

MINUTES
KERR-TAR REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
August 25, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Alston
Pete Averette
Francine Chavis
Sidney Dunston
Walter Gardner
Hubert Gooch
Zelodis Jay
Dazale Kearney
Merilyn Newell
Barry Richardson
John Stallings
Michael Williford
Danny Wright

Ellen Wilkins – Alternate for Nancy Alford
Elizabeth Blackwell
Jimmy Clayton
Rob Evans
Terry Garrison
Sam Hardwick
Linda Jordon
James D. O' Geary
Gary Plummer
Joe Shearon
Lou Stultz
Bob Williford

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Senator Berger

OTHERS PRESENT:

Cindy Gardner – Clerk of Norlina
Jeff Parrott – Town Administrator Warrenton
David Thompson – NCACC (Guest Speaker)
Paul Meyer – NCLM (Guest Speaker)
Linda Worth – Warren County Manager
Brian Alligood – Granville County Manager
Martin Fisher – Daily Dispatch

COG STAFF PRESENT:

Timmy Baynes
James Pearce
Diane Cox
Julie Reid
Rick Seekins
Angela Davis
Gina Parham

CALL TO ORDER – WELCOME

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments' Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, August 25, 2011 at Middleburg Steakhouse in Henderson, NC. Chairman O'Geary called the meeting to order and welcomed all guests.

MINUTES

Minutes of the June 23, 2011 COG Board meeting were presented for the Board's review.

Minutes

Motion # 1

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

QUARTERLY FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director, James Pearce presented the Quarterly Finance Report. He stated that these were unaudited figures ending June 30, 2011 and he welcomed any questions concerning the report.

Quarterly Finance Report

Motion # 2

Motion was made by Danny Wright, seconded by Pete Averette to approve the report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

CEDS Update

Rick Seekins reminded the Board Members that the Kerr-Tar COG has been established as and Economic Development District (EDD) through the Federal EDA program. This designation gives the COG more opportunities to apply for Grants and EDA funding for projects.

Currently the COG has been utilizing a 5 year CEDS plan that has to be evaluated and updated annually. The COG's Executive Committee serves as the EDD planning committee and they review updates and plans and then refer them to the full board for their approval.

Mr. Seekins further advised the Board of Directors that the Executive Committee had reviewed the CEDS annual update yesterday and they do recommend that the plan be posted on the web for review and that the Board reviews it and approve it before the September 30, 2011 deadline.

Members were advised that there had not been a lot of change in demographics and growth in the region during the past year. Evaluations were made on all goals that had been set. Once this plan has been approved the COG will begin the process of developing a new 5 year plan and this process will include developing sustainable systems as well as the new NC Tomorrow Project.

In the NC Tomorrow project, the all 16 COGs from across the state have agreed to develop their own CEDS and will be working with outside agencies in this process. Agencies such as HUD, NADO, SAS Institute, etc. are partners in this process.

The new plan will have a much broader range and focus. There will be an Advisory Committee formed to help evaluate the vision, goals, strategies and evaluation process. North Carolina hopes to be the "model program" across the nation.

CEDS

Motion # 3

Motion was made by Walter Gardner, seconded by Sam Hardwick to approve the CEDS as presented and to post it on the COG's website for 30 days prior to submission at the end of September 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

NC Housing Finance Agency

Julie Reid advised that two successful applications had been made to the NC Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) for Single Family Rehabilitation Programs. One would be in Vance County and the other is in Person County. Julie provided a complete packet of information for Board Members to review on each program. She further stated that the COG needed approval to sign and submit the "Post Approval Documentation" that was in the packet.

NCHFA – Vance Post Approval Documents

Motion # 4

Motion was made by Terry Garrison, seconded by Walter Gardner to authorize the Chairman to sign the Post Approval Documentation and submit it on behalf of Vance County. Motion carried unanimously.

NCHFA – Person Post Approval Documents

Motion # 5

Motion was made by Sidney Dunston, seconded by Jimmy Clayton to authorize the Chairman to sign the Post Approval Documentation and submit it on behalf of Person County. Motion carried unanimously.

Slate of Officers for 2011/2012

Terry Garrison advised that the Nominating Committee, consisting of himself, Bob Williford, Lou Stultz and Hubert Gooch met on July 27, 2012 to select a new slate of officers for the 2011/2012 COG Board. Their recommendation is as follows:

Chairman: Walter M. Gardner, Jr.
Mayor of Warrenton

Vice-Chairman: Linda Jordon
Butner Town Council Member

Treasurer: Jimmy B. Clayton
Person County Commissioner

Slate of Officers

Motion # 6

Motion was made by Sidney Dunston, seconded by Sam Hardwick to approve the Slate of Officers as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

NC Association of Regional Council Directors – Memorandum of Agreement (NCARCD MOA)

Mr. Baynes advised that there was a Memorandum of Agreement in the meeting packets that would initiate an agreement between the NCARCDs and the Kerr-Tar Regional COG. The Kerr-Tar COG applied for and has been approved for a \$300,000 grant which will allow for development of a state-wide CEDS as part of the NC Tomorrow Initiative. This agreement will be the vehicle to allow the funds to flow from EDA to the NCARCD for the two year grant period.

Approval of MOA

Motion # 7

Motion was made by Sidney Dunston, seconded by Walter Gardner to authorize the Chairman to execute the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Baynes included the following items in his report:

- Shared a map that outlined the recent merger of Region I and Region G COGs. This established a new Region G which has 12 counties. There are currently 16 COGs across the state of NC.
- The Triangle Film Commission made a presentation to this Board in May. Enclosed in the meeting packet you will find an update from Triangle Film Commission on their progress.
- Interviews were completed at the Person County Senior Center and now that agency is fully staffed.
- Interviews were also held at the COG for the CDBG Planner position and that position was filled with new employee – Nick Scheuer.
- The Region K City/County Managers Meeting will be held on September 13th at the new Town Hall in Butner. This will be a planning session to discuss the CEDS and the NC Tomorrow Planning Project.
- Attended a Division of Community Investment and Assistance liaison team meeting today in Greensboro to assist with enhancing the CDBG small cities program.
- The COG's annual state-wide Technical Assistance Grant report has been submitted to the state early this year!
- Workforce Development Program has been awarded a NADO Innovation Award and it will be presented at the Annual Training Conference in early October.
- Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for September 22nd at the Warren County Armory and Civic Center. If you have not done so, please send in your RSVP

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

After dinner, Mr. Baynes recognized Senator Berger who had joined us this evening and said it was a privilege to have David Thompson from the NCACC and Paul Meyer from the NCLM with us this evening.

UPDATES FROM NCLM AND NCACC

Paul Meyer is the Chief Legislative Counsel with the NCLM and he stated that this past session had been the toughest in his 13 years with the League. He credited some of that to the change in the majority parties as well as the change in dynamics.

Other items that were highlighted in the League update were:

- Annexation – toughest issue
- Local annexation appeals
- Eliminate ETJ's – Exempt farms
- Regulatory Reform Act
- Reorganization – Legislative Oversight Commissions – ability to make investments could be jeopardized

Four major issues for 2012 include:

- Transportation and maintaining state highways
- Focus on debt for local government
- Property taxes and assessments
- Local Government Commission - Oversight

David Thompson is Executive Director of the NCACC and serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. David stated that the NCACC has an alliance with all 100 counties of North Carolina. For the third year in a row the NCACC has been able to reduce dues for members and has waived registration fees for conferences this past year.

The NCACC represents a consolidated vision of all 100 counties and represents all citizens of North Carolina.

Other highlights from NCACC included:

- Funds that came back to offset debt in Vance County – included revenue for EMS and Medicaid
- NCACC is strong advocate for County issues
- Work to protect revenue streams and to keep taxes down
- Discussion regarding road improvements/maintenance and shifting cost to local governments
- Budget – good session considering the economy
- Justice Reinvestment Act – Could be placing hundreds of inmates in County jails- Department of Correction would lease excess space from counties.
- Began session with 200 goals – whittled down to 54 goals for this session

- Achieved 24 of the 54 goals
- Budgets cut in 48 counties
- Property taxes increased in 16 counties

Members thanked Paul and David for joining the group and providing updates from the NCLM and the NCACC.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman O'Geary asked if there were any further comments.

Senator Berger stated that it was not a good budget year as \$1B was cut out of the education budget. He feels that we must continue to support education. He also stated that the re-districting plan has been adopted and he feels democrats will challenge the re-districting plan.

There being no further comments, the meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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