

MINUTES
KERR-TAR REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
January 27, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Alston
Pete Averette
Jimmy Clayton
Rob Evans
Hubert Gooch
Tommy Hester
Linda Jordon
Jerry Joyner
Johnny Lunsford
Bryan Pfohl
Joe Shearon
Marsha Strawbridge
Michael Williford
Danny Wright

Mary Anderson
Elizabeth Blackwell
Sidney Dunston
Walter Gardner
Sam Hardwick
Zelodis Jay
Jennifer Jordan
Dazale Kearney
Pete O'Geary
Barry Richardson
John Stallings
Lou Stultz
Robert Williford

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

OTHERS PRESENT:

William Davis
Gene Hodges – Person EDC
Curtis Labban – Hagan's Office
Rob Shoaf – Triangle Film Commission
Sandy Freeman – Triangle Film Commission
Linda Worth – Warren County
Mark Donham – City of Oxford

COG STAFF PRESENT:

Timmy Baynes
James Pearce
Diane Cox
Melissa Jones
Rick Seekins
Julie Reid
Gina Parham

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments' Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at Middleburg Steakhouse in Middleburg, NC. Chairman O'Geary called the meeting to order and welcomed all guests.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman O'Geary asked that we have a moment of silence to recognize Vivian Edwards of Middleburg and Mary Emma Evans of Henderson. Both of these ladies worked very hard to support our communities and the Boards they served.

After the recognition of the deceased Board Members, Chairman O'Geary asked Curtis Labban of Senator Hagan's office if he would like to address the group.

Curtis advised that he serves as the “Regional Liaison” for Senator Hagan out of the Greensboro office. Curtis further stated that he enjoyed joining our Board last year for one meeting and he hopes to participate with us more this year. In addition, Curtis can be your direct contact for issues in our region. He stated you could contact the Greensboro office regarding legislative issues, Medicaid, veteran issues or to schedule a meeting with Senator Hagan. If you have economic development issues or grant requests, these items should be directed to Christopher Sgro.

Mr. Baynes took a moment to notify Board Members that the COG’s Transportation and Land Use Planner – Mike Ciriello had been involved in an automobile accident Tuesday evening. Luckily he has no broken bones, but he was badly bruised up and will be at home recuperating for some time.

MINUTES

Minutes of the November 18, 2010 COG Board Meeting and the December 22, 2010 Executive Committee Meeting were presented for the Board’s review.

Minutes

Motion # 1

Motion was made Sidney Dunston, seconded by Pete Averette to approve the Minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

QUARTERLY FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director, James Pearce presented the Quarterly Finance Report ending December 30, 2010 the Board for review and questions. The report showed overall expenditures of 43% thru end of December.

Quarterly Finance Report

Motion # 2

Motion was made by Walter Gardner, seconded by Sidney Dunston to approve the Quarterly Finance Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director, Timmy Baynes advised that he had asked for previously serving Board Members to join us this evening so they could be recognized for their participation and dedication to the Kerr-Tar Board of Directors. These members were Bill Davis of Warren County and James Stovall of Person County. He expressed the Board's sincere appreciation for their service and wished them the best in their so called "retirement". He acknowledged that Certificates of Appreciation would be forthcoming to the members that were not re-appointed as private sector representatives to the Board.

Mr. Baynes stated that Granville County re-appointed Pete Averette as a Private Sector rep, Person County re-appointed Johnny Lunsford as a Private Sector rep, and the Executive Committee appointed Danny Wright of Vance County as a Private Sector At-Large rep and these individuals would remain on the Kerr-Tar Board of Directors.

Mr. Baynes then recognized two new members to the Kerr-Tar Board, Jennifer Jordan of Warren County and Tommy Hester of Vance County. These members were welcomed to their new Board seats. This leaves the Board with two vacancies – one slot from Middleburg and one Private Sector Minority slot to be filled.

COG AUDIT

Mr. Baynes advised that Susan Waters of Phillips, Dorsey, Thomas, Waters and Brafford (PDTWB) met with the Executive Committee this evening to review the COG audit. She advised the Executive Committee that they offered an unqualified opinion on the financials. The auditor did identify one situation regarding Financial Statement Finding 2009-01 which addressed a significant deficiency or absence of controls to prepare the financial statements and issued an improvement statement with Financial Statement Finding 2010-01 as follows:

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control, including monitoring, and for the fair presentation in the financial statements of financial position of the governmental activities and the fund information and the respective changes in financial position in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Condition: As part of the audit, management prepared a draft of the financial statements but asked that we assist them in certain areas. Management has made progress in the past year and requested only limited assistance.

Recommendation: The Council should continue their actions of acquiring additional staff training.

Management has historically relied on the audit firm to prepare the financial statements as a part of the cost/benefit analysis in doing so. Staff will continue to follow the recommendation of the auditors to improve this condition or seek to contract this part of the audit process out depending upon availability of both human and financial resources.

The COG Finance Staff was recognized for the excellent work that they do and staff cooperation during the audit process. The audit firm values the opportunity to serve as the COG auditors.

After review this evening, the Executive Committee recommends approval of the COG's Audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2010. The floor was opened for a Motion regarding the COG's Audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2010.

COG AUDIT

Motion # 3

Motion was made by Sidney Dunston, seconded by John Stallings to approve the COG Audit as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

VANCE NCHFA REQUEST

Community Development Administrator, Julie Reid advised that the COG has applied with the NC Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) for a Single Family Rehab (SFR) Grant. One condition in this grant pertains to "Conflict of Interest" – whereas 'Relatives of COG staff or COG Board' can only be assisted with Board approval.

Ms. Reid stated that she wanted to acknowledge that a Mrs. Baynes has applied for assistance in order to obtain handicap access and repairs to her home. Mrs. Baynes was married to Executive Director, Timmy Baynes' uncle. Mr. Baynes' uncle has passed away and his widow still needs the repairs to be completed. If the Board accepts this information and approves the work to be completed then this will serve as Public Disclosure and written approval can be forwarded to the NCHFA.

Approval of Vance NCHFA SFR Request

Motion # 4

Motion was made by Sidney Dunston, seconded by Joe Shearon to allow the use of these funds under the provisions prescribed in our assistance policy. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time Walter Gardner provided the invocation prior to dinner.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Baynes advised that it has been a very busy 2 months since the last COG Board meeting! Items noted in his report were:

- Interviews have been held for the two new positions approved by the Executive Committee for the WIA Business Services Rep and the Community Development Planner. Job offers have been made and accepted for both.
- Attended two NC Association Regional Council Directors Meetings both in Winston Salem. Meeting in February will be held in Raleigh.
- NSP 3 Application is being prepared for Vance County/City of Henderson and should be submitted February 2, 2011
- Shared copy of article where Timmy was appointed on the NCACC Task Force which deals with the Human Services Arena. This will focus on staff training and a session will be held at the City/County Managers meeting next week.
- Two Loan Review Committee (LRC) meetings were held since the last Board Meeting. The LRC has had lots of activity recently but none had been approved until the Executive Committee meeting this evening. Now that this loan was approved the COG can take steps to have EDA release the \$91,000 of funds that had been sequestered due to the guidelines not being met.
- Attended the Senate District 7 Forum at VGCC
- COG will partner with NCDENR, through a grant with the Children's Health Branch which will allow for assistance in lead removal from 36 housing units in the region. (Handout was shared with attendees)
- City /County Managers meeting was held in Louisburg to discuss budgets and David Thompson of NCACC also joined the managers for this meeting. Great attendance at this meeting with managers and COG Program Directors.
- Copy of Senior Games Applications is in each attendee's folder. COG is the Coordinator for this event for the 10th year. Games will be held from March 31st until May 19, 2011. If you are 55 or older or will be 55 by December 30, 2011 – you may register for these events. All applications and fees must be received by March 4th. We encourage your participation or to come out and show support for seniors that are participating. For more applications, contact the COG staff or your local Senior Center.
- Mr. Baynes thanked the COG staff for taking on a Christmas Project to assist a Vance County family that was in need due to having a child with cancer for the Holidays. The staff also supported a food drive for donations to be taken to the National Institute for Health to stock their food pantry. This pantry provides food and snacks for families that are at the facility for treatment. Mr. Baynes thanked the staff for these efforts as well since he and his family were using the facility while their daughter receives treatment.

JOINT REGIONAL FORUM APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Baynes advised that the Board needed to make appointments to the Joint Regional Forum and the Advocacy Group from the region. There needs to be a City and County member appointed with one serving as alternate. He recommended that Walter Gardner participate as the City representative and that Jimmy Clayton serve as the county representative and alternate.

Forum Appointments

Motion # 5

Motion was made by Danny Wright, seconded by Sidney Dunston to nominate Walter Gardner as the appointee to this forum with Jimmy Clayton serving as alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

NON-PROFIT ARM TO COG

Mr. Baynes advised that the Executive Committee has recommended that the COG set up a non-profit arm at the COG to run the Person County Senior Center. This non-profit arm will be modeled after the non-profit that is currently established at the Mid-East Commission that runs a senior center in a small town.

Approval of Non-Profit

Motion # 6

Motion was made by Sidney Dunston, seconded by John Stallings to allow the COG to set up a non-profit arm with the assistance of the COG attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Baynes thanked the Board for their approval and continued support.

Triangle Film Commission Presentation

Mr. Baynes welcomed Rob Shoaf, Managing and Executive Director and Sandy Freeman, Creative Director of the Triangle Regional Film Commission.

Highlights of their presentation:

- Project started as 'labor of love'

- Film commission works with motion pictures, TV, etc.
- Goal is to attract film industry to this region – more to the middle part of state, as the majority of previous filming was in Wilmington
- Currently marketing the 13 counties of RTRP
- Filming industry could bring money and jobs to the region
- The State Film office estimated that overall production spending in the state in 2009 was over \$78M. Of that amount about \$4M was spent in our area, primarily in Durham and Wake Counties. The budget for “Main Street” is between \$8 and \$10M.

Short-range objectives:

- Form strategic alliances within the region
- Marketing campaign
- Launch web-site
- Looking for production ready communities
- Grow production infrastructure (facilities and workforce)

Long-range objectives:

- Expand industry suppliers
- Centralized offices
- Education/internships (Get industry professionals to speak)
- Set-up independent film festival

Triangle Film Commission plans to start communications with local city/county managers, Chambers of Commerce, Parks and Recreation as well as the Community Colleges. They would like to address all local boards within the next couple of months. They also plan to obtain rural photos and have them posted on their website.

Tommy Hester asked that they contact local County Tourism Directors for additional information.

Resolution of Support

Motion #6

Motion was made by Danny Wright, seconded by Pete Averette that the Kerr-Tar Board of Directors adopts a Resolution of Support for the Triangle Film Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman O'Geary thanked everyone for the outstanding attendance at this meeting and their support. Having no further comments or announcements, the Chairman closed by stating that 2011 will be a great year!

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy M. Baynes, Executive Director
Secretary to the Board of Directors