

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
JUNE 17, 2019
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments met June 17, 2019, 7:00pm, at the High Country Council of Governments Office in Boone. The following members were present at the meeting: Charles E. Vines, Gary D. Blevins, Todd McNeill, Dale Baldwin, Reneé Castiglione, Dennis Aldridge, Mark Evans, Chris Jones, Darla Harding, Russell Ferree, Rennie Brantz, Larry Fontaine, Larry Turnbow, Valerie Jaynes, and Johnny Riddle. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Jacob Willis, Julie Wiggins, Jeff Hedrick, Nicole Hiegl, Phil Trew, Keith Deveraux, Julie Page, Cory Osborne and Victoria Potter.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Chairman Riddle welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and called on Charles Vines to lead the invocation. Chairman Riddle then led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Chris Jones made a motion to approve the Executive Board minutes for May 20, 2019. Rennie Brantz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Highlights

Chairman Riddle called on Finance Officer, Julie Page to give a report on the Financial Highlights as of May 31, 2019 (Attachment A). Mrs. Page announced that she is two weeks into this position and is happy to be here. Mrs. Page explained current financial highlights and noted that we have completed audit adjustments for 2018. Mrs. Page also announced that onsite auditing FY2019 is coming up in August. Chairman Riddle noted that the Advisory Committee gave their recommendation for approving the current Financial Highlights. Larry Turnbow made a motion to approve the Financial Highlights. Gary Blevins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Capital Bank Signatories

Chairman Riddle called on Executive Director, Julie Wiggins to discuss the Capital Bank Signatories. Ms. Wiggins explained that Julie Page, Finance Officer has now been added to the Capital Bank Signatories list. Current signatories include: Julie Wiggins, Julie Page, Kathy Combs and Phil Trew. Larry Fontaine made a motion to approve the Capital Bank Signatories for Region D Development Corporation and High Country Council of Governments. Larry Turnbow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FY 2019 Budget Amendment #2

Ms. Wiggins presented the FY2019 Budget Amendment #2 (Attachment A1) to the board and explained that because of unexpected, non-recurring line items we will need to ask for \$50,000 out of the fund balance to work out the end of year budget. Though, we are still well above what is recommended on fund balance percentage. Chairman Riddle and Executive Board member Gary Blevins noted that the Advisory Committee gave their recommendation of approval for the Amendment #2 and that having only two budget amendments in a year was very reasonable.

Charles Vines made a motion to approve the FY2019 Budget Amendment #2. Gary Blevins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FY 2020 Budget

Ms. Wiggins explained that the 2020 Budget (Attachment A2) has remained unchanged since the draft was presented at last month's meeting. The big highlights still include 2.5% Cost of Living increase for HCCOG staff and appropriated fund balance equaling \$23,000 to be used for a new website/rebranding and board room renovations. Executive Board member, Gary Blevins noted that the Advisory Committee have made suggestions and feel confident moving forward with this budget. Chris Jones made a motion to approve the FY2020 Budget. Rennie Brantz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING UPDATES

Nicole Hiegl, Area Agency on Aging Director shared some department updates including information on the Medicaid Transformation that is happening in NC. There is a Medicaid Ombudsman Resolution circulating from the state that will utilize COGs as a main hub for Medicaid users to send questions and concerns to a Medicaid Ombudsman. Mrs. Hiegl also discussed AAA's Family Caregiver Support Program (Attachment B) that is being rebuilt to be as flexible as possible and work one on one with individuals to meet the route of caregiving stress where it's at. Mrs. Hiegl and Mrs. Amber Chapman, Family Caregiver and Health Promotions Specialist are open to feedback and questions about the program and are also happy to partner with the High Country Caregivers.

HIGH COUNTRY CAREGIVERS PRESENTATION

Jacob Willis, High Country Caregivers' Executive Director gave a little background on the organization and its start with Brenda Reece several years ago. Mr. Willis mentioned the new crisis for caregivers is misplaced children/kinship care. The High Country Caregivers is working on kinship navigation and resources for grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc. caring for misplaced family members. Mr. Willis noted that a partnership with HCCOG is natural for his organization since it began within the COG and that many of the Executive Board members see kinship care first hand in their communities. Executive Board member Gary Blevins commended Mr. Willis for his work and said that Wilkes county supports his efforts.

NCDEO WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM RE-APPLICATION: Helton Creek – Kirby Stream Restoration Project Resolution

Cory Osborne, HCCOG Regional Planner presented the Helton Creek – Kirby Stream Restoration Project Resolution. (Attachment C) The \$690,000 project provides agricultural best management practices and restoration on farm land. HCCOG will partner with New River Conservancy and act as a pass through entity, applying for \$200,000 for the Kirby Stream Restoration Project in Ashe county. HCCOG will receive \$9,000 for admin fees. Julie Wiggins will sign a No Conflict of Interest Form upon board approval. Todd McNeill made a motion to approve the Kirby Stream

Restoration Project Resolution. Larry Turnbow seconded the motion. Charles Vines abstained from voting since he serves on the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund board. Motion carried.

MEDICAID OMBUDSMAN RESOLUTION

Ms. Wiggins started by explaining that Nicole Hiegl, AAA Director was selected to be on the Medicaid Reform and RFP committees. This Medicaid Ombudsman Resolution (Attachment D) is time sensitive and was brought to Ms. Wiggins attention at the NCARCOG Forum in Raleigh earlier this month. The Resolution is in consideration of support of application and ombudsman staffed under the COG umbrella. Executive Board member and NCARCOG Chair, Gary Blevins encouraged the board to pass this resolution. Russell Ferree made a motion to approve the Medicaid Ombudsman Resolution. Rennie Brantz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Ms. Wiggins explained that the purpose of the proposed policy changes (Attachment E) is to catch up the maximum accrued paid leave policy, making it consistent with comparable entities. This policy change is up for consideration to review prior to next month's meeting.

REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

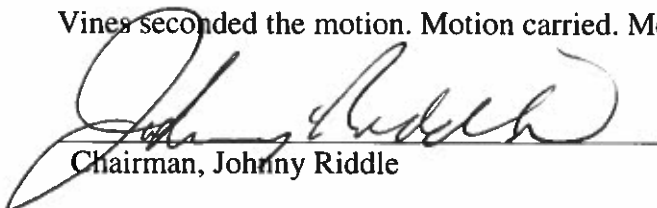
Ms. Wiggins welcomed Julie Page, Finance Officer and commended her hard work and determination in just two weeks. Ms. Wiggins mentioned that Annual Banquet Award Nomination Forms will be sent out tomorrow (June 18, 2019). She also mentioned that there were extra copies of the Audit report, May ReCOgnition, and other handouts from last month's meeting if anyone needed copies. Ms. Wiggins announced that she is still working on Legislative advocacy/outreach and that she and department heads recently met with Representative Ray Russell and Robin Ramsey, Senator Richard Burr's SW Field Representative. Ms. Wiggins also said that there are other Legislative meetings in the works.

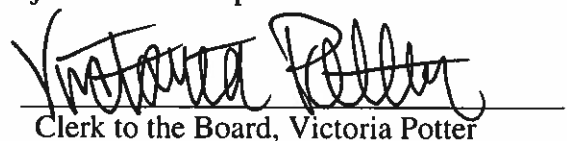
CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Riddle asked that everyone remember the Carl Tuttle family in their thoughts and prayers. Chairman Riddle thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other comments or business, Mark Evans made a motion to adjourn. Charles Vines seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.


Chairman, Johnny Riddle


Clerk to the Board, Victoria Potter

Date 7/15/19