

Land of Sky Regional Council
October 24, 2018
Regular Meeting



Please mute all electronic devices, including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and recorders. Delegates are requested to state their names when moving on orders of business. Thank you!

AGENDA

Special Presentation of NADO Awards for West Next Generation Network Broadband Initiative- Economic and Community Development; The Asheville Terrace Community Health Worker Project- Aging Services, and, UpSkill WNC- Workforce Development (12:45pm)

- I. Call to Order (1:15pm)
- II. Invocation
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests
- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Roundtable
- IX. Approval of Minutes from the September Regular Meeting
- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items
 - A. September FY 2019 Treasurer's Report
- XI. Presentations/Recognition
 - A. Dashboard for Resiliency – Erica Anderson, Director of Economic and Community Development
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Executive Director's Report
 - A. Strategic Plan
 - B. Council Awards
 - C. Open House
 - D. Holiday Service Projects
- XIV. Important Dates
- XV. Adjournment



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** September Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes
- Item Number:** X. Approval of Minutes from the September Regular Meeting
- Responsible Party:** Zia Rifkin, Administrative Services
- Attachment(s):** Minutes from the September 2018 Meeting
- Background:** A quorum was present to conduct business at the September 2018 meeting and the minutes provide a recap of the special presentation made by State Senator Terry Van Duyn regarding moving municipal elections to even-numbered years in Buncombe County. The business meeting included a presentation by ECD Director, Erica Anderson on Community and Regional Resilience Planning.
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend acceptance of the September 2018 meeting minutes.
- Suggested Motion(s):** Move to approve the September minutes as submitted

**Meeting of
Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates
September 22, 2018**

Minutes

Special Presentation – Chair Harris introduced Senator Terry Van Duyn. The Senator shared information with the Board regarding holding municipal elections on even-numbered years for the municipalities in Buncombe County. She noted her opposition to the Legislature imposing district elections on the City of Asheville. She shared that someone came to her who represented the City, who was concerned that districting could allow extreme candidates to win odd-year elections, whose views would not be representative of the citizens. Based on those concerns, Senator Van Duyn reached out to all of the elected officials with the City to discuss moving elections to even numbered years. She shared that her goal was to facilitate whatever decision local officials want to do in this region. She noted that the process of writing the legislation has begun and she shared her intent to help local municipalities.

Discussion occurred regarding the Town of Black Mountain, where the majority of the Town Council would like to move to even year elections. Chair Harris wondered if it would be sufficient if at the next Town Council meeting a resolution was approved to move forward with the request to hold municipal elections on even numbered years. Senator Van Duyn affirmed that would be sufficient. She also shared about a bill that was passed this year to move all primary elections to March and to begin the filing period for candidates in December for elections the following November.

Discussion continued regarding the Senator's preference for when a bill might be introduced. Senator Van Duyn noted that a bill could be introduced in January of 2019. She shared her understanding that in terms of getting legislation passed, it is not necessary to have a resolution supporting even-numbered year municipal elections from each municipality in the LOS region. Chair Harris requested that the Senator provide some language for a resolution that would work for the purposes of developing a bill. The senator noted that the important thing is for her to be able to tell the senate that the municipalities in the LOSRC region support municipal elections on even-numbered years. She noted that one of the questions she would likely be asked in the Senate is if the region's municipalities support this move. Jerry VeHaun shared that it would be helpful to the Town of Woodfin if she could advocate with the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement to have fewer polling places as there are a couple in the Town that are not used. Vijay Kapoor shared that moving elections to an even year cycle would essentially give elected officials an additional year on their terms. He expressed appreciation to the Senator, as well. Chair Harris noted that it is not insignificant that there would be some savings for municipalities by moving municipal elections to even-numbered years. He noted that savings could be up to 50% of what is currently being expended on municipal elections. Vijay Kapoor noted that the cost would be shared with the County, reducing the overall cost to municipalities, and would be the cost that would be paid to hold elections in odd-numbered years. Senator Van Duyn noted that voters are the ones who determine the value of elections; she noted her willingness to facilitate what would be most helpful to the communities. Chair Harris noted that it could energize the voter base or de-emphasize the local elections. Al Root, Mayor of Weaverville, wondered what would happen if a town did not want to switch to even numbered years elections and the Senator noted that there has been a mood in the General Assembly (GA) to move all municipal elections to even numbered years. She noted that a resolution, whether in support of even-numbered year elections or against would be good to have. She shared that she would reach out to the NC League of Municipalities, as well, before proceeding. Justin Hembree shared that he would send out the language for a resolution to the municipalities. Alison Alexander shared that based on today's conversation, her municipality, the Town of Laurel Park, would probably discuss this soon. Forrest Gilliam shared that he would take today's information back to Madison County and he noted that the ability for the towns and Madison County to continue to share in the cost of local elections was important to the County.

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Larry Harris called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15pm.
- II. Invocation – Chairman Harris gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance – All stood as Chairman Harris led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- IV. Roll Call – Justin Hembree called the roll. The following members were present: Forrest Gilliam, Mike Hawkins, Vijay Kapoor, George Goosmann, Jonathan Kanipe, Larry Harris, Pat Christie, Ron Stephens, John Connet, Alison Alexander, Nancy Allen, Alice Lentz, Al Root, Jerry Vehaun, John Mitchell, Bob Tomasulo. The following guests were present: Senator Van Duyn, Michelle Kistner, Jim Fox. Justin Hembree announced a quorum was present to conduct business.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda – The agenda was presented for approval with no modification requested.
- George Goosmann moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jerry Vehaun seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.*
- VI. Public Comment –No comments were received from the public.
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests – Chairman Harris recognized Michelle Kistner (Senator Van Duyn's staff), Jim Fox (NEMAC).
- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Round Table –
- IX. Approval of Minutes from the August Regular Meeting – *George Goosmann moved to approve the minutes of the August 2018 meeting. Jerry Vehaun seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.*
- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items – The Consent Agenda, consisting of Item A. August FY 2019 Treasurer's Report was presented for consideration.
- Jerry Vehaun moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. George Goosmann seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.*
- XI. Presentations/Recognition –
- A. Community and Regional Resilience Planning in Action – Erica Anderson, Director of Economic and Community Development (ECD) shared about the Local Energy Assurance Plan, which was completed in 2012. She communicated that during the 2008 hurricane season the fuel lines to the region were interrupted. As a result, a regional effort was facilitated on how to better prepare for that type of scenario. Jim Fox with the National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center (NEMAC), shared details about resilience at the regional level and he shared data from NOAA and noted that with Hurricane Florence, which just impacted the state, billions and billions of dollars in damage was done. The federal government covers about 30% of the cost of damage and private insurance covers about 30% as well. Communities are now being told by Moody's that communities that don't have a disaster plan would no longer receive a Triple-A rating. He shared that the eastern part of the state has been having very active conversations about resiliency, which is looking at investing now to get to a higher baseline so that when a disaster occurs the fall is not as much off of the baseline. No jurisdictions have unlimited funds available so there is a need to determine the things that need to be invested in in order to reach that higher baseline level.

Erica Anderson shared that LOSRC has two designations: economic development district for the region for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and lead regional organization with the Appalachian Regional Commission. She noted that LOSRC is tasked with incorporating resiliency strategies in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). She also noted that the transportation planning bodies were incorporating resiliency into their comprehensive plans. Jim Fox communicated that our region is seeing the new realities, as this is a very different place than even ten years ago. Erica Anderson noted regional growth has been over 11% over the past five years. Housing costs are high and there has been much development and industry infill. Congestion on roads is increasing and traffic is much worse. Jim Fox shared that many factors come to bear on the resiliency of the region. Major threats to the LOS region include flooding, landslides, water shortages and wildfires. He noted that the region sees differential rainfall,

which has a direct relationship between flooding and landslides. Droughts are also a cause for concern and can impact the ability to provide drinking water and makes wildfires much more dangerous. He shared that business and economic development are very negatively impacted by flooding, landslides, etc. He also shared about the dangers of wildfires, which are mainly started by arson or brush fires. He noted that a lot of new home construction is happening on the hillsides, which are heavily impacted by wildfires and landslides. He also explained about fuel shortages due to pipeline disruptions (Colonial Pipeline). He shared that there is another fuel that we need to be very aware of- Natural Gas, which is brought into the state by pipelines (through Polk County). He noted that a resilience assessment looks at all of these pieces and conclusions from exposure assessments, which includes flooding exposure for retail properties; additionally, wildfire exposure is very high as is landslide exposure, etc.

Erica Anderson shared that the regional data has been assessed and currently discussion with communities has begun to see what the next steps are to develop a high level of regional resiliency. Jim Fox shared that commercial corridors tend to become the focus for vulnerabilities. He noted that since the 2004 floods, there are initiatives underway in the region to be proactive in building resilience. Erica Anderson shared that a next step includes adding a dashboard that could look at things at a regional level but also to hone in on the local municipalities; looking to provide tools so local communities can assess their threats and where to make investments.

Chair Harris shared that it is hard to know at the local level where to begin. So many infrastructures are already in place, which are not adequate that it is a challenging issue to get a hold of. Chair Harris requested assistance (provision of a workshop) to assist the Town of Black Mountain in updating its emergency management plan. Jim Fox noted that the process begins with a risk assessment. Once exposure can be looked at, a jurisdiction can begin the process of determining vulnerabilities. Erica Anderson suggested beginning the process by starting to look at the elements that emergency managers might want to hone in on and then fire, police ambulance, health departments; and then, to see where dashboard figures can start to play into it. Once a decision is made, the next step is to go deeper into the data. She noted that conversations would include property rights/citizens rights, etc.

Discussion occurred if resiliency was a regional or a local issue and both Erica Anderson and Jim Fox noted that it would begin at the regional level and move to the municipalities and jurisdictions. Jim Fox noted that it makes sense to do the work through LOSRC.

Discussion occurred about organization's role as a regional planning body. Jim Fox noted that the state has provided almost all the information needed for municipalities to develop disaster plans. The needs of the LOSRC region need to be taken into consideration since there are different issues for each region. He also noted that a lot of local jobs are being created as part of resiliency planning.

Chairman Harris suggested reviewing the dashboard at the next Board meeting on October 24 in order to continue the conversation about disaster planning and resiliency.

XII. Old Business –

XIII. New Business –

XIV. Executive Director's Report –

- A. NADO Innovation Awards - Justin Hembree shared that LOSRC has received three NADO awards this year for programs in Workforce Development (WFD), ECD, and Aging Services.
- B. Strategic Plan – Justin Hembree shared that the Strategic Planning Committee has begun and work is moving along.
- C. UNC School of Government Focus Group – LOSRC is hosting the meeting on September 26 from 9 to 10am.

- XV. Important Dates – The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, 2018. Also following the December awards meeting there will be a Holiday Open House.
- XIV. Adjournment – As there was no further business, Chair Harris adjourned the meeting.



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** September FY 2019 Treasurer's Report
- Item Number:** X. Consent Agenda, Item A
- Responsible Party:** Justin Hembree, Executive Director
- Attachment(s):** September FY 2019 Treasurer's Report
- Background:** Attached is the September FY 2019 Treasurer's Report. The report outlines year-to-date revenues and expenditures. Also included is cash balance informaton, fund balance reporting, and member dues information.
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend acceptance of the September FY 19 Treasurer's Report.
- Suggested Motion(s):** The Treasurer's Report, if not pulled, will be accepted as part of the motion to approve the consent agenda.

**Land of Sky Regional Council
Treasurer's Report
September, 2018**

	<u>Amount</u>	% of Budget
<u>YTD Report of Receipts & Expenditures</u>		
Total Annual Budget	\$ 12,522,101	
Year-to-Date Revenues	\$ 1,329,993	10.62%
Year-to-Date Expenditures	(1,717,198)	13.71%
Grant/Contract Cash Balance	<u>\$ (387,205)</u>	
Year-to-Date Target Percent		25.00%

Cash Balance Report

Total Cash Balance at beginning of month	\$ 2,603,418
Cash Received during month	301,095
Cash Expenditures for month	<u>(883,085)</u>
Total Cash Balance at end of month	<u>\$ 2,021,428</u>

Fund Balance Report at 6/30/17 (Audited)

Unassigned	\$ 1,252,476
Restricted-Stabilized by State Statute	1,087,503
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 2,339,979</u>

Assessments (Dues) Report

YTD Billed to Member Governments, 1st quarter	\$ 55,440
Collected to Date	<u>(24,739)</u>
Balance Due	<u>\$ 30,701</u>



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Subject: Executive Director's Report

Item Number: XIV. Executive Director's Report

Responsible Party: Justin Hembree, Executive Director

Attachment(s): None

Background: The following items will be presented as part of the Executive Director's Report:

- A. Strategic Plan
- B. Council Awards
- C. Open House
- D. Holiday Service Projects

Staff Recommendation: N/A.

Suggested Motion(s): N/A