

Training Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2021 – Teleconference and Webex

Present: Bill Film, Betsy Knapp, Eric Ruscher, Cathy Conklin, Anne Sapienza, Denise Trudell, Eugene Monaco, John Zukowski, Dave Ange, Sean Fitzsimmons, Gary Drake, Erica Foley, and Andrew DiMartino.

Get organized

Today we welcomed some new members to the Training Advisory Group. New members included Gary Drake from ORPTS and County Directors Betsy Knapp and Eric Ruscher. We also welcomed back John Zukowski from *Arrow Appraisal Services*. This meeting was held using Webex video conference software.

IAO Training Update – Anne Sapienza

- A) Online Training classes:
 - a. All online classes are set for 2021. Classes can be added if needed.
 - b. They are hoping to get more basic classes online.
- B) Cornell 2021:
 - a. They are planning Cornell to be in person this year. There is a contingency plan to make it online. This will be determined by mid-June.
- C) Fall Conference will be October 3 in Niagara Falls

OPRTS Training Schedule

The schedule for April 30-October 31 is being finalized. It should be posted within the next week. There are three Assessment Administration classes, two Data Collection classes and three Mass Appraisal classes all offered as web training. There are nine self-studies scheduled.

The field day for the Data Collection classes will be held via Webex. One of the Assessment Administration classes will be offered live-virtually using Webex training on September 13-15 and 20-22, 2021. Two Introduction to Farm Appraisal classes were subsequently added for September and October 2021.

Bar Training Update

To help with BAR training, ORPTS is working on recording a Webex version that can be used to give the BAR training online. This is being taught by Aaron Lesch-VonRandall and Don Weber. When this is available, ORPTS will post the video online and inform counties of its location.

Reimbursement Update

Very little money has been spent since most trainings have been remote. It's likely that money from this fiscal year can be used to cover expenses for a live Cornell training. The current budget proposal calls for a 5% decrease in funding for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. There was concern that requests may exceed funds in the next fiscal year. The final budget removed the 5% reduction.

Denise Trudell inquired about training funds spent on Cornell virtual classes last year. ORPTS reported Assessors and County Directors were reimbursed \$4,900 for Cornell training in July 2020.

Statewide Learning Management System (SLMS) Survey Results

The team reviewed the survey results from the last six classes. This included four Assessment Administration classes and two Mass appraisal classes being offered between late September and February. The survey response rates were 82%, 57%, 82%, 65%, 40%, and 50%. The reminder is likely helping response rates to generally exceed 50%. The responses were mostly positive with students appreciating that classes were available remotely during a pandemic.

Assessment Administration Course Review

ORPTS gave a general overview on the progress of the course revisions. This project, which included members of the assessment community, is considered complete at this time. In early November the course corrections were sent to the Training Resources Bureau. They updated the course; the changes were verified and in early March the newly updated Assessment Administration course was posted on SLMS.

Open floor

There was discussion about teaching online courses and the best method and practices to use. Some members prefer zoom, but Webex has also worked well for trainings.

There were questions about non-compliance and the number of individuals who still need to take ethics. ORPTS will bring this up and will continue to reach out to individuals and town supervisors. Noncompliance letters will be sent out if needed as well.

One member asked about county directors and assessors having to retake classes to become certified. ORPTS mentioned they do work with individuals to determine if previous class credits qualify, especially if the individual has been in the field for many years.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 28, 2021.