

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2017
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments met February 20, 2017, 7:00pm, at the High Country Council of Governments Office in Boone. The following members and alternates were present at the meeting: Charles Vines, J.B. Lawrence, Robert L. Johnson, Gary D. Blevins, Rick Miller, Dale Baldwin, William Sands, Sandra Simmons, Theresa Coletta, Tudor Vance, Chris Jones, Valerie C. Jaynes, Michelle Slaton, Rennie Brantz, Russell Ferree, Mark Evans, Paul Robinson, Jr., Johnny Riddle, and Brenda Lyerly. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Shane Fox, Jeff Hedrick, Phil Trew, Stevie John, Julie Wiggins, Pat Guarnieri, Keith Deveraux, and Tanna Greathouse.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Chairwoman Lyerly thanked everyone for attending and called on Paul Robinson, Jr. to lead the invocation. Chairwoman Lyerly then led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS

Chairwoman Lyerly welcomed new board members: Larry Turnbow, Watauga County Commissioner; Blake Vance, Avery County Commissioner; William Sands, Ashe County Commissioner; and Mark Evans, Alleghany Commissioner.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Robert L. Johnson made a motion to approve the Executive Board minutes for December 19, 2016. Chris Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Expenditure Report as of December 31, 2016

Chairwoman Lyerly called on Executive Director Shane Fox to give details regarding HCCOG financials. Mr. Fox presented expenditures through December 31, 2016 – 50% of the FYE2017 budget (Attachment A1). Mr. Fox reviewed a Revenue and Expenditure Summary Statement through December 31, 2016 (Attachment A2), and a Mid-Year Financial Report comparing expenditures through December 31, 2016 to June 30, 2016 (Attachment A3). Charles Vines made a motion to approve the Expenditure Report. Russ Ferree seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Highlights as of January 31, 2017

Mr. Fox reviewed the Financial Highlights as of January 31, 2017 (Attachment A4). Chris Jones made a motion to approve the Financial Highlights Report. Robert L. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Board member Gary D. Blevins requested a report of fund balance percentages over the last several years to be distributed to board members in an effort to establish a policy on preferred fund balance thresholds. These figures will assist board members with the budget planning process. Mr. Fox confirmed he would be able to provide this data in time for the March meeting.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING**Updates and Introduction of Pat Guarnieri**

Julie Wiggins, Area Agency on Aging Director, provided the board with a Save the Date for this year's High Country Care Transitions Summit on November 3, 2017 in Wilkesboro (Attachment B). Ms. Wiggins introduced Pat Guarnieri, Caregiver Program Coordinator to the board. Ms. Guarnieri will be administering the new LifeSpan Respite Program and assisting with vouchers for the High Country Caregiver Foundation. Ms. Guarnieri announced she had processed 41 applications for the LifeSpan program in 1 month, with 31 of those applications approved and vouchers distributed. Mr. Fox mentioned the State of North Carolina processed less than 100 in a one-year period, and we have processed 31 in one month.

OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT

Stevie John, Regional Ombudsman, presented her annual report on program activities for 2016 (Attachment C). Ms. John highlighted key figures and numbers, and board members commended her for the efforts and accomplishments.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Keith Deveraux, Workforce Development Director, updated the Board on activities in his department. Mr. Deveraux announced Wilkes Community College had decided to end its role as the WIOA service provider for Wilkes, Ashe, Alleghany, and Watauga Counties due to funding cuts. The workforce department has begun the RFP process for all 7 counties and will keep everyone apprised of progress.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Phil Trew, Planning & Development Director, updated the Board on projects his department was working on across the 7-county region.

Chairwoman Lyerly recessed the HCCOG Executive Board Meeting and convened the full membership meeting for Region D Development Corporation.

[Please reference RDDC Minutes for February 20, 2017]

REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**Update on Regional Programs, Projects and Issues**

Mr. Fox mentioned the COG had 2 new publications – a brochure summarizing COG services and the Annual Report for FYE2016. Clerk to the Board, Tanna Greathouse, is working on a New Board Member Orientation Manual to be ready at the March meeting.

Mr. Fox announced Secretary of Transportation James Trogden joined the High Country RPO Rural Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting last Wednesday. The NC Regional Councils of Government have begun a Request for Proposal process for management services and legislative advocacy services.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

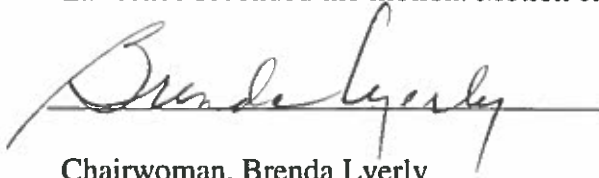
Dale Baldwin announced new legislation had been filed – *Senate Bill 94 Elections Transparency* – and his local board would be drafting a resolution opposing to the legislation. The bill seeks to shift all local offices currently elected on a nonpartisan basis to partisan, including municipal, boards of education, and judicial seats. J.B. Lawrence made a motion for the COG Executive Board to pass a similar resolution opposing SB 94. Robert L. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ms. Greathouse will have a resolution drafted in time for the March meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairwoman Lyerly thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other comments or business, Robert L. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. J.B. Lawrence seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.



Chairwoman, Brenda Lyerly



Clerk to the Board, Tanna Greathouse

Date 3/20/17

