

MINUTES
UPPER COASTAL PLAIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 21, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobbie Jones, Chairman	Mayor	Town of Princeville
Miranda Boykin, Vice-Chair	Mayor	Town of Sims
Dia Denton, Secretary/Treasurer	County Manager	Halifax County
Randy Beale	Mayor	Town of Woodland
Fred Belfield	Commissioner	Nash County
Roy Bell	Mayor	Town of Garysburg
Phillip Boone	Alternate Member	Town of Dortches
Gregory Browning	Alternate Member	City of Roanoke Rapids
Delane Bryant	At-Large Board Member	Edgecombe County
Paolo Ceyrolles	At-Large Board Member	Wilson County
Beverly Davis	Commissioner	Town of Sharpsburg
Mark Frohman	At-Large Board Member	Nash County
Ophelia Gould-Faison	Alternate Member	Town of Littleton
Jenny Hinnant	Commissioner	Town of Conetoe
Meredith Holdford	Commissioner	Halifax County
Sammy Hopkins	Mayor	Town of Whitakers
Deborah James	Mayor	Town of Gaston
Currie Joyner	At-Large Board Member	Wilson County
Richard Joyner	Council Member	City of Rocky Mount
Geraldine Langford	Mayor	Town of Seaboard
Marshall Lassiter	Commissioner	Town of Severn
Matthew Lassiter	Commissioner	Town of Jackson
Luther Lewis, Jr.	Mayor	Town of Middlesex
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
Steve Morring	Council Member	Town of Stantonsburg
Victoria Newcombe	Mayor	Town of Rich Square
Joshua Pair	At-Large Board Member	Northampton County
Julian Phillips	County Manager	Northampton County
Mondale Robinson	Mayor	Town of Enfield
Cathy Scott	At-Large Board Member	Halifax County
Stacie Shatzer	County Manager	Nash County

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Barbara Simmons	At-Large Board Member	Halifax County
Barbara Taylor	Commissioner	Town of Pinetops
Walter Wells	Mayor Pro-Tem	Town of Bailey
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.

MEMBERS PRESENT BY PROXY

Brenda Brown	Mayor	Town of Nashville
Eddie Coats	At-Large Board Member	Nash County
Ralph Webb	Commissioner	Edgecombe County

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

James Alston	Mayor	Town of Castalia
Michael Bell	Council Member	City of Wilson
Vicky Bennett	At-Large Board Member	Northampton County
Dillon Bissette	Commissioner	Town of Bailey
Eddie Braxton	Mayor	Town of Scotland Neck
Eric Evans	Manager	Edgecombe County
Dannie Flanary	Mayor	Town of Hobgood
Steven Flythe	Commissioner	Town of Lasker
Doris Garner	Mayor	Town of Weldon
Ron Hunt	County Manager	Wilson County
Jeff Johnson	Mayor	Town of Lucama
Coley Rhodes (Alt attended)	Mayor	Town of Stantonsburg
Sandra Russ	Commissioner	Town of Red Oak
Elaine Saunders	Commissioner	Town of Saratoga
Mack Smith	Mayor	Town of Black Creek
Charles Tyner	Board Chairman	Northampton County
Jackie Vick (Alt. attended)	Mayor	Town of Dortches
Bobby Wheeler	Town Administrator	Town of Speed
Othar Woodard	Mayor Pro-Tem	Town of Tarboro
Stewart Woodard	Mayor Pro-Tem	Town of Conway

GUESTS

Carmelita Coleman	Commissioner	Town of Seaboard
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Jennifer Cox	Commissioner	Town of Weldon
Lois Elbert	Town Clerk	Town of Sims
Tamica Gray	Town Clerk	Town of Weldon
Marla Jerman	Planning and Adj. Board	Town of Seaboard
Doris Lindsey	Mayor Pro-Tem	Town of Whitakers

STAFF

Robert Hiatt	Executive Director
Michael Williams	Workforce Development Program Director
Kelly Lancaster	Finance Director
Rhonda Sommer	Assistant Finance Director
Mary Marlin	Aging Director
Ben Farmer	Planning and Development Services 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 members Paolo Ceyrolles (Wilson County), Walter Wells (Town of Bailey), Currie Joyner (Wilson County) and Sammy Hopkins (Town of Whitakers) 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 March 19, 2024, approval of February 2024 and March 2024 financial reports, approval of the AAA Area Plan, approval of the NCORR Regional Housing Needs Assessment, approval of the Workforce Development Consortium Agreement and approval of the UCPCOG Personnel Policy Manual update. A Motion was made by Ms. Barbara Simmons and seconded by Ms. Tawanda Moore. All voted in favor. The Motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

ACTION ITEMS

FY24 – 25 Proposed Budget and Public hearing Date – Kelly Lancaster – Finance Director

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Ms. Lancaster presented the Fiscal year 2024 – 2025 proposed budget for review. She explained that overall funding reflected in this proposed budget is reduced from the FY23 budget due to expiration of ARPA funding and based on estimates of known revenues at this time. After a few questions, Chairman Jones called for a Motion to approve the proposed budget and set the date for the public hearing. A Motion was made by Mr. Gregory Browning and seconded by Mr. Mark Frohman. All voted in favor and the proposed budget was approved and the public hearing date was set for June 18, 2024.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Gregory Browning, Nominating Committee Chair

Mr. Browning reported that generally the Vice-Chair moves up to assume the position of Board Chair and the current Secretary/Treasurer moves up to assume the position of Vice-Chair. He was happy to announce that both Miranda Boykin and Dia Denton had graciously agreed to serve. After much deliberation, the nominating committee has agreed to appoint Mr. James Alson as the incoming Secretary/Treasurer, pending Board approval. There being no discussion, Chairman Jones called for a Motion to approve the appointment. A Motion was made by Mr. Fred Belfield and seconded by Ms. Sherry Lucas. The motion carried unanimously.

NCARCOG UPDATE

Mr. Gregory Browning shared an update from the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government. He gave a re-cap of the Forum meeting that was held in Charlotte in April, as well as the very productive Legislative Day that was held in Raleigh in June.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hiatt referred the Board to his Executive Director's Report beginning on Page 46 of the agenda packet. He highlighted a few items in his report. He reported that support is increasing for the prosperity zones. He referred the Board to House Bill 1007 located on page 54 of the agenda packet and stated that this bill does have bi-partisan support. Lastly, he shared information about an upcoming SOG workshop that may be of interest to Board members.

IMPACT REPORTS

Aging – Ms. Mary Marlin, Aging Director

Ms. Marlin called the Board's attention to the Aging Impact report located on page 66 of the agenda packet. She reminded everyone about the upcoming Regional Aging Conference which will be held on June 13, 2024, at Edgecombe Community College in Tarboro. She also stated

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that we are currently recruiting volunteers. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact her. Lastly, she reported that with ARPA funding ending, the Consumer Supported Agriculture boxes will end. Final deliveries will be in June.

Planning and Development Services – Ben Farmer, PDS Director

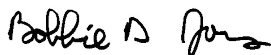
Mr. Farmer called the Board’s attention to the Planning and Development Services Impact Report beginning on Page 67 of the agenda packet. He highlighted the department's new grant total which is \$29 million. He reported that the March Disaster Recovery training held at Nash Community College in May was very well attended and very productive. He also announced that they will be hiring another Climate Action Corps member who will begin in September. There is more information on the flyer on page 73 of the agenda packet.

Workforce Development – Michael Williams, Workforce Development Director

Mr. Williams called the Board’s attention to the Workforce Development Impact Report on Pages 74 - 76 of the agenda packet. He reviewed the unemployment rates and trends and LMI data for March, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Jones announced that our next meeting will be held on June 18, 2024, in the Brown Auditorium on the campus of 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 Ms. Barbara Simmons. All voted in favor. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.



Bobbie Jones, Chairman



Dia Denton, Secretary/Treasurer