

MINUTES
UPPER COASTAL PLAIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 16, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobbie Jones, Chairman	Mayor	Town of Princeville
Miranda Boykin, Vice-Chair	Mayor	Town of Sims
James Alston	Mayor	Town of Castalia
Fred Belfield	Commissioner	Nash County
Michael Bell	Council Member	City of Wilson
Roy Bell	Mayor	Town of Garysburg
Phillip Boone	Alternate Member	Town of Dortches
Eddie Braxton	Mayor	Town of Scotland Neck
Brenda Brown	Mayor	Town of Nashville
Gregory Browning	Alternate Member	City of Roanoke Rapids
Delane Bryant	At-Large Board Member	Edgecombe County
Mark Frohman	At-Large Board Member	Nash County
Doris Garner	Mayor	Town of Weldon
Ophelia Gould-Faison	Alternate Member	Town of Littleton
Ron Hunt	County Manager	Wilson County
Jenny Hinnant	Commissioner	Town of Conetoe
Meredith Holdford	Commissioner	Halifax County
Deborah James	Mayor	Town of Gaston
Geraldine Langford	Mayor	Town of Seaboard
Marshall Lassiter	Commissioner	Town of Severn
Matthew Lassiter	Commissioner	Town of Jackson
Brenda Lucas	Commissioner	Town of Spring Hope
Martha Lucas	Commissioner	Town of Momeyer
Sherry Lucas	Commissioner	Wilson County
Tawanda Moore	Mayor	Town of Elm City
Joshua Pair	At-Large Board Member	Northampton County
Coley Rhodes	Mayor	Town of Stantonsburg
Sandra Russ	Commissioner	Town of Red Oak
Stacie Shatzer	County Manager	Nash County
Ralph Webb	Commissioner	Edgecombe County
Jean Wooten-Jiles	Commissioner	Town of Macclesfield

*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.

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MEMBERS PRESENT BY PROXY

Dia Denton	County Manager	Halifax County
Esterine Pitt	Town Administrator	Town of Whitakers
Cathy Scott	At-Large Board Member	Halifax County
Barbara Simmons	At-Large Board Member	Halifax County

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Randy Beale	Mayor	Town of Woodland
Vicky Bennett	At-Large Board Member	Northampton County
Dillon Bisette	Commissioner	Town of Bailey
Eddie Coats	At-Large Board Member	Nash County
Beverly Davis	Commissioner	Town of Sharpsburg
Dia Denton, Secretary/Treasurer	County Manager	Halifax County
Eric Evans	Manager	Edgecombe County
Carl Ferebee (Alt attended)	Mayor Pro-Tem	City of Roanoke Rapids
Dannie Flanary	Mayor	Town of Hobgood
Steven Flythe	Commissioner	Town of Lasker
Reginald Harris	At-Large Board Member	Wilson County
Jeff Johnson	Mayor	Town of Lucama
Andre' Knight	Council Member	City of Rocky Mount
Luther Lewis, Jr.	Mayor	Town of Middlesex
Julian Phillips	County Manager	Northampton County
Mondale Robinson	Mayor	Town of Enfield
Elaine Saunders	Commissioner	Town of Saratoga
Mack Smith	Mayor	Town of Black Creek
Barbara Taylor	Commissioner	Town of Pinetops
Charles Tyner	Board Chairman	Northampton County
Jackie Vick (Alt. attended)	Mayor	Town of Dortches
Bobby Wheeler	Town Administrator	Town of Speed
Reginald White	Mayor	Town of Rich Square
Tim Wiggs	At-Large Board Member	Wilson County
Othar Woodard	Mayor Pro-Tem	Town of Tarboro
Stewart Woodard	Mayor Pro-Tem	Town of Conway

GUESTS

Carmelitia Coleman	Commissioner	Town of Seaboard
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Jennifer Cox	Commissioner	Town of Weldon
Thomas Everett	Town Administrator	Town of Scotland Neck
Tamica Gray	Town Clerk	Town of Whitakers
Marla Jerman	Planning & Adj. Board Chair	Town of Seaboard
Steve Mooring	Alternate Board Member	Town of Stantonsburg

STAFF

Robert Hiett	Executive Director
Michael Williams	Workforce Development Program Director
Kelly Lancaster	Finance Director
Rhonda Sommer	Assistant Finance Director
Mary Marlin	Aging Director
Kelly Skinner	Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board
Ginger Morris	Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bobbie 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 new Board member Meredith Holdford, Town of Halifax, and special guests in attendance. 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 the approval of the meeting Minutes from October 17, 2023, the September, October, and November, 2023 financial reports, approval of the Workforce Development budget amendment, approval of the Aging Services budget amendment, approval of the FY2022-2023 financial audit including approval of the corrective action response, approval of the audit services contract extension, approval of the UCP brownfields coalition, approval of the NCDIT digital champion grant application and approval of the 2024 – 2026 EDA partnership planning investment. A Motion was made by Ms. Delane Bryant and seconded by Mr. Joshua Pair. All voted in favor. The Motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

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ACTION ITEMS

Approval of FY 2023 Audit – Ms. Kelly Lancaster, Finance Director

Mr. Stuart Hill with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co, P.A. presented the audit results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. He referred the Board to the summary report on page 32 of the agenda packet and reviewed the information. There being no questions, Chairman Jones called for a Motion to accept the audit report. A Motion was made by Mr. Eddie Braxton and seconded by Mr. Gregory Browning. There were no opposing votes and the Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Jones congratulated Mr. Hiatt on concluding his two-year tenure as the Chair of the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government. He also congratulated Ms. Mary Marlin who is the new Chair of the North Carolina Area Agencies on Aging.

Chairman Jones discussed his concerns about our public education system. He shared some of the challenges that we are facing and possible ways that we can help. He stressed that good education begins at home.

NCARCOG UPDATE

Mr. Gregory Browning shared an update from the December 15th meeting of the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government. He shared that the guest speaker was Leslie Mazingo who is the CEO of Strategics Consulting and is helping to advocate for WIOA reauthorization and the Older Americans Act. He shared some of the challenges facing today’s workforce, including childcare. He also discussed the importance of networking in your communities.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Hiatt reported that he was please with the audit report.

He recognized Mr. Ralph Webb, who is the new chair of the Workforce consortium and offered him a chance to speak.

He reported that we are working with lobbyists on both the Workforce and Aging reauthorizations. Local control is what is at stake.

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He briefly discussed the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission and stressed that if any local governments are intending to apply for funding, please reach out to us as soon as possible so that we can assist with technical assistance and advocate on your behalf.

He also discussed the Digital Literacy Project grant and the significance this will have to our region and our workforce.

IMPACT REPORTS

Aging – Ms. Mary Marlin, Aging Director

Ms. Marlin called the Board’s attention to the Aging Impact report located on page 57 of the agenda packet. She also pointed out the Regional Needs Assessment Survey on Page 58 and urged everyone to give their feedback for our area plan. She briefly discussed the Home and Community Care Block Grant funding and the need to loosen some of the restrictions so that we can help more seniors with specific issues that they face. Lastly, she discussed the transportation voucher program and urged anyone needing assistance to call Michael Stanford.

Planning and Development Services – Ben Farmer, PDS Director

In the absence of Mr. Farmer, Mr. Hiatt shared the report. He called the Board’s attention to the report beginning on page 59 and hit a few highlights. He announced that we will be hosting another SECU public fellow from UNC Chapel Hill this summer. They will primarily focus on digital inclusion and food system planning efforts.

He also shared that the planning department is visiting local governments in the area and giving more information about the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission grant funding. If you are interested in a presentation, please reach out to Ben Farmer.

We are hosting a Coastal Energy Resilience Workshop on February 19th at Nash Community College. You should be receiving more information on that soon.

Lastly, he discussed several recent grant applications and urged all member governments to reach out to us for assistance if needed.

Workforce Development – Michael Williams, Workforce Development Director

Mr. Williams referred the Board to his Impact report located on Page 74 of the agenda packet.

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He reported that enrollment has increased due to people needing financial assistance with educational training. He welcomed Commissioner Webb as the new Chair of the Workforce Consortium and stated that he looks forward to working with him.

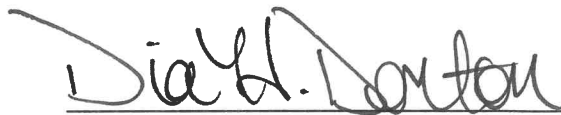
Lastly, he discussed new expansion and recruitment taking place in the region which will hopefully bring thousands of new jobs. This is where the digital inclusion grant comes into play, making sure that the workers are work ready and have the digital training and skills necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Jones announced that our next meeting will be held on March 19th at Nash Community College at 6:45 p.m. He then called for a Motion to adjourn. A Motion was made by Ms. Delane Bryant and seconded by Mr. Gregory Browning. All voted in favor. There were none opposed. The Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.



Bobbie Jones, Chairman



Dia Denton, Secretary/Treasurer