

# NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

October 20, 2004

## BUSINESS MEETING Wilmington, NC

### Attendees:

1. Ann Whitley, Upper Coastal Plain RPO
2. Brandon Shoaf, Albemarle RPO
3. Cliff Kendall, Mid-East RPO
4. David Baird, High Country RPO
5. Dawn Qiu, Lake Norman RPO
6. Don Eggert, Cape Fear RPO
7. Gene Foxworth, Mid-East RPO
8. Geraldine Dumas, Kerr-Tar RPO
9. Greg Christo, Isothermal RPO
10. Hanna Cockburn, Piedmont Triad RPO
11. Jake Gilmer, Land-of-Sky RPO
12. Janet Robertson, Lumber River RPO
13. Jim Daughtry, Eastern Carolina RPO
14. John Marshall, Unifour RPO
15. Judy Hills, Down East RPO
16. Matt Roark, Southwestern RPO
17. Nicole Hay, Northwest Piedmont RPO
18. Pat Strong, Triangle RPO
19. Rebecca Yarbrough, Rocky River RPO
20. Shelby Powell, Kerr-Tar RPO
21. Travis Marshall, NCDOT TPB

### Meeting Minutes

1. **Start-up**- D. Eggert called meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.
2. **Consideration of Minutes of April 30, 2004 meeting** – A. Whitley stated that her name was left off the list of attendees of the last meeting. D. Eggert pointed out that Janet Robertson's name was misspelled in the attendee list. *Motion made by G. Christo to accept minutes as with changes; Second by J. Robertson. There being no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.*
3. **Officer Elections** – D. Eggert stated that the nominations committee was comprised of himself, Ann Whitley, and Greg Christo. The nominations for the 2005 officers were John Marshall, Unifour RPO – Chairman; Jake Gilmer, Land-of-Sky RPO – Vice Chairman; Shelby Powell, Kerr-Tar RPO – Secretary. D. Eggert asked for other nominations from the floor. *Motion made by J. Daughtry to close nominations and accept the slate of officers as presented by the Nominations Committee; Second by R. Yarbrough. There being no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.* D. Eggert expressed appreciation for support given by members and for the work of the association officers and committees. The NCARPO had become a good organization for networking and collaboration. J. Daughtry expressed thanks on behalf of the membership for Don's work in putting together the association and the meetings for the past several years.
4. **Logo Selection** – D. Eggert stated that the Logo Selection Committee was comprised of Jim Daughtry, Dawn Qiu, and Nicole Hay. He asked for a report from that committee. N. Hay stated that there were still some final changes being made by designers to the submissions, and that the Committee would have a final recommendation at the NCARPO January meeting. D. Qiu asked if there had been a time limit placed on logo submissions. D. Eggert stated that no official time line had been given. N. Hay stated that several submissions had been received by the group in the past week, and that the final would be chosen from those.
5. **Transportation Forum Discussion** – A. Whitley stated that she had been serving on behalf of the NCARPO on the Transportation Forum Steering Committee, and that the committee wanted session ideas from the RPO's. The forum will be held at a hotel in downtown Charlotte in March, and 18 member organizations were contributing to the success of the forum. H. Cockburn suggested we look at Context

Sensitive Solutions with Janet D'Ignazio as a speaker; Ecosystem Enhancement Program and how it relates to transportation planning with an EEP staffer as a speaker; a Pedestrian Walking Tour of downtown Charlotte; and a primer on reading road plans for beginner transportation planning staff. C. Kendall stated that the transit in Charlotte lends itself to a transit session. R. Yarbrough suggested Tom Warshauer with Charlotte Economic Development to give a session on south end development and light rail, as well as integrating land use and transportation. S. Powell suggested using the Forum as a place for training the newer RPO Planners on administrative procedures and some of the other issues the older RPO Planners had received training on when RPO's were starting up. G. Foxworth suggested Access Management as a topic, and stated that the Mid-East RPO was working on a regional access management plan that would be modular and able to fit into other ordinances. D. Eggert suggested a presentation on the new multi-modal plan, a presentation on the new DOT philosophy of directing funding toward maintenance instead of new construction, and stated that Lori Cove might be good for either of those topics. R. Yarbrough stated that the Statewide Transportation Plan will change how money is allocated, and a session on that would be helpful. P. Strong stated that the local partnership efforts in NCDOT might be worked out by then and would be an interesting session. D. Eggert stated that members could keep updated on the Forum by visiting [www.nctransportationforum.org](http://www.nctransportationforum.org). A. Whitley stated that registration would be \$125.

6. **NCDOT Update** – T. Marshall stated that some organizational changes would be occurring early next year for the Transportation Planning Branch, PDEA, and the TIP unit, and the three branches would be organized into geographic units. The TIP process is being changed, and an expedited schedule was passed out to the group showing that comments on a 2006-2012 draft would be expected in early 2005, as would new project lists for a 2007-2013 TIP. The TIP public hearings would likely be regional instead of divisional. The recommendation from TPB is to look at the last submission of projects each RPO made, and make revisions to that list for the 2007-2013 TIP. S. Powell asked how it was possible to work on a list of project requests before viewing the draft TIP to see what is on there. T. Marshall stated that he will let the RPO's know as soon as the draft comes out to give them as much time as possible. The schedule for the TIP will be changed to reflect odd-numbered years so the elections and federal legislation issues will not be factors in getting the draft out.
7. **Legislative Update** – J. Gilmer stated that there was another 8-month extension placed on TEA-21, and Hanna's newsletter had covered the issue pretty thoroughly. There were no other federal legislative issues for the group at this time. ● P. Strong passed out information pertaining to the final report for the NCDOT Project Delivery Study, and gave the website for the full report. The Status of Highway Trust Fund Projects was also handed out. There was an October 11, 2004 meeting of the Joint Transportation Legislative Oversight Committee, which was well-attended. Both Lyndo Tippett and Len Sanderson assured the Legislators that the study recommendations would be implemented by NCDOT. Some highlights of the Project Delivery Study were reviewed, including that NCDOT needs better relationships with the resource agencies, NCDOT needs to be more active in promoting those relationships, all the processes at NCDOT (from HR to project management to Information Systems) were reviewed and given recommendations for improvement, and that the time taken in environmental process in NC needed to be reviewed to determine why Florida can get the same process done three to four times faster.
8. **Future Meeting Dates** – The next NCARPO meeting will be January 27-28, 2005 hosted by the Triangle RPO in the Triangle J COG offices. Hotel information was passed out. The group will need to decide in January if we need to have a business meeting at the Transportation Forum in March or if we should have the regular April meeting. The next MPO Conference will be in Greenville in 2005.
9. **Wrap-up** – D. Eggert thanked the group again for their support and hard work during the start-up of the RPO Association. He adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Submitted by

Shelby Powell, Secretary  
NC Association of RPO's