

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
JULY 17, 2017  
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments met July 17, 2017, 7:00 pm, 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, Tudor Vance, Chris Jones, Valerie C. Jaynes, Larry Fontaine, Rennie Brantz, Mark Evans, Paul Robinson, Jr., Johnny Riddle, and Brenda Lyerly. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Shane Fox, Jeff Hedrick, Don Sherrill, Keith Deveraux, Aimee Moore, Phillip Trew, Julie Wiggins, and Tanna Greathouse.

**CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

Chairwoman Lyerly thanked everyone for attending and called on Charles Vines to lead the invocation. Chairwoman Lyerly then led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Rick Miller made a motion to approve the Executive Board minutes for June 19, 2017. Robert L. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**June Financial Highlights**

Chairwoman Lyerly called on Executive Director Shane Fox to give details regarding the June financials. Mr. Fox reviewed the Financial Highlights as of June 30, 2017 (Attachment A1). Rennie Brantz made a motion to approve the June Financial Highlights Report. Charles Vines seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**FYE2017 Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co, P.A. Audit Contract**

Mr. Fox announced we received this fiscal year's audit contract later than usual because the firm had to undergo a Peer Review. Those results have come back without findings. The price for this year is the same as the previous two years - \$16,500. Robert L. Johnson made a motion to approve the audit contract. J.B. Lawrence seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Keith Deveraux, Workforce Development Director, recognized staff member Don Sherrill's retirement. Mr. Sherrill served as the Finance and Compliance Manager for the Workforce department for 22 years. Mr. Sherrill stated it's been an honor and a pleasure to work with such a great organization. Mr. Deveraux introduced Mr. Sherrill's replacement, Ms. Aimee Moore. Ms. Moore stated she is thrilled to be a part of the team and looks forward to getting to know everyone.

Mr. Deveraux announced several meetings had taken place amongst stakeholders in workforce development in the High Country. Mr. Deveraux presented current unemployment numbers for each county. Gary D. Blevins commented that the focus should be on developing skills more than getting people employed since jobs are available. Mr. Deveraux agreed and commented there was focus on increasing skills and getting people trained in different areas. Mr. Blevins requested additional information on whether the 1,200 unemployed individuals were the same

group of people every time these numbers were reported. Mr. Deveraux stated he would get that information. Mr. Blevins stated it would be great if county commissioners could advocate for more stabilized funding in workforce development that isn't based on unemployment numbers.

Paul Robinson, Jr. asked specifically what type of training is available, and whether there was on-the-job training and work-experience training. Mr. Deveraux confirmed this type of training was available and intensive case management training focused on work experience in particular.

### **AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

Julie Wiggins, Area Agency on Aging Director, stated numbers for the aging budget were looking positive from both state and federal funding sources. Our region will be level funded for the coming fiscal year.

The AAA has 3 federal grants in the works. The first is the LifeSpan Respite program that is administered state-wide, and the AAA has been written in for a few more years. The second is a Falls Prevention Federal Grant with final word on award status coming in the fall. Finally, the third grants covers the 3 western COG regions to address Dementia Capability, focused on persons with dementia living alone and their caregivers. The grant totals just under \$1,000,000 over 3 years, the COG would house 2 of the 3 positions, and would provide support to UNC-Chapel Hill who took the lead on this grant for data analysis. The award announcement should be forthcoming sometime in September.

### **RECESS OF HCCOG EXECUTIVE BOARD AND CONVENING OF REGION D DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

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

*[Please reference RDDC Minutes for July 17, 2017]*

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

Mr. Fox announced the Annual Banquet will be held on Friday, September 8, 2017 and the invitations were going out this week.

Mr. Fox stated at our June meeting the board passed a resolution supporting revitalization efforts for the Blue Ridge Parkway facilities at Doughton Park. Since then, Mr. Fox and Mr. Trew attended a reopening celebration at the store that was also attended by state legislators and other key stakeholders. State legislators announced \$350,000 would be included in the state budget to serve as the match for grant funds for revitalization efforts. Mr. Kelly Coffey was working on one of the grants through the Appalachian Regional Commission and had 3 letters of support from state legislators. The Golden Leaf Foundation is working on a second grant to provide

additional monies. Between the state budget match and the 2 grant applications, monies totaling over \$1,000,000 could potentially go toward these projects.

Mr. Fox announced that over the last month our board room has been utilized 15 times – 5 of those by outside agencies.

At the last COG Director's meeting, Mr. Fox was elected as the NC representative for the Development District Association of Appalachia – a local development district of ARC. The two-year term begins in January. The purpose of this organization is to provide planning and economic development in the area in conjunction with ARC.

Mr. Fox read an email that was received from Dan Becker, the Main Streets Grant Administrator at the NC Department of Commerce who complemented Michelle Ball's grant application for being professional, complete, and accurate – one of the best he had received during his time there.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

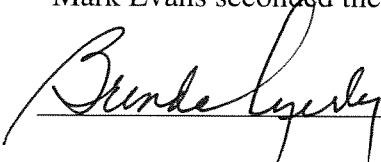
Chris Jones announced Sparta Mayor John Miller would be completing his 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive 4-year term this year. The town will be recognizing Mayor Miller on August 10 by renaming the Town Hall as the John H. Miller Municipal Building.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

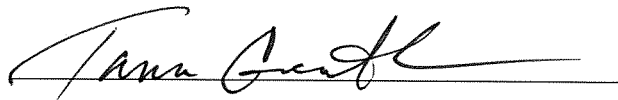
Chairwoman Lyerly thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no other comments or business, Robert L. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Mark Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.



Chairwoman, Brenda Lyerly



Clerk to the Board, Tanna Greathouse

Date 8/21/17

