations and communications
Process

• Questions drafted by Nichole Rodriguez and reviewed by Dawn Hayes
• Nichole scheduled 1-hour virtual meeting with each seat
• Coordinator summarized feedback collected and submitted to Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent for review
• Meetings occurred between September 2020 and January 2021
• Met with 22 seats (a total of 24 meetings) with 41 members
• Received written feedback from one member
How has the experience been for you serving on the AC?

Positive, 90%
Neutral, 9%
Negative, 1%
What potential changes to council operations and communications would you like to see?

Meeting Materials Availability

- Sent out in timely manner, 60%
- Sent out further in advance, 40%
INFO ITEM:
MBNMS AC Virtual Coffee Talks Summary

What potential changes to council operations and communications would you like to see?
How have virtual meetings been going?

- Neutral or no response, 24%
- Lost quality discussion/miss in-person interactions, 36%
- Good and/or have increased efficiency, 40%
How can the coordinator better help you be a more effective member?

25% of members had recommendations including:

• Follow up on topics the AC has addressed like golf balls
• Forward more emails to the AC regarding things happening around the sanctuary
• Send more background materials in meeting announcement emails
• Monthly check ins with members to see if they need anything or if the coordinator needs help with anything
How can the coordinator better help you be a more effective member?

25% of members had recommendations including:

• Use polls during virtual AC meetings to encourage engagement
• Check in with new members after a year. See how they are feeling and let them ask questions.
• Pair new members with seasoned members from a different seat as a mentor
What are your goals for yourself as an AC member, and for the AC as a whole?

- Be an effective liaison between their constituency and MBNMS
- Stay informed of the issues that arise for their constituency as well as within MBNMS
- Ensure the AC has a solid work plan and is addressing existing and emerging issues through action
INFO ITEM:

MBNMS AC Virtual Coffee Talks Summary

How can we make the AC more effective?

• Encouraging more participation in emailed member announcements while we meet virtually
• Collaboration with other ACs – more interaction to learn about activities across the region and system
• In-person AC meetings should be shorter but more frequent
• Have topic themed AC meetings
• Consider a tribal seat
• Limit the amount of time people speak/comment during meetings with courtesy time checks
How can we make the AC more effective?

- Current info on AC webpages and bring AC info to main MBNMS page
- Spread the word – make AC more known in the community
- Pair new members with old hands of another seat
- Report out attendance at least yearly. Keep people accountable of their lack of attendance.
- Provide pertinent legislative updates at AC meetings
Would you benefit from more interaction from Sanctuary Staff and Superintendent?

- Yes, 51%
- No, 49%
Would you benefit from more opportunities to work with each other?

- Would benefit: 71%
- Would benefit but no time: 19%
- Would not benefit: 10%
Would you benefit from an annual AC retreat in the future?

- Yes, 67%
- Depends, 17%
- No, 16%
Additional recommendations that came up:

• For Executive Committee elections, do more outreach and announce elections are coming up further in advance. Encourage AC members to discuss nominations.

• Succession planning for Executive Committee as well as entire AC as there will be a considerable loss of senior AC members (10 members) between 2022 and 2023.

• Consider how the AC can take more advantage of the RAP.
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Next Steps

• Strategize with MBNMS staff to implement recommendations

• Report back to AC with progress