

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2022
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) met October 17, 2022, 7:00pm, at the High Country Council of Governments Office in Boone. The following members were present at the meeting: Charles E. Vines, Brenda Lyerly, Eddie Settle, Mike Inscore, Bill Osborne, Otis Church, Bill Wheeler, Dennis Aldridge, Larry Fontaine, Steve Pitman, Jim Blevins, Tom Hartman, Tim Futrelle, Doug Matheson, and Todd McNeill. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Julie Wiggins, Julie Page, Cory Osborne, Zack Green, Sarah Price, and Victoria Oxentine.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Charles E. Vines made a motion to approve the September 19, 2022 Executive Board minutes. Otis Church seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Highlights

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented the Financial Highlights as of September 30, 2022 (Attachment A) and reviewed year to date revenues versus expenditures and balances. Mrs. Page noted that the audit will hopefully be completed by October 31st and then will be presented at the December meeting. Mrs. Page is working with the auditors to ensure they have everything they need.

Mike Inscore made a motion to approve the Financial Highlights as of September 30, 2022. Otis Church seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE UPDATE

Cory Osborne, Director of Economic Recovery and Resilience presented a handout (Attachment B) overviewing the work his department is involved in. Mr. Osborne announced new funding available from the Treasury called the Local and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF). Mr. Osborne noted that all seven of the High Country counties are eligible for the funding since they are classified as revenue sharing counties. Mr. Osborne announced that counties must apply for this funding through the Treasury Portal by January 31, 2023, or they will lose the money. Mr. Osborne also announced a new hire for the department, Sarah Price has stepped into the Resiliency Planner role from the Area Agency on Aging department. Mr. Osborne discussed department activity and work for the future.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING UPDATE

Zack Green, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director presented a slideshow (Attachment C) reviewing the recent work of the AAA department. Mr. Green discussed recent staff transitions and new hires in the AAA. Mr. Green reviewed the Home and Community Care Block Grant, and that this ARPA funding will go directly to service providers in the region. Mr. Green also discussed

the ACL Falls Prevention Grant the AAA was recently awarded. This grant will help to expand programs region-wide for three years. Mr. Green also reviewed FY21 annual report highlights and noted that the volume of work for older adults in the region is high. Mr. Green noted several engagement opportunities available.

REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Julie Wiggins, Executive Director thanked department heads for their updates/presentations and hard work. Ms. Wiggins noted that as of October 31, 2022 all HCCOG staff positions will be filled. Ms. Wiggins announced that the roof replacement will begin this week. Ms. Wiggins also announced that the salary study is still underway and extra employee interviews will be held tomorrow. The General Assembly is approaching long session, therefore the HCCOG Legislative Committee will begin working on priorities in the coming months.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Bill Osborne told the board that Mayor Wes Brinegar had a heart attack last week and underwent surgery at Baptist in Winston. Mr. Osborne requested prayers for Wes and his family during his recovery.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS


Todd McNeill, Executive Board Chairman told the board that Kevin Reece has been sick and, in the hospital, and that is why he is not in attendance this evening. Chairman McNeill also noted that he is now serving as Committee Chair for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and Dennis Aldridge is now the NCACC District 14 Director. Chairman McNeill discussed an opening for a board of directors' member on the NCACC Risk Pool Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

Victoria Oxentine, Communications Manager noted that the October 2022 ReCOGnition was now published and thanked everyone for their regional submissions.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other comments or business, Otis Church made a motion to adjourn. Tom Hartman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.



Chairman, Todd McNeill



Clerk to the Board, Victoria Oxentine

Date 12-19-22