

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 16, 2023  
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) met October 16, 2023, 6:00pm, in the HCCOG Board Room in Boone. The following members were present at the meeting: Charles E. Vines, Timmy Evans, Otis Church, Bill Wheeler, Dennis Aldridge, Larry Fontaine, Steve Pitman, JoAnn Royal, Wes Brinegar, Tom Hartman, Tim Futrelle, Doug Matheson, and Todd McNeill. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Jim Youngquist, Wendell Lawrence, Julie Wiggins, Julie Page, Cory Osborne, Zack Green, 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 October Executive Board meeting. Chairman McNeill led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance and called on Dennis Aldridge to lead the invocation.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Charles E. Vines made a motion to approve the September 18, 2023 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, 2023 (Attachment A) and reviewed year to date revenues versus expenditures and balances.

**Budget Amendment #1**

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented Budget Amendment #1 (Attachment A1) which is an increase of \$23,937 in Planning & Development for NC Transportation, a decrease in the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of \$106,758, and an increase of \$68,139 in Workforce Development. In total, \$14,682 decrease in the total budget.

Wes Brinegar made a motion to approve the Financial Highlights as of September 30, 2023 and Budget Amendment #1. Tom Hartman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Julie Wiggins, Executive Director noted that the Strategic Planning process has been very helpful and that she looks forward to working on the goals with the Executive Board and staff. Ms. Wiggins discussed recent meetings she has been a part of pertaining to our space in the medical world with the AAA and The Flood Coalition with Economic Recovery and Resilience (ER&R). Cory Osborne, ER&R Director will be scheduling meetings soon pertaining to The Flood Coalition.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**

Jim Youngquist and Wendell Lawrence from SERDI presented their preliminary recommendations (Attachment B) for the Strategic Plan. Mr. Youngquist and Mr. Lawrence reviewed 6 goals they recommended based on the focus group sessions and online surveys held in September. Board members discussed certain goals in further detail. Mr. Youngquist and Mr. Lawrence will add the notes from this discussion to the final goals and send back to Julie for the board to adopt.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Tom Hartman asked the board to remember the family of Rennie Brantz. Dennis Aldridge announced that he will be having shoulder surgery in November and that he participated in a Drug Crisis Roundtable meeting recently. Doug Matheson discussed a recent Risk Management retreat and ETNA insurance rollout in 2025. Wes Brinegar thanked HCCOG staff for hosting a wonderful Annual Banquet.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no other comments or business, Wes Brinegar made a motion to adjourn. Larry Fontaine seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Todd McNeill  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board, Victoria Oxentine

Date 11/20/23