

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 20, 2014  
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments met October 20, 2014, 7:00 p.m., at the High Country Council of Governments Office in Boone. The following members and alternates were present at the meeting: Chuck Vines, Kenny Poteat, J. B. Lawrence, Robert L. Johnson, Rick Miller, Dale Baldwin, Chris Jones, Judy Porter Poe, Joel Whitley, Tudor Vance, Johnny Riddle, Valerie C. Jaynes, Brenda Reeves, Jimmy C. Hayes, Phillip Hise, Bill Slagle, Larry Cox, Paul Robinson, Brenda Lyerly, and Gary D. Blevins. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Mickey Duvall, Jeff Hedrick, Beth Norris, Phil Trew, Julie Wiggins, Brenda Reece, Nicole Hiegl, Laura Jane Ward, Joe McKinney, and Tanna Greathouse.

**CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

Chairman Blevins thanked everyone for attending and called on Jimmy Hayes to lead the invocation. Chairman Blevins then led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

J. B. Lawrence made a motion to approve the Executive Board minutes for August 18, 2014. Robert L. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**August and September Expenditure Report**

Chairman Blevins called on Treasurer Valerie Jaynes to give details regarding the August and September Expenditure Report (Attachment A). Ms. Jaynes called on Finance Officer Beth Norris to outline several line items. Larry Cox made a motion to approve the August and September Expenditure Report. Chuck Vines seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Budget Amendment #2**

Beth Norris then presented the board with Budget Amendment #2 (Attachment B). Kenny Poteat made a motion to approve the proposed amendment. Johnny Riddle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**NADO Update and Regional Initiatives**

Joe McKinney, Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), presented the board with a Federal Policy and Legislative Update (Attachment C). Mr. McKinney reviewed the current funding outlook, key program updates, legislative accomplishments, midterm election preview, and upcoming events. NADO will be hosting a Midterm Elections Analysis Webinar on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 (NADO.org) and the Washington Policy Conference (NADO on the Hill) will be held March 22-25, 2014.

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

**Program Updates**

Julie Wiggins, Area Agency on Aging Director, presented the board with an overview of the AAA program updates (Attachment D). Ms. Wiggins reviewed the MIPPA Grant for 2015, Yancey Senior Center fundraising efforts, and a new partnership with Appalachian State University's College of Health Sciences to advance health care in the High Country.

**Aging Services Coordinator Updates**

Julie Wiggins introduced Nicole Hiegl, the AAA's new Aging Services Coordinator to the board. Ms. Hiegl presented updates on evidence based health promotion in older adults, falls prevention programs, and monitoring services that help ensure a higher quality of service delivery.

**Ombudsman Updates**

Laura Jane Ward, Regional Ombudsman, presented updates on a conference hosted in Alleghany County called "Money Smart for Older Adults," and announced Norma Duncan will be serving on the Mitchell County Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Ms. Ward asked board members to let her know of potential volunteers to serve on the CAC as there are several vacancies in many counties. Ms. Ward announced the documentary film "Alive Inside" will be coming to Appalachian State University's IG Greer Theater on October 29, 2014.

**Family Caregiver Specialist Updates**

Brenda Reece, Family Caregiver Support Specialist, presented updates on fundraising successes for the High Country Caregiver Foundation (HCCF). Ms. Reece announced HCCF has hired Cindy Lamb to help further carry out the mission of the Caregiver program. Ms. Reece announced a partnership with an ASU Sorority that provides volunteers, and upcoming trivia events that will raise additional funds for their respective counties. The HCCF is now one of the charities listed for AmazonSmile – an easy way to shop on Amazon while supporting a charitable organization ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)).

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

Dr. Duvall announced the HCCOG Strategic Planning Steering Committee will be having its first meeting Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 10:00 am. Member governments can stay informed of progress by visiting the Strategic Plan web page on the HCCOG website.

HCCOG will be sponsoring a free informational seminar – "Navigating Your County through the Affordable Care Act" on October 28, 2014 at the Blue Ridge Electric Community Room.

HCCOG is in the process of finalizing a lease agreement with McGill & Associates regarding the contiguous 1,500 SF lock-out rental space. McGill currently plans to begin the lease on December 1, 2014 with renewable 1-year options.

Dr. Duvall and Phil Trew, Planning and Development Director, met with ASU representatives from the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) and the Geography and Planning Department programs to begin discussions regarding ways to partner for success in addressing regional issues in the area.

Dr. Duvall recognized Tanna Greathouse for doing a fantastic job putting together the ReCOGNition Newsletter and for her help with the Weekly Bulletin updates.

Dr. Duvall congratulated Boone Mayor Andy Ball for being featured in the July/August 2014 Edition of "Southern City."

The Town of Spruce Pine/PRC Grant, to upgrade a gravity sewer connection to the Town of Spruce Pine and refurbish a water holding supply system, has been submitted to the NC Department of Commerce CDBG and EDA and looks good for approval this month.

Dr. Duvall thanked Joe McKinney for traveling from Washington, DC to present on behalf of NADO.

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

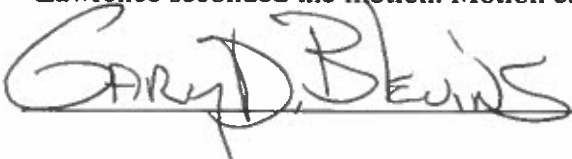
Chairman Blevins recognized Bill Slagle for attending his first North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Meeting and he has been appointed to the Legislative Goals Committee that will be determining the organization's legislative goals for the biennium.

Chairman Blevins has been on the road in Washington, DC and Raleigh to learn more about what we need to do to make sure the COG is protected in its funding, revenue streams, unfunded mandates, and what kind of legislation might be coming down, and what we need to do to prevent things that hurt the counties and municipalities in this region. We want to forge a stronger partnership between the NC League of Municipalities and the NCACC in our advocacy for making sure we don't get the short end of the stick in this next biennium.

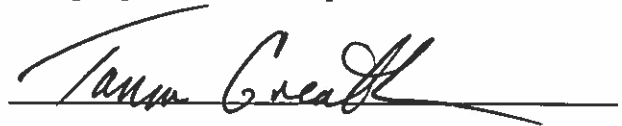
Chairman Blevins thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **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 8:05 pm.



Chairman, Gary D. Blevins



Clerk to the Board, Tanna Greathouse

Date 12/15/14

