

MINUTES
KERR-TAR REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
April 28, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Alston
Elizabeth Blackwell
Jimmy Clayton
Zelodis Jay
Johnny Lunsford
Pete O'Geary
Bryan Pfohl
Joe Cutchins – Senter Alternate
Lou Stultz
Hubert Gooch

Pete Averette
Francine Chavis
Walter Gardner
Linda Jordon
Marilyn Newell
Gary Plummer
Barry Richardson
Joe Shearon
Robert Williford
Danny Wright

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

OTHERS PRESENT:

William Lassiter – Guest Speaker NC DJJDP
Martin Fisher – Dispatch
Amy Carter – Norlina
Mark Donham - Oxford

COG STAFF PRESENT:

Timmy Baynes
James Pearce
Rick Seekins
Diane Cox
Melissa Jones
Alex Fonvielle
Dawn Johnson
Ella Williams
Gina Parham

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments' Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at Aycock Recreation Center in Henderson, NC. Chairman O'Geary called the meeting to order and all guests and new board member Marilyn Newell were welcomed. The Mayor advised that it was a pleasure to host the event at the Aycock Recreational Complex. The Chairman advised that they have 100's of individuals pass thru the doors daily and they feel this complex is an asset to the community.

MINUTES

Minutes of the March 24, 2011 COG Board Meeting were presented for the Board's review.

Minutes

Motion # 1

Motion was made by Barry Richardson, seconded by Bryan Pfohl to approve the Minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

QUARTERLY FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director, James Pearce presented the Quarterly Finance Report which ended March 31, 2011. He asked members to review the report and he would answer any questions that they may have in regards to the report.

Quarterly Finance Report

Motion # 2

Motion was made by Joe Shearon, seconded by Bryan Pfohl to approve the report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Baynes advised that we have a grant that we need to submit to NC DOT and a Public Hearing Notice was published in local papers for this item.

Chairman O'Geary opened the Public Hearing.

The COG's Director of Aging, Diane Cox advised that the Aging Department plan to submit a Grant Application for \$400,000 to be used for Elderly and/or Disabled citizens in the region that needed transportation for life sustaining medical visits, pharmacy visits, etc. The required match for these funds will come from the Home and Community Care Block Grant Funds from each County and the County Managers have already signed giving their approval for this match.

The Board was asked to consider submitting the application, have the Kerr-Tar COG certify that they will comply with all regulations, and authorize the Chairman to sign the application and resolution. No one came forward to offer any public comments. Chairman O'Geary then closed the Public Hearing.

NC DOT GRANT

Motion # 3

Motion was made by Pete Averette, seconded by Bryan Pfohl to approve the submission of the Grant Application to NC DOT for Transportation funding as outlined and to authorize the Chairman to approve the Public Transportation Program Resolution that was provided. Motion carried unanimously.

ASSESSMENT RATE

Mr. Baynes advised that there was a sheet in the folders that outlines the suggested per capita rate for FY 2011/2012. Due to upcoming budget constraints, the COG has recommended a reduction in the per capita rate. By consensus last week since there was no quorum, the

Executive Committee agreed to recommend setting the per capita rate at 43 cents. This is a reduction of 7 cents per capita, however by using the new 2010 census information the regional assessment total remains almost neutral. Population numbers fell in most municipalities and rose in most counties, which allowed the amounts to not fluctuate greatly.

Assessment Rate

Motion # 4

Motion was made by Barry Richardson, seconded by Danny Wright to set the assessment rate for FY 2011/2012 at 43 cents per capita. Motion carried unanimously.

EDA GRANT ACCEPTANCE

Mr. Baynes advised that the Kerr-Tar COG application to EDA has been approved for a \$300,000 EDA investment to support a two year planning project – “NC Tomorrow: A Collaborative for Sustainable Economic Growth”. During this project the COG will also be working with analytical software that was developed by SAS. Mr. Baynes was very enthusiastic about what this grant could mean for the region and the state.

EDA Grant Acceptance

Motion # 5

Motion made by Jimmy Clayton, seconded by Walter Gardner to authorize the Executive Director to execute the Financial Assistance Award for the EDA funds. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time Chairman O’Geary provided the invocation prior to dinner.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Baynes included the following items in his report:

- Information in folders regarding the 2011 Rural Wastewater Needs Workshop. The NC Rural Center is contemplating on adding more points to applications if the applicants have attended one of these workshops. This information has been shared with managers within the region. If your area is in need of wastewater assistance, this workshop could be beneficial.
- In early April the COG Directors and Joint Regional Forum members met and they collaborated on moving forward with the NC Tomorrow Initiative.
- Tours of the Triangle North sites were arranged for the new Executive Committee of Triangle North, since some of the officers had not physically seen all four sites. This wound up being an exciting process as excavation and grading had begun on the Franklin site where the 100,000 square foot Distribution Company will be located. There are copies next to the podium regarding the first land sale for the Triangle North sites.

- Also a NADO presentation by the podium that highlights regional strategies, partnerships, solutions and budget trends. Very informative handout for budget planning.
- Participated with Vance County in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and built 6 or 7 houses in Vance County in effort to redevelop or stabilize homes in rough neighborhoods. Plans are to start marketing these homes to prospective homeowners.

Rick Seekins commented that in addition to Franklin County selling the first parcel of land in a Triangle North site and securing the Distribution Company to the region, this company will be putting 300 local farmers back to work to produce crops for their company.

At this time, Mayor O'Geary provided the invocation prior to dinner.

GANG PREVENTION – A Comprehensive Approach

Alex Fonvielle of the COG introduced William Lassiter, the Director of Community Programs with the NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (NCDJJDP). Mr. Lassiter was originally from Warren County and he received his Masters in Public Administration from NCSU before beginning his career with NCDJJDP. He has served in many capacities during his tenure and has written articles and books on preventive violence in American schools.

Mr. Lassiter commended the efforts of our local areas in completing surveys to complete local Gang Assessments. This information has been compiled and is available on the NCDJJDP website by county.

UPDATE FROM THE NC DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELIQUENCY PREVENTION (NCDJJDP)

William Lassiter, Director of Community Programs of the NC DJJDP was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Lassiter stated that recent Gang Assessment survey information will be on the DJJDP website by County and it can be reviewed on line.

Mr. Lassiter gave a very interesting presentation. Highlights of his presentation included:

- Caring adults can change the dynamics of gangs
- Youth gangs are driven by conflict not necessarily drugs
- Majority of youth joining gangs are white
- Most youth remain in a gang for a year or less
- Gang involvement is spreading to rural and suburban areas
- Generations of gang involvement is difficult to break
- Contributing factors for gang involvement include: poverty, unemployment, drug/alcohol use, delinquency and violence
- Gang members migrate due to social considerations, family relocation or to be near family and friends
- Youth gangs are loosely structured with transient leadership

- Youth gangs are not heavily involved in drug sells – most drug sells are run by adult drug cartels
- Most youth stated they joined gangs for socialization and protection
- Educating youth on the consequences of gang involvement is an effective way for law enforcement to combat gang involvement

GANG Resources

- Resiliency is the ability to meet high expectations in spite of challenges or obstacles; the ability to resist or overcome factors that could threaten the ability to learn.
- Involve your community
- Build interdependency among the community, school and students
- Implement service learning
- Cultivate peer mentors
- Foster academic success

Five Core Strategies

- Community Mobilization
- Opportunity Provision – Kid involvement
- Social Intervention – Mentors
- Suppression
- Organizational Change and Development

Chairman O'Geary thanked Mr. Lassiter for his very informative presentation regarding gang involvement.

Members had the opportunity to ask questions after his presentation. Aging Director, Diane Cox advised Mr. Lassiter that currently there are 15-20 high school students considered to be at-risk are working with senior citizens at the Warren County Senior Center. These students help seniors learn or sharpen computer skills, playing wii games, etc. This program has been a win-win for the seniors and students.

Mr. Lassiter advised that grant funding can be obtained by sending the request directly to his attention.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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