MINUTES

UPPER COASTAL PLAIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

# October 18, 2022

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobbie Jones, Chairman Mayor Town of Princeville

Dia Denton, Secretary/Treasurer County Manager Halifax County

James Alston Mayor Town of Castalia

Randy Beale Mayor Town of Woodland

Fred Belfield Commissioner Nash County

Roy Bell Mayor Town of Garysburg

Dillon Bissette Commissioner Town of Bailey

Delane Bryant At-Large Board Member Edgecombe County

Eddie Coats At-Large Board Member Nash County

Beverly Davis Commissioner Town of Sharpsburg

Mark Frohman At-Large Board Member Nash County

Doris Garner Mayor Town of Weldon

Deborah James Mayor Town of Gaston

Matthew Lassiter Commissioner Town of Jackson

Brenda Lucas Commissioner Town of Spring Hope

Martha Lucas Commissioner Town of Momeyer

Sherry Lucas Commissioner Wilson County

Gerry Lynch Mayor Town of Conetoe

Tawanda Moore Mayor Town of Elm City

Joshua Pair At-Large Board Member Northampton County

Julian Phillips County Manager Northampton County

Esterine Pitt Town Administrator Town of Whitakers

Cathy Scott At-Large Board Member Halifax County

Tracy Shearin Town Administrator/Clerk Town of Red Oak

Barbara Simmons At-Large Board Member Halifax County

Robert Sykes Mayor Pro-Tem Town of Hobgood

Leo Taylor Mayor Pro-Tem Town of Tarboro

Charles Tyner Board Chairman Northampton County

\*If your name is missing, you may not have been included in the roll call. Please let us know so we can make that correction.

**MEMBERS PRESENT BY PROXY**

Eddie Braxton Mayor Town of Scotland Neck

Brenda Brown Mayor Town of Nashville

Elaine Saunders Commissioner Town of Saratoga

Stacie Shatzer County Manager Nash County

Emily Turner Mayor Town of Macclesfield

Ralph Webb Commissioner Edgecombe County

John White Mayor Town of Halifax

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Stephen Barcelo Mayor Pro-Tem Town of Littleton

Michael Bell Council Member City of Wilson

Miranda Boykin, Vice-Chair Mayor Town of Sims

Eric Evans (Alt. attended) Manager Edgecombe County

Carl Ferebee (Alt. attended) Mayor Pro-Tem City of Roanoke Rapids

Steven Flythe Commissioner Town of Lasker

Reginald Harris At-Large Board Member Wilson County

Wilbert Harrison Mayor Town of Speed

Jeff Johnson Mayor Town of Lucama

Andre’ Knight Council Member City of Rocky Mount

Geraldine Langford Mayor Town of Seaboard

Marshall Lassiter Manager Town of Severn

Luther Lewis, Jr. Mayor Town of Middlesex

Coley Rhodes Mayor Town of Stantonsburg

Mondale Robinson Mayor Town of Enfield

Mack Smith Mayor Town of Black Creek

Denise Stinagle (Alt. attended) Manager Wilson County

Barbara Taylor Commissioner Town of Pinetops

Jackie Vick (Alt. attended) Mayor Town of Dortches

Gail Wade Mayor Pro-Tem Town of Conway

Reginald White Mayor Town of Rich Square

Tim Wiggs At-Large Board Member Wilson County

**STAFF**

Robert Hiett Executive Director

Carisa Rudd Workforce Development Business Services Manager

Linda Barfield Assistant Area Agency on Aging Director

Mark Hill Finance Director

Kelly Lancaster Assistant Finance Director

Ben Farmer Planning and Development Services Director

Kelly Skinner Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board

Alexis Whitley Administrative Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jones called the meeting of the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments Board of Directors to order at 6:45 p.m. He welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for taking the time to attend. He introduced special guests in attendance which included Dr. Stephen Loyd, (guest speaker), Debby Futrell, and several other employees of Area L AHEC. Roll was called and attendance was duly noted.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Jones called for a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items which included approval of the August 16, 2022 meeting minutes, Finance Reports June 2022 to August 2022, Proposed Asset Disposition Policy, Workforce Development Budget Amendment, CEDS 2022 Annual Update, Adoption of the UCPCOG CEDS 2023-2027, and Acceptance of FEMA BRIC Grant on behalf of Edgecombe County. Chairman Jones called for a Motion to approve the consent agenda items. A Motion was made by Mr. Greg Browning and seconded by Mr. Roy Bell. All voted in favor. The Motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

**SPEAKER PRESENTATION**

We were pleased to have Dr. Stephen Loyd, who is a physician from Nashville, TN and is in recovery from an opiate addiction. His goal is to teach people about resources to help with opioid addiction and recovery. He reported that North Carolina will be receiving $750 million over the next 15 years. Most of this money will go to the Counties. The task ahead of us now is to decide how this money would be best spent. He suggested starting with the judicial system and the hospitals. He stated that success with substance use disorders is not dependent on the person, but dependent on the system of care.

He shared several helpful resources that show data broken down by Counties. These included these two helpful websites: [Recovery Ecosystem Index Map (norc.org)](https://url.emailprotection.link/?b0eM4QWY2Cp41MdFRsYPylpym6doI22zKuTu1AS0m97F-c2pOQR8FjtgD7ShbDjgbGGottNuzZ4zvzNzz8UvlLw~~); and [Data Dashboard - NC Payment Schedule - North Carolina Opioid Settlements (ncopioidsettlement.org)](https://url.emailprotection.link/?bkQZ-1PgElMqzSeozOmY_Nc3MlWRa4Ch5zIzDq8eyejutXhXM1FS2Al9Qzj_jo7RcpOdMur4hMJKynF-croJ0BWPHqEIpf7Ie9QTrJsywq7w2onOWS4L10OCJgM4Rc8zC).

He urged anyone who needed additional information or who had questions to please contact him and he would be glad to help.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Jones reminded everyone of the upcoming annual banquet to be held on November 15, 2022, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Smith’s Pavilion in Dortches. He announced that we will be limited to invited guests only this year, no spouses.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Hiett began his report by calling the Board’s attention to the Executive Director’s report beginning on Page 21 of the agenda packet. He was pleased to announce that our COG received three National Excellence Awards, one for Aging (Resilient Leaders Initiative), one for PDS (Broadband Task Force) and one for Workforce Development (New Start Glow). He commended the staff for their efforts on all three of these awards.

Next, he discussed the regional digital literacy and inclusion project. This would help citizens increase their digital skills and have opportunities to find employment in the technology/knowledge job sectors. Our COG is the only COG on the eastern side of the state with a regional digital inclusion plan, and that may pave the way for it to serve as a lead entity if future funding opportunities arise.

Next, Mr. Hiett discussed the ongoing regional transportation initiatives, which seek to help our region in both workforce and aging specifically, as transportation challenges can be a barrier to job training, permanent employment, and access to critical serves located outside of city and/or county lines. We are still waiting on a firm date from DOT, and further updates will be forthcoming.

Lastly, Mr. Hiett reported that the COG and the TPWDB will be working with surrounding regions, the Institute for Emerging Issues at NC State University, and myFutureNC to co-host a meeting of local leaders in Greenville on Tuesday, October 25. The purpose of this event is to create future opportunities for collaboration among local leaders to increase educational attainment in their communities.

**IMPACT REPORTS**

**Aging Department – Linda Barfield, Assistant Aging Director**

Linda referred the Board to the Aging Impact report beginning on page 29 of the Agenda Packet. She also discussed the Senior Tarheel Legislature group which is an advocacy group for older adults in our region. She stated that we are currently recruiting members to join this important group. If you are interested, please contact either her or Mary Marlin.

**Planning and Development Services – Ben Farmer, PDS Director**

Ben called the Board’s attention to the PDS Impact Report beginning on Page 39 of the Agenda Packet and covered a few of the highlights. He discussed Disaster Recovery efforts, Regional recovery, Resilience, & ARPA efforts and reported that there will be several upcoming ARPA workshops. More information will be forthcoming. He briefly touched on three new affordable housing grant applications and gave an update on the Tri-COG Feeds program.

Lastly, Mr. Farmer thanked the Board for adopting the new CEDS and invited all present to please take the time to read the CEDS in its entirety once it is posted on our website.

**Workforce Development – Carisa Rudd, Workforce Business Services Manager**

Carisa referred the Board to the TPWDB Impact Report located on Page 49 of the Agenda Packet. She gave updated numbers that were not available at the time of printing. She also reported that the unemployment rate has risen slightly to 6.3%. Lastly, she gave an update on the National Dislocated Worker Grant (QVC). She reported that several people have gained employment, some have retired, and some are still seeking employment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Jones announced that our next meeting will be held in person on October 18th at the Brown auditorium at Nash Community College and called for a Motion to adjourn. A Motion was made by Mr. Greg Browning and seconded by Ms. Brenda Lucas. All voted in favor. There were none opposed. The Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

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Bobbie Jones, Chairman Dia Denton, Secretary/Treasurer