

MINUTES
KERR-TAR REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
March 24, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Alford
Mary Anderson
Sidney Dunston
Hubert Gooch
Jennifer Jordan
Dazale Kearney
Gary Plummer
Joe Shearon
Marsha Strawbridge
Michael Williford

John Alston
Jimmy Clayton
Terry Garrison
Zelodis Jay
Dazale Kearney
Barbara Currier (Alternate for J. Lunsford)
Elic Senter
John Stallings
Lou Stultz
Robert Williford

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Henry McKoy – Guest Speaker NC Dept of Commerce
Ellen Wilkins- Stem
Martin Fisher – Dispatch
Margie Winstead – Bunn
Charlene Clay – Bunn
Don Mitchell – Bunn
Amy Carter – Norlina

COG STAFF PRESENT:

Timmy Baynes
James Pearce
Karen Foster
Giannelli Evans
Alex Fonvielle
Ella Williams
Gina Parham

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments' Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at Middleburg Steakhouse in Middleburg, NC. Past Chairman Dunston called the meeting to order and welcomed all guests.

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 24, 2011 COG Board and Executive Committee Meetings were presented for the Board's review.

Minutes

Motion # 1

Motion was made by Elic Senter, seconded by Joe Shearon to approve the Minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business to be reviewed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Baynes included the following items in his report:

- Information was shared regarding the Symposium that will be held on April 5th at the Halifax Community College. This symposium is being hosted by the Roanoke River Basin Stakeholders in an effort to make parties aware of the proposed opening of a closed Uranium Mine in Virginia. If this mine is re-opened it could affect everyone downstream more than the mining area itself. It could also affect Kerr Lake Reservoir. Local governments are urged to combat the reopening of this mine. If the water supply gets contaminated then local governments would be held responsible for treating/cleaning the water supply. Contamination could actually affect the water supply so dramatically that it would have to be closed, which means a loss of water supply. Additional information is provided in brochures and DVDs that can be picked up after the meeting this evening. In an effort to help combat this situation, the Kerr-Tar COG has drafted a Resolution Opposing Lifting the Ban on Uranium Mining in Virginia.

Resolution Motion # 2

Motion was made by Terry Garrison, seconded by Elic Senter to authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution Opposing Lifting the Ban on Uranium Mining in Virginia and to share a copy of this Resolution with Area Local Governments for their adoption as well. Motion carried unanimously.

- Information was shared regarding the NC Rural Center's NC Capital Access Program where local businesses can acquire funding. This program encourages financial institutions to make small business loans that fall just outside conventional underwriting standards. This program is administered in all 100 counties statewide by the NC Rural Center.
- Timmy advised that he held conference calls with all managers in the region in early March. Three sessions of calls were initiated, one with County Managers, one with City/Town Managers and then a combined call with all managers. The group discussed ways to support each other and work collaboratively during these tough economic times and budget process.
- Participated again this year with intern interviews at UNC on February 25th. Candidates were very well qualified and the selection process was a difficult one to make. However an offer has been made to one candidate and he should start to work with the COG in June.
- Participated in a session with other NC COG Directors, Deputy Secretary McKoy and others in attempts to improve working relationships.

- Attended a performance review with Mike Ciriello at NC DOT regarding the Kerr-Tar RPO and currently the COG still exceeds expectations!
- Attended NCLM meeting recently in Hillsborough to review forthcoming insurance changes
- Attended NADO Policy Conference in Washington DC and had the opportunity to meet with staff from Senator Hagan, Senator Burr and Representative Ellmers' offices.
- Timmy also advised there is a NC Tomorrow packet in the folders that was designed by the NC Association of Regional Council Directors (NCARCD). This packet was recently used in a presentation with SAS, Dept of Commerce, EDA and HUD.
- Reminder that the next Board Meeting will be held on April 28, 2011 at 7PM at Aycock Recreation Center. Meeting packets complete with directions will be distributed about one week prior to the meeting.

At this time, John Stallings provided the invocation prior to dinner.

UPDATE FROM THE NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Henry McKoy, Assistant Secretary of the NC Department of Commerce was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. McKoy stated it was a pleasure to be with the KTCOG and that he is a lifelong North Carolinian having been born in Fayetteville, NC. He further stated that he had been serving as Assistant Secretary since August of 2010.

Highlights of his presentation included:

- His duties require that he oversee Community Development. Joined in a partnership with NC Dept of Commerce and the NCARCD and is anxious to see how to continue programs for development
- Rural Development is being reviewed at County levels
- Need to invest in water/sewer infrastructure and continue to provide affordable housing
- Urban Development Division continues with programs such as 'Main Street' and 'Downtown Revitalization' Projects.
- Majority of resources are funneled through Community Development Block Grant programs
- Currently working with delegation in DC to combat budget cuts and the detrimental impact across the state. Remain hopeful that people will understand the value of these programs.
- NC Regional Council Directors and McKoy met with the Governor to propose the NC Tomorrow Plan as designed by the NCARCD, SAS and EDA.
- 2010 Census shows much growth and we need to prepare for this growth
- Mr. McKoy asked attendees to review the NC Tomorrow – North Carolina's Two Roads Presentation. NC is at a fork in the road and decisions must be made for the future and

the choice is to select either the more traveled or less traveled road to seek solutions. Hope is to give citizens of NC the opportunity to live healthy, wealthy and wise.

- NC needs to be competitive in the future and develop sustainability in order to make communities stronger.
- NC must maintain resources to provide shelter and education for families.
- NC Yesterday was the American Century with agriculture, tobacco, textiles, manufacturing and education
- NC Today is the Global Century with banking, biotechnology, education, research, technology and energy
- Need to be smarter – use resources and export knowledge
- Need to build capacity across the state to help leverage funds for water/sewer projects and to have infrastructure in place for growth and development
- Initiated sustainability partnership with HUD, EDA and DOT to bring communities together
- There will be \$1.3M available to COGs – approximately \$75,000 per COG. Tell Dept of Commerce which programs best support your local communities. Create new programs through NC Tomorrow.
- Here to serve the local governments, want to be at the forefront of the sustainable century.
- Operate today so that it does not impede the future for generations to come.
- Challenge all to take the road less traveled and to make a difference.

Mr. McKoy was thanked for joining the COG and providing such an informative presentation to the Board this evening.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ellen Wilkins of Stem advised that the Town of Stem would be celebrating their Centennial Anniversary – 100 Years on April 9th. There will be a band, parade and display of archives for people to enjoy.

Past Chairman Dunston thanked everyone for attending this evening.

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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