

**Meeting of  
Land-of-Sky Regional Council  
June 25, 2014**

**MINUTES**

- I. Call-to-Order – Justin Hembree called the meeting to order.
- II. Invocation – Brenda Mills
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call – Justin Hembree called the roll and the following members were present: Denise Braine, Glen Enggram, Esther Manheimer, Nelson Smith, Larry Harris, Anne Coletta, Mark Biberdorf, Barbara Volk, Alison Melnikova, Darhyl Boone, Lawrence Ponder, Letta Jean Taylor, Dottie Sherrill, Kathe Harris, Simone Bouyer, Brenda Mills, Mark Burrows, and George Morosani. Other guests included David Huskins (NC Association of Regional Councils)), Ted Stiger (NADO) and Brian Pahle with the City of Hendersonville. A quorum was announced.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda – Mark Burrows made a motion to accept the Agenda with no modifications. George Morosani seconded the motion which was approved with no further discussion.
- VI. Public Comment –
  - A. FY 2014/15 Budget Hearing - Motion to open the Public Hearing for the FY2014/15 budget was made by Brenda Mills and a second was provided by Anne Coletta and approved with no further discussion. No public comment was forthcoming during the hearing. Brenda Mills made a motion to close the public budget hearing and Anne Coletta seconded the motion which was approved without further discussion.
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests – Justin Hembree stated there would be two presentations at today's meeting and the special guests were those presenters who would be recognized during that portion of the meeting.
- VIII. Chairman's Comments & Roundtable –

Barbara Volk shared that the budget passed without comment during the public hearing so the budget is passed and things are in full swing in Hendersonville. Mark Biberdorf shared that the move has been made into the new town hall in Fletcher and stated that everyone was real happy to be in the new building. A ribbon-cutting for the new town hall will be held on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Alison Melnikova shared that Laurel Park has passed their budget. Esther Manheimer shared that Asheville passed its budget at the City Council meeting on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned, on a regional note, that the City of Asheville has been working with Chuck McGrady, a representative from Hendersonville, to hammer out a compromise on a new, independent airport authority and some headway has been made on the bill which is still circulating through a couple of committees: Buncombe and Henderson Counties and the City of Asheville each would appoint one (1) elected official to the new board when authorized. Anne Coletta shared that Flat Rock passed its budget with no tax increase. Dottie Sherrill shared that Weaverville passed its budget with a 2 cent tax increase raising its valuation to .42 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Lawrence Ponder shared that Marshall passed its budget with a 2% tax increase. He mentioned the big yard sale and another group bicycle race recently held, which is becoming a more frequent occurrence.
- IX. Approval of Minutes from the May Regular Meeting– May Council meeting minutes were made available at the meeting. George Morosani made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Esther Manheimer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.

- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items – Including: A. May FY 2013-14 Treasurer’s Report; B. Aug. and Sept. Meeting Dates; C. FY2014/15 Family Caregiver Support Program Contract; and D. Confidentiality Policy. Barbara Volk made a motion to accept the consent items and Mark Burrows seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- XI. Presentations/Recognition –
- A. NC Tomorrow Overview – David Huskins of the NC Association of Regional Councils provided Council with some background on the Council of Governments system in North Carolina. He informed that COGs do some really great things to provide services which help member governments do things they wouldn’t be able to do because of budgetary constraints. He shared that COG directors got together awhile back and determined that there was a need to do something that would have a state-wide impact. Economic Development came to the forefront during that discussion since at that time; the state did not have a state-wide comprehensive economic development plan. Work soon began with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in Washington, DC, the NC Department of Commerce, Community Development Division and the SAS Institute of Cary, NC. While many economic development plans have been developed, those have differing standards. The need was for uniform guidelines/standards for economic development strategies. Sixteen individual economic strategies were rolled up into one state-wide economic development plan with the assistance of \$50,000 grants to the Regional Councils from EDA. The Executive Summary from the NC Tomorrow Plan can be found here: <http://www.ncregions.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/NC-Tomorrow-Executive-Summary.pdf>
- B. What’s Happening on “The Hill” – Ted Stiger, Legislative Associate with NADO provided Council with an update on developments with federal policy and legislative initiatives. He provided appropriation updates on key bills that LOSRC utilizes. He shared that North Carolina is looked to by other states for our good use of federal funding initiatives. He informed Council that the congressional to-do list includes twelve appropriation bills that need to be done. He mentioned also that the federal Highway Trust fund has to be replenished in order for it to avoid bankruptcy. Congress will most likely pass a Continuing Resolution in order to fund some of the key legislative initiatives. Five bills have been through the full House Appropriations Committee; another two bills are awaiting full Committee review. The House passed the 2015 Commerce, Justice and Science Bill (CJS) which include the funding provided to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and utilized for planning requirements by the Regional Councils. In the Senate, four bills have been through full Committee and two bills through subcommittees. Senate rules can make it harder to get things done. At this time, Labor, HHS, and Energy and Water are rather stalled in the committee process. Three weeks ago, the Senate combined three bills through a substitute amendment- Agriculture, CJS, and T-HUD (Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies). To date over 30 amendments have been added to that bill and it has been pulled from the Floor due to lack of agreement on the amendments. Work is being done on an agreement (Sen. Reid and Sen. McConnell) to the amendments but so far no movement has been evident. Interior and Environment are proving to be contentious bills. Provided to Council was a breakdown of the EDA funding: two key programs that NADO advocates for are the Planning Grant Program which allows regions to do their planning program and the Public Works Program, both of which have funding increases. The hope is that the final bill will carry the funding increases. The ARC has proposed level funding for FY2015 and the agency has prevailed quite well during the past few years even with the Sequestration cuts. A quick update was provided on the Older Americans Act, which has currently passed out the Senate HELP Committee re-authorizing HHS Aging Programs and which includes the funding for the Area Agency on Aging programs including the SCSEP, although at this time an agreement has not been reached on the funding methodology for states in the bill. The bi-partisan Workforce Investment Act re-authorization bill is being considered today in the Senate and overall the bill, which has several amendments, re-authorizes core workforce programs with bi-partisan and bi-cameral agreement. The bill is fast-tracked in the Senate and the House has indicated that it will move quite quickly to get the bill on the President’s desk. NADO was key in advocating the maintenance of the current authorization of local workforce development areas. It was noted that the SCSEP was proposed to be

funded with PHS Evaluation Funding during 2015. Mention was also made of the upcoming mid-term elections which will have a lot of action as many key seats are up for re-election. North Carolina is expected to be one of the states where election outcomes will be hard to predict. NADO priorities include EDA funding for core programs, implementation for a new regional set-aside for rural development projects that are regional in scope for the USDA; and, MAP-21 Transportation which has expanded roles for Regions through the Regional Transportation Planning Organizations which are outside of MPO boundaries and passage of the re-authorized Workforce Investment Act. The presentation concluded with sharing that COGS are already doing these types of work as these are locally-driven, bottom-up approaches which NADO fully endorses.

XII. Old Business –

XIII. New Business –

- A. Technical Assistance Grant – Lake Lure Classical Academy – Kate O’Hara discussed that the Town of Lake Lure has solicited assistance from the Regional Brownfields Initiative to prepare and submit an application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a Cleanup Grant. The Town is working with the Lake Lure Classical Academy (LLCA), a 501c3 non-profit to remediate property previously used as a firing range. The Town has donated property in addition to this site to the school- a new charter school which will serve counties within a 10 –mile radius of Lake Lure. Ms. O’Hara informed Council that because Lake Lure is out of our Region, LOSRC contacted Isothermal Council of Governments, who has approved our request to assist the Town. Isothermal does not currently have a Brownfields Program. LOSRC will provide grant writing services to the LLCA during the period July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. If an EPA grant is awarded, LOSRC will contract with LLCA for grant management. Mark Burrows made a motion to approve the contract with the LLCA for the grant writing assistance in the amount not to exceed \$6,500 plus travel expense estimated at less than \$100. Denise Braine seconded the motion which was approved with no further discussion.
- B. Budget Amendment #6 – Peggy Barnes shared that the final budget amendment for the current fiscal year would bring the FY2013/14 budget to \$14,299,000 and the actual budget amendment is \$73,000 in Workforce Investment funds. A motion to adopt the budget amendment was made by Mark Burrows. George Morosani provided the second to the motion which was approved with no further discussion.
- C. FY0214/15 Budget Adoption – No changes were made to the budget which was presented at the May Council meeting and the total recommended budget to be adopted for FY2014/15 is \$11,469,768. Council was provided with information regarding the budgets adopted by grant programs and operated by LOSRC including the percentage change in funding from FY2013/14 to FY2014/15. It was noted that the FY2014/15 Budget is a very conservative budget which does not include any increase in member government dues. Dottie Sherrill made a motion to adopt the FY2014/15 Budget. Brenda Mills seconded the motion which was carried unanimously and with no further discussion.

XIV. Executive Director’s Report –

Justin Hembree shared with Council information that was made available at today’s meeting, including that the Friends of the River Awards is looking for sponsorships for the event coming up at the NC Arboretum on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014; the Compelling Case for a Natural Gas Vehicle Workshop with featured presenter Stephen Yborra coming up on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the WNC Ag Center; and, the Southeastern US Business Services Representatives Forum beginning June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at AB Tech/Enka. He also informed Council that they had membership plaques which could be picked up on their way out.

XV. Adjournment –