

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2019
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments met November 18, 2019, 6:00pm, at the High Country Council of Governments Office in Boone. The following members were present at the meeting: Charles E. Vines, Robert L. Johnson, Gary D. Blevins, Todd McNeill, Doug Matheson, Dennis Aldridge, Jesse Smith, Mark Evans, Chris Jones, Jim Blevins, Russell Ferree, Rennie Brantz, Larry Turnbow, Valerie Jaynes, and Johnny Riddle. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Dr. Pat Mitchell, Julie Wiggins, Jeff Hedrick, Phil Trew, Nicole Hiegl, Keith Deveraux, Julie Page, and Victoria Potter.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Rennie Brantz made a motion to approve the Executive Board minutes for October 21, 2019. Robert L. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Highlights

Chairman Riddle called on Finance Officer, Julie Page, to present the financial highlights as of October 31, 2019 (Attachment A). Charles E. Vines made a motion to approve the financial highlights. Larry Turnbow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget Amendment #2

Mrs. Page explained that budget amendment #2 (Attachment B) is increasing revenue to the Lifespan Respite grant through the Area Agency on Aging. Robert L. Johnson made a motion to approve the budget amendment #2. Chris Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Dr. Pat Mitchell presented a PowerPoint (Attachment C) focusing on High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) concepts from the 2015-2016 strategic plan. Dr. Mitchell deduced three categories that were reflected in the previous plan, the mission statement, and the vision statement: services, relationships and capacity. Dr. Mitchell also reviewed the five previous goals in the strategic plan and mentioned that most of those goals have been accomplished over the last four years. Looking ahead, Dr. Mitchell presented a word cloud with concepts and services that the HCCOG might consider pursuing. Dr. Mitchell then explained that she would number off each board member to form three separate groups and HCCOG staff members would serve as scribes. The groups reconvened to review the ideas that were discussed in each small group and to vote on and prioritize the ideas. The top goals were: water/sewer infrastructure, housing for middle class, broadband, training and partnership with the UNC School of Government, working with local colleges and universities and utilize their internship programs, and the development and expansion of cultural/historical assets. Dr. Mitchell then explained that HCCOG staff will compile the information into an updated strategic plan document to present at a later meeting. Dr. Mitchell thanked everyone for their participation and for all they do for the region. Executive Director, Julie

Wiggins thanked Dr. Mitchell for all her work and thanked the board for their attentiveness and engagement in this workshop.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

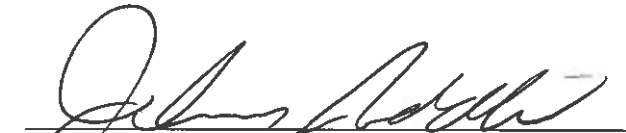
Gary D. Blevins thanked the board again for his Outstanding Executive Board Member award that was presented at the annual banquet.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Riddle thanked Dr. Mitchell for her work and everyone for their attendance and attentiveness. Chairman Riddle also commented on the new letterhead complete with the new HCCOG logo, and thanked Victoria Potter for her work getting this new branding in place. Chairman Riddle reiterated his thanks and gratitude to the High Country COG staff and everyone on the Executive Board.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other comments or business, Robert L. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Larry Turnbow seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.



Chairman, Johnny Riddle



Clerk to the Board, Victoria Potter

Date 12-16-19