

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
JUNE 21, 2021
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) met June 21, 2021, 7:00pm, in-person and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present in-person at the meeting: Charles E.Vines, Robert L. Johnson, Brenda Lyerly, Eddie Settle, Johnny Riddle, Andrew Soots, Dennis Aldridge, Rocky Buchanan, Tom Hartman, Jim Blevins, Rennie Brantz, and Todd McNeill. The following members were present virtually via Zoom at the meeting: Theresa Coletta, Valerie Jaynes, Doug Matheson, Kevin Reece. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting either in-person or via Zoom: Julie Wiggins, Julie Page, Jeff Hedrick, Keith Deveraux, Pam Wilson, Jessica Greer, Phil Trew, and Victoria Potter.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Vice-Chairman McNeill welcomed everyone to the High Country Council of Governments June Executive Board meeting. Vice-Chairman McNeill called on Eddie Settle to lead the invocation. Vice-Chairman McNeill then led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Robert L. Johnson made a motion to approve the May 17, 2021 Executive Board minutes. Johnny Riddle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Highlights

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented the Financial Highlights (Attachment A) and reviewed revenues versus expenditures and balances. Mrs. Page noted that we will likely not drop below the 16% unassigned fund balance. Mrs. Page also noted that the operating account is higher because of Aging funds received in May. Mrs. Page is working on end of year closure, to be completed by July 31st, audit preparation and preparing the audit schedule.

Budget Amendment #6

Mrs. Page explained that Budget Amendment #6 (Attachment A1) is a reduction of \$7,500.00 for the Workforce Development department due to COVID-19 Dislocated Worker funds not being available.

Brenda Lyerly made a motion to approve the Financial Highlights as of May 31, 2021 and Budget Amendment #6. Charles E. Vines seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FY 2021-2022 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Julie Wiggins, Executive Director presented the FY2021-2022 Budget Resolution (Attachment B) for approval. Charles E. Vines made a motion to approve the FY 2021-2022 Budget Resolution. Robert L. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WIOA/NCWORKS UPDATE

Keith Deveraux, Workforce Development Board Director introduced Pam Wilson, NCWorks Regional Manager (serving Avery, Mitchell, Yancey counties) and WIOA Coordinator for Mayland Community College. Mrs. Wilson presented an overview of available services from the NCWorks Centers, discussed current and upcoming projects, Unemployment Claims as of April

2021, and shared local success stories. (Attachment C). Mrs. Wilson noted that employers are still having a hard time finding and retaining employees. Jessica Greer, NCWorks Regional Manager (serving Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga and Wilkes counties). Mrs. Greer discussed upcoming projects and events, promotional articles/recordings with local media outlets, and a local success story. Mr. Deveraux noted their motto: better workers, better jobs = better economy. NCWorks is the one stop career center to look for jobs, explore new opportunities, get job training, etc. Mr. Deveraux also mentioned that Goodwill of Northwest NC is the new WIOA service provider for Mrs. Greer's region. Brenda Lyerly asked about the Finish Line Grant, Mrs. Greer explained that is a student is over 50% completed in their program and an emergency comes up, this provides funding to complete their program.

REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Julie Wiggins, Executive Director asked everyone to save the date for the 46th Annual Banquet: Friday, September 10th at Linville Ridge. Ms. Wiggins noted that prices have increased and that the Advisory Committee recommends that the ticket price increase to \$50.00 per person and to increase sponsorship levels. Johnny Riddle made a motion to approve increasing the Annual Banquet ticket price to \$50 per person and to approve increasing sponsorship levels to \$1,000.00, \$2,000.00, and \$3,000.00. Robert L. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

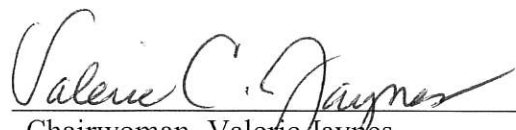
Ms. Wiggins also discussed the recent Legislative Day with the NCARCOG Association in Raleigh. She, Vice-Chairman Todd McNeill, and Commissioner Dennis Aldridge were able to visit with six of our eight state elected officials. Ms. Wiggins mentioned that this will be the last hybrid Zoom and in-person meeting, for the July meeting we will be fully in-person.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice-Chairman McNeill read a thank you card from Chairwoman Jaynes regarding the passing of her mother. Johnny Riddle thanked everyone for the good reports.

ADJOURNMENT

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



 Chairwoman, Valerie Jaynes



 Clerk to the Board, Victoria Potter

Date 7-19-21