

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 21, 2022  
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) met November 21, 2022, 7:00pm, at the High Country Council of Governments Office in Boone. The following members were present at the meeting: Brenda Lyerly, Jeff Whitson, Mike Inscore, Kelly Melang, Bill Wheeler, Dennis Aldridge, Larry Fontaine, Steve Pitman, Jim Blevins, Rocky Buchanan, Tom Hartman, Doug Matheson, and Todd McNeill. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Julie Wiggins, Julie Page, Phil Trew, Misty Bishop-Price, Cory Osborne, Zack Green, Sia Beasley, and Victoria Oxentine.

There being insufficient members in attendance to reach a quorum, the members by consensus determined to nevertheless proceed, recognizing that all actions taken by vote would be only conditionally effective, pending subsequent approval or ratification at a meeting with a quorum present.

**CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

Chairman McNeill welcomed everyone to the High Country Council of Governments November Executive Board meeting. Chairman McNeill called on Dennis Aldridge to lead the invocation and Chairman McNeill led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Mike Inscore made a motion to approve the October 17, 2022 Executive Board minutes. Tom Hartman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Financial Highlights**

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented the Financial Highlights as of October 31, 2022 (Attachment A) and reviewed year to date revenues versus expenditures and balances. Mrs. Page noted that there were no findings in the audit, and it will be presented in December.

**Budget Amendment #3**

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented Budget Amendment #3 (Attachment A1) and noted it is an increase in the Planning and Development department by \$50,000 to account for additional contracts.

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the Financial Highlights as of October 31, 2022 and Budget Amendment #3. Steve Pitman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2022 CEDS PRESENTATION**

Phil Trew, Planning and Development Director presented the 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) (Attachment B). Mr. Trew gave an overview of the CEDS and explained that it is a prerequisite for the COG to receive funding from the Economic Development Administration. The High Country Workforce Development Board, which serves as the CEDS Strategy Committee, recommended approval of the 2022 CEDS. Mr. Trew reviewed the CEDS process, the strengths and weaknesses of our region, and the recommendations it lays out to help identify special projects in the future. Jeff Whitson made a motion to approve the 2022 CEDS. Brenda Lyerly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Misty Bishop-Price, Workforce Development Director briefly discussed a recent grant the High Country Workforce Development Board (WDB) received that is \$700,000 in ARPA funding. This grant has two focus areas including work base learning for small employers and recovery from substance abuse. This money will come in early 2023 and the WDB will begin implementation.

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING UPDATE**

Zack Green, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director introduced Sia Beasley, PhD as the new Health Promotions Specialist. Dr. Beasley will be working with the Falls Prevention grant funding the AAA recently received on classes and programs throughout the region. Mr. Green also mentioned that they are searching for new program sites and leaders in all seven counties and that alternate members are needed for the Senior Tar Heel Legislature in a few counties.

**REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Julie Wiggins, Executive Director noted that preliminary findings from the pay study were presented to the Advisory Committee this evening and more to come soon to the Executive Board. Ms. Wiggins announced that the roof has been replaced and there have been no leaks since its replacement.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Kelly Melang discussed a unique opportunity of employee housing for Beech Mountain Ski Resort. Dennis Aldridge discussed a recent CDBG grant and re-entry housing program. Tom Hartman wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

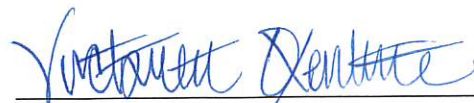
Todd McNeill, Executive Board Chairman announced that the Legislative Committee will meet on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM in the COG board room to discuss next year's legislative goals. Chairman McNeill announced that Wes Brinegar is home and improving from his recent heart attack. Chairman McNeill noted that Eddie Settle had a death in his family and could not attend and several other board members were sick or had sickness in their family and could not attend tonight. Chairman McNeill said that Bill Osborne wanted to express his appreciation to the board as he could not attend tonight, and this would have been his last meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no other comments or business, Larry Fontaine made a motion to adjourn. Tom Hartman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.



Chairman, Todd McNeill



Clerk to the Board, Victoria Oxentine

Date 12-19-22