

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MAY 15, 2023
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) met May 15, 2023, 7:00pm, at the Watauga County Agricultural Conference Center in Boone. The following members were present at the meeting: Brenda Lyerly, Stoney Greene, Jeff Whitson, Mike Inscore, Timmy Evans, Bill Wheeler, Dennis Aldridge, Larry Fontaine, Kelly Melang, Steve Pitman, Jim Blevins, Rocky Buchanan, Tom Hartman, Tim Futrelle, and Doug Matheson. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Jeff Hedrick, Julie Wiggins, Julie Page, Phil Trew, Zack Green, Cory Osborne, Sia Beasley, Tatiana Magee, and Victoria Oxentine.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Vice-Chairman Matheson welcomed everyone to the High Country Council of Governments May Executive Board meeting. Vice-Chairman Matheson called on to Dennis Aldridge to lead the invocation and Stoney Greene to lead the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Stoney Greene made a motion to approve the April 17, 2023 Executive Board minutes. Tim Futrelle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Highlights

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented the Financial Highlights as of April 30, 2023 (Attachment A) and reviewed year to date revenues versus expenditures and balances. Mrs. Page noted that the unassigned fund balance will meet our resolution this fiscal year. Mrs. Page announced that she will be presenting the TPSA Audit Contract at the June meeting. Mike Inscore made a motion to approve the Financial Highlights as of April 30, 2023. Stoney Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget Amendment #5

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented Budget Amendment #5 (Attachment A1) which is a correction for the Workforce Development department. Budget Amendment #5 is an increase of \$10,549.00 for the WIOA Out of School Youth Funds. Tom Hartman made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #5. Tim Futrelle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING HEALTH PROMOTION UPDATE

Sia Beasley, PhD., Health Promotion Specialist presented a slideshow (Attachment B) overviewing the Community Living Grant which is focusing on fall prevention in the High Country region. The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is partnering with Appalachian State University over a three-year period. Ms. Beasley discussed current progress and goals going into year two of the grant.

DIGITAL INCLUSION PLAN CONSIDERATION

Tatiana Magee, GIS Tech & Planner gave an overview of the Digital Inclusion Plan for the High Country (Attachment C) and presented a slideshow (Attachment C1) and handout (Attachment C2) with more detailed information. Ms. Magee noted that HCCOG is contracting through BANDNC, and funding for the digital inclusion is being implemented from NCSECU for

Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga and Wilkes counties, and from Dogwood Health Trust for Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties. Ms. Magee reviewed digital inclusion recommendations for the region and asked for board consideration to adopt the plan. Tim Futrelle made a motion to adopt the Digital Inclusion Plan. Stoney Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FY2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Julie Wiggins, Executive Director gave an overview of the FY2024 Budget Message (Attachment D) via a slideshow (Attachment D1). Ms. Wiggins discussed positions contingent on grant funding, limited means of accruing fund balance, fringe, and indirect rates, and that the dues/match is critical to leveraging our federal grants. Ms. Wiggins presented highlights of the FY2024 budget including paying for an updated Strategic Plan and the Pay Class Study.

REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Julie Wiggins, Executive Director announced that the date for this year's Annual Banquet has changed to Friday, October 6, 2023 at the Grandview Ballroom on Appalachian State University campus. Ms. Wiggins also asked if board members knew of potential sponsors for the event to please let her know. Ms. Wiggins announced that she has been given a six-week projection for office repairs to be completed. Ms. Wiggins also noted that Phil Trew, Planning and Development Director received an ARC award last month in Washington DC.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Stoney Greene noted that the NASCAR All-Star Race and festivities would take place in Wilkes County this week. Dennis Aldridge announced that the NCACC regional meeting will be held in Wilkesboro.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

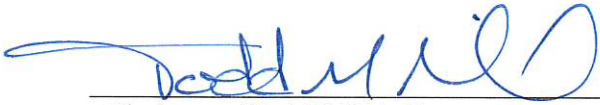
Doug Matheson, Vice-Chairman asked the board to remember Tom Hartman as he is having a procedure done in June. Vice-Chairman Matheson also announced that there is an opening for the NC League of Municipalities District 10 Director.

OTHER BUSINESS

Victoria Oxentine, Communications Manager announced that the June 19, 2023 Executive Board meeting will be held back at the Blue Ridge Energy (BREMCO) Community Room located at 2491 U.S. Hwy 421 S South, Boone, NC 28607. Julie Wiggins, Executive Director announced that Wes Brinegar could not be here tonight due to a procedure but is doing well and that Charles E. Vines was unable to attend due to a doctor's appointment with his wife.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other comments or business, Mike Inscore made a motion to adjourn. Stoney Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.



Chairman, Todd McNeill



Clerk to the Board, Victoria Oxentine

Date 6/19/23