Vice President’s Report

Habitat III
The Secretary-General of Habitat III issued a call for nominations for 20 technical experts to serve as members of ten policy units and for two organizations to co-lead each policy unit. At Betsy Morris’s suggestion, NAHRO submitted a nomination for consideration to co-lead the Housing Policies Unit. Liz commended John Papagni, who drafted the NAHRO submission on a moment’s notice. If selected, NAHRO would co-lead the policy discussion that goes into the framework of the US policy platform for Habitat III and thus impact the domestic policy agenda as well as the international policy agenda. There has been conversation about conducting a national survey of NAHRO members to gather input.

NAHRO needs to form its own Habitat III committee comprised of members from each region, applicable standing committee members and key NAHRO leaders. The committee will determine and lead NAHRO’s civic engagement strategy for Habitat III between now and April 2016, the deadline to have input into the policy document. Our current thinking is to kick-off NAHRO member engagement process at the National Conference in Los Angeles.

In September, the United Nations will vote on the 17 sustainable development goals that will form the basis for conversations about the policy agenda for Habitat III and drive the UN agenda for the next 15 years. We need to familiarize ourselves with them; think about them in the context of our members’ needs. Consider opportunities and challenges that are presented to our membership around not just housing but other issues that are relevant to the sustainable development goals that look at the health, viability, and the resilience of the places where people live. The NAHRO Habitat Committee may also decide to use electronic and social media to engage and interact with our membership around issues that are going to arise out of the sustainable development goals. Additionally, the NAHRO Habitat III committee could help us further define our role and engagement with the United Nations. A challenge is the academic and esoteric language associated with the United Nations that makes it difficult to grasp some of the nuances. We need to reach our members in a language that they can understand and relate to.

IRGE Meeting at Summer Conference: Wednesday, July 29
Liz shared her thoughts on proposed agenda items:
--IRGE Research Paper: presentation of and substantive discussion about what comes next
--Habitat III: talk about a work plan and strategy for engaging members
--Subcommittees: review and document the status of the IRGE work plan, tasks/tactics in the NAHRO Business plan.

Subcommittee Reports

Study Exchange Subcommittee - Evette
Germany-Netherlands Study Exchange
We’ve received five applications to date and Saul is also interested in attending. June 15 is the deadline for NAHRO associates to submit their applications. Consensus was to proceed with the exchange as scheduled even if we do not get additional participants. It was suggested that we extend invitations to other organizations i.e., HUD, Habitat III U.S. national planning committee members, and Steven Peuquet,
professor at the University of Delaware’s Center for Community Research, who organized the 2006 exchange to the Netherlands.

At our meeting in Austin, the Research Subcommittee should discuss the **outcome and deliverables that we want from the study exchange, which should feed into our research efforts**. Julie said Betsey’s presentation on the research paper will help guide our discussion. She also commented that Betsey’s presentation on this subject at MPRC was excellent and it generated more questions and revealed where we might want to dig deeper.

It was suggested that we invite exchange participants to the IRGE meeting in Austin and advise them to designate a leader, who will communicate with Gerrit Teunis on their behalf. Additionally, it was suggested that we videotape Betsey’s presentation for the benefit of exchange participants who are unable to attend the meeting in Austin.

IRGE committee members will see the research paper in Austin; Betsey will make a presentation at the Los Angeles Conference during which she may propose a four-country conference. Committee members agreed not to distribute the paper outside the committee at this time.

**Australasian Housing Institute (AHI)**
The Study Exchange Subcommittee has suggested Australia as the location of the next study exchange. AHI’s Executive Director Kelly Badewitz was pleased with the letter from NAHRO and will submit an official response to it. AHI is soliciting articles by June 30 for its July magazine regarding **Tenant Participation, Engagement and Empowerment**. Kerron will provide information about AHI’s conference upon receipt of more details. It is a bi-annual event held in October and co-sponsored with a sister organization.

**Communications Subcommittee – Alan**
At the Austin meeting, we will revisit-review drafts of the IRGE banner, take-away card and PowerPoint. Archiving is underway in chronological order by program.

Kerron suggested ways to spread awareness of Habitat III while amplifying how it relates to and affects the work of NAHRO members. He offered to prepare a short glossary of “UN Speak.” Liz commented on the danger of losing the significance and impact of Habitat III on the United States because the language is not akin to the way Americans communicate; it is important that we are thoughtful about how we engage people and the language we use. Liz urged Kerron to complete the glossary prior to the IRGE meeting in Austin. Julie said while not in the IRGE mission statement, an underlying goal has been to change the rhetoric and focus on the relevance of the work we do—two of President Prince’s themes.

**Partnership Subcommittee – Saeed**
No formal report from the subcommittee. Saeed commented on visitors from the Tshwete Housing Association in South Africa who attended and made an excellent presentation at the PNRC conference. It was about their experiences and struggles with providing housing. The group wanted to see how government works in general. To facilitate this, meetings were arranged with HUD officials, mayors, city managers, and other county officials.

Liz asked Saeed if he would prepare a presentation for IRGE on the exchange, including lessons learned. He agreed to do so, stating that he would not be able to attend the meeting in Austin. Liz also shared John is working with this group to form a similar exchange for Maryland agencies. Pat suggested sharing presentations on exchanges at meetings of region-chapter-state association presidents. This will demonstrate the relevance of IRGE’s work and afford presidents’ the opportunity to hear firsthand best practices and lessons learned.
In response to question about the interests of the group, Saeed responded prior to the exchange, they agreed on a list of items they wanted to learn from each other. Financing and how to put together deals was of great interest to them. Being from the eastern region in South Africa, they were aware of new and different financing investments with Americans in Johannesburg and wanted to create their own or replicate. There were extensive conversations about tax credits and putting deals together. At tours, they asked a lot of questions of property managers and program managers—they were curious as to how things “ran.”

**Lange Subcommittee – Branna (in Gary’s absence)**
Gary communicated with regional presidents and regional service officers about featuring award information in regional newsletters and on their websites. Sylvia sent letters to interest groups and those who serve on Habitat III subcommittees. National NAHRO continues to feature information about individual awards in the *Monitor* and *Associates Advantage*.

There being no further business, the teleconference was adjourned.

**Teleconference Participants: Chair and Vice Chair:** Liz Glenn, Julie Brewen. **NERC:** Joe Gray. **MARC:** Tara Clifford, Mary Paumen, John Papagni, Kerron Barnes. **NCRC:** Ron Clewer, Pat Gustafson, Branna Lindell, Alan Zais. **SERC:** Evette Hester. **PSW:** Scott Smith, Marlene Hurd, Elizabeth Morris, Dan Trozzi. **PNRC:** Saeed Hajarizadeh, **MPRC:** Stella Madrid.

**NAHRO Staff:** Sylvia Bowen

Next Teleconference: Friday, July 10, 2015 at Noon Eastern Time