

Land of Sky Regional Council  
February 24, 2016  
Regular Meeting



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

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- 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 January Regular Meeting
- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items
  - A. January FY2016 Treasurer's Report
- XI. Presentations/Recognition
  - A. Overview of Mountain Area Workforce Development & Current Initiatives-  
Nathan Ramsey, Workforce Director
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Executive Director's Report
  - A. Officers' Slate
  - B. Legislative Appreciation Luncheon
- XV. Important Dates
- XVI. Adjournment



## BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** January Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes
- Item Number:** IX. Approval of Minutes from the January Regular Meeting
- Responsible Party:** Zia Rifkin, Administrative Services
- Attachment(s):** Minutes from the meeting of January 2016
- Background:** Attached is the January 2016 Board of Delegates meeting minutes.
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend acceptance of the January meeting minutes.
- Suggested Motion(s):** Move to approve the January meeting minutes as submitted.

Meeting of  
Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates  
January 27, 2016

Minutes

- I. Call to Order - Mike Hawkins, First Vice Chair and Acting Chair, called the meeting to order. He thanked Henderson County and Commissioner Grady Hawkins for providing the wonderful meeting space and great hospitality.
- II. Invocation - Jonathan Kanipe gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance - Acting Chairman Hawkins led the Delegates and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Roll Call - The roll was called by Justin Hembree. The following Delegates were present: Denise Braine, Grady Hawkins, Larry Rogers, Mike Hawkins, Gwen Wisler, Jonathan Kanipe, Larry Harris, Charlie Landreth, Anne Coletta, Bob Davy, Barbara Volk, Dona Mennella, Alison Melnikova, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Brenda Mills, John Mitchell, George Morosani, Mark Burrows, and Charles Dickens. The following guests were present: April Riddle, Governor's Western Region Director, Cal Titus (STHL-HC), and Representative Chuck McGrady (NC House- District 117). It was announced that a quorum was present.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda - No modifications to the Agenda were made. Bob Davy moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Mark Burrows seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.  
Public Comment - Acting Chairman Hawkins called for any public comment. Hearing none, the public comment period was closed.
- VI. Recognition of Special Guests - Ms. Riddle, Representative McGrady and Mr. Titus were recognized by the Chairman who thanked them for being at today's meeting.
- VII. Chairman's Comments and Roundtable - Bob Davy- Shared that the Blue Ghost Brewery will be opening in the Town of Fletcher in the next month or so. More apartments are being built- Cane Creek Vistas will have 151 stand-alone units and will be going up behind Smiley's and another apartment complex will be opening soon with 91 units on Cane Creek Road at Highway 25. The Town will hold a chili cook-off and the Father/Daughter dance is coming up. Construction work will take place in the park to put in the gas lines that will feed the power plant. Anne Coletta- Shared that in the Village of Flat Rock the pavilions are going up at the park using a \$20,000 grant that was just received from the Community Foundation of Henderson County for those improvements. Grady Hawkins- Shared that a lot of time has been spent over the past few days communicating to the public that the County does not control road maintenance. Also the County's Library System joined the Cardinal System which is an online card catalog system. He shared also that the County staff just held a day-long retreat aimed at finding the \$100 million needed to build schools. Brenda Mills- Shared two opportunities available through the City of Asheville: the first was the City's Small, Minority and Women Owned Business Group- *Working on It* has free monthly learning and networking opportunities. Contact her for more information ([bmills@ashevilleenc.gov](mailto:bmills@ashevilleenc.gov)). On March 14<sup>th</sup> the Opportunities 2016 event will be held at the US Cellular Center in Asheville. The event provides an opportunity for small, women and minority-owned businesses to showcase their products to government agencies at all levels. Gwen Wisler- Shared that the City of Asheville just held its annual retreat for Council. Patrick Fitzsimmons- Shared that the Town of Weaverville has two new housing developments under constructions. The Town did not receive that much snow from the recent winter weather event. Charlie Landreth- Shared that there is a significant NCDOT project on Caldwell Street at Highway 64 through the City of Brevard which he was happy to see underway. He also shared that the City Council would hold its annual retreat tomorrow and Friday with facilitation provided by Justin Hembree and Danna Stansbury. Representative Chuck McGrady- Welcomed

everyone to his part of District 117 in Henderson County. April Riddle- Commented on the NCDOT situation regarding snow removal during the recent winter storm: the snow was so deep it couldn't be pushed with the trucks and the snow was coming down so fast that it was difficult for the road crews to keep up with the task of removal. North Carolina did have some fatalities from the winter storm, which included Madison and McDowell Counties. Larry Harris- Shared that the Town of Black Mountain held its open house for the Watershed Management Plan and he thanked Erica Anderson for helping to pull the plan together to assist with stormwater management issues in the Town. He shared also that he was pleased that the profile for the proposed I-40 interchange has changed. Charles Dickens- Shared that the Aging Advisory Council met in January in Black Mountain at the Marjorie McKune Center which according to the center's administrator, Frances Coates, has rooms available for outside groups looking for small meeting space. Also at the January meeting of the Aging Advisory Council, information was shared about the great work that the SHP (Senior Health Programs) Representatives have been doing through the Buncombe and Henderson Council's on Aging to help connect seniors to the healthcare they need. Barbara Volk- Shared that it was pretty quite in the City of Hendersonville until the storm hit- City workers did a good job clearing the roads and trash pickup was completed on Friday with Public Works staff (including the Director) pitching in to help get the trash collected. Jonathan Kanipe- Shared that the Town of Biltmore Forest weathered the storm fairly well and he expressed kudos to the Town's Public Works Department. The Town's IT upgrade was completed on Monday and the Home Recycling Program will be up and running within the next month. Dona Mennella- Shared that the Town of Laurel Park saw about a foot of snow. The Town's maintenance crews did a great job clearing the roads and they were finally able to rest yesterday (Tuesday). She also shared that the Town would have its retreat going on tomorrow.

- VIII. Approval of Minutes from the December Regular Meeting - The minutes of the December meeting were provided to Delegates prior to the meeting and contained in the Agenda packet. Larry Harris moved to approve the December minutes as presented. George Morosani seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.
- IX. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items - Mark Burrows moved to approve the Consent Agenda items including: A. December FY 2015 Treasurer's Report and B. Transportation Demand Model (TDM) Program Grant Application. Justin Hembree explained the Consent Agenda items including the TDM Program Resolution which was requested in order to apply for the FY2017 funding through NCDOT for the regional program. George Morosani seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.
- X. Presentations/Recognition -
- A. North Carolina Legislative Update - Acting Chairman Hawkins introduced Representative Chuck McGrady who shared that he was happy to be back and he thanked everyone for coming to Henderson County. He communicated that he would provide highlights from the 2015 Session as well as what to look forward to in the short session beginning in April; and how to effectively advocate for policy. Representative McGrady shared that the 2015 Session was amazingly productive as the General Assembly (GA) enacted a lot of very significant legislation. A fiscally responsible two-year State Budget was adopted (\$21.9 billion) which included increased funds for Education (5%); fully funded teacher assistants, community colleges, Opportunity Scholarships, textbooks, etc., and increased support for Community Health Services (for Mental Health). The GA also made changes to the allocation formula in the Powell Bill which brought more funding to Transportation causing NCDOT to move projects up to begin sooner. He continued that probably the most important piece of legislation that didn't get a lot of notice was HB-372 which reformed Medicaid funding in the State. He discussed that Buncombe and Henderson Counties are a mecca for healthcare and the region includes two big health systems- Mission and Pardee. The intent of the legislation is to get a good result, promote competition across the State and keep costs low as Medicaid is such a big piece of the healthcare system. Election law changes made during the 2015 session included moving the NC Primary to March to make the State more relevant to the Presidential election. Representative McGrady also provided information on the ConnectNC bond which is a \$2 billion bond that

will focus on rebuilding the State's infrastructure ([www.connect.nc.gov](http://www.connect.nc.gov)) including education, parks and recreation, and safety, and water and sewer systems.

Representative McGrady shared that he was also very proud of his constituents in Henderson County and the way the Duke Transmission Line controversy was dealt with and the substantive critique that was given to Duke. He shared that with regards to municipalities, local officials have great power- more than anything else, being effective in the GA is a matter of relationships. It's important to get to know your legislators and develop a working relationship with them. In general, legislators only pay attention to their district.

Legislators have differing communication styles and Representative McGrady shared that email was his preferred way to communicate with his constituents. Local officials can be among the most effective advocates for issues that impact them locally.

Commenting on the upcoming 2016 Session beginning in April, Representative McGrady shared that it will be a very short session. The GA will be available to respond if something comes up and the other capacity that the short session serves is to wrap up legislation with the hope of adopting the budget by the end of the fiscal year. He advised that he hope to be in his home district by July 4<sup>th</sup> and he asked for any questions. Bob Davy thanked Representative McGrady for his newsletter as it's really good and summarizes what's going on in Raleigh from a different perspective.

Discussion occurred regarding whether there was a WNC Caucus in the GA and Representative McGrady shared that there was up until the last session- WNC legislators come together when there is a need and it's nice to have folks paying attention to the western region which is a change from the past. Discussion also occurred about the CDBG funds and how those are awarded which favors the eastern part of the State. Work is being done to level the field with regards to how those funds are awarded.

Regarding the Powell funds, Representative McGrady discussed that Powell monies are not sufficient to deal with the road issues- the whole set of Transportation funding issues are still on the table with no movement of those being seen during the short session. Representative McGrady thanked Council for the opportunity to speak to the body today.

XI. Old Business -

XIII. New Business -

XIV. Executive Director's Report - Justin Hembree expressed appreciation to Henderson County for hosting the LOSRC Council of Delegates meeting at the beautiful Historic Courthouse and for their hospitality.

A. Nominating Committee - Justin Hembree shared with Delegates that it's getting to be the time of the year when volunteers for a Nominating Committee are sought in order to develop the Slate of Officers to present at the February Council of Delegates meeting as per the Bylaws. The Annual meeting occurs in March and is the meeting at which the Officers' Slate is elected. Mr. Hembree requested that Delegates not currently serving on the Executive Committee volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The following Delegates volunteered: Mark Burrows, Barbara Volk and Anne Coletta. Mr. Hembree thanked them for their willingness to serve on the committee and he communicated that he would be following up with them to develop the Slate of Officers for presentation at the February meeting. He shared also that at that meeting, nominations may be made from the floor.

Bob Davy shared that the Executive Committee is not a lot of extra work and that other than the meeting held prior to the Council of Delegates meeting; there are virtually no other meetings that Executive Committee members are involved with except, perhaps some conference call meetings. It's a really good way for Delegates to learn more about what's going on in the communities in the region.

XV. Important Dates -

NC Tomorrow Summit April 18 and 19, 2016, at the North Raleigh Hilton was announced.

XVI. Adjournment - Bob Davy moved to adjourn the meeting with no further business before the Council of Delegates. Mark Burrows seconded and the meeting stood adjourned.



## COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** January FY2016 Treasurer's Report
- Item Number:** X. Consent Agenda, Item A
- Responsible Party:** Vickie Thomas, Finance Director
- Attachment(s):** January FY2016 Treasurer's Report
- Background:** Attached is the January FY2016 Treasurer's Report. The report outlines year-to-date revenues and expenditures. Also included is cash balance information, fund balance reporting, and member dues information.
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend acceptance of January's FY2016 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  
January, 2016**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b><u>YTD Report of Receipts &amp; Expenditures</u></b>		
Total Annual Budget	<u>\$ 13,887,452</u>	
Year-to-Date Revenues	\$ 6,057,180	43.62%
Year-to-Date Expenditures	<u>(5,675,262)</u>	40.87%
Grant/Contract Cash Balance	<u>\$ 381,918</u>	
Year-to-Date Target Percent		58.33%

**Cash Balance Report**

Total Cash Balance at beginning of month	\$ 1,437,972
Cash Received during month	1,124,920
Cash Expenditures for month	<u>(972,705)</u>
Total Cash Balance at end of month	<u>\$ 1,590,187</u>

**Fund Balance Report at 6/30/14 (Audited)**

Unassigned	\$ 637,893
Nonspendable	450
Assigned for subsequent year's expenditures	304,599
Stabilization by State Statute	20,726
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 963,668</u>

**Assessments (Dues) Report**

YTD Billed to Member Governments, 2nd quarter	\$ 163,717
Collected to Date	<u>(153,797)</u>
Balance Due	<u>\$ 9,920</u>



## COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** Overview of Mountain Area Workforce Development & Current Initiatives
- Item Number:** XI. Presentations/Recognition; Item A.
- Responsible Party:** Nathan Ramsey, Director of Workforce Programs
- Attachment(s):** Nathan Ramsey Biography
- Background:** Nathan Ramsey, our region's Workforce Development Director, is this month's featured speaker. Workforce development plays an extremely vital role in the region's economic development strategies and future economic competitiveness. Nathan will provide an overview of current and future trends for workforce development and, in turn, economic development in the Land of Sky region.
- Many regional councils in NC are administrative units for local Workforce Development Programs. Since 2011, Mountain Area Workforce Development Programs have been administered through Land of Sky Regional Council and provide programs in the four-county region to serve disadvantaged youth, high school dropouts, unemployed and underemployed adults and displaced workers.
- Staff Recommendation:** N/A
- Suggested Motion(s):** N/A

## **Nathan Ramsey**

Nathan Ramsey is the newest member of Land of Sky Regional Council's Leadership Team. Nathan served as a Business Services Representative for the NC Department of Commerce before joining Mountain Area Workforce Development Board and Land of Sky Regional Council on January 1, 2016. He served in the NC General Assembly representing House District 115 from 2013 to 2014 and as Chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners from 2000 to 2008. Nathan grew up in Fairview in Buncombe County; he is a graduate of UNC Asheville and the University of Tennessee College of Law. He is a member of the NC State Bar. Nathan is married to Robin and they live on the family dairy farm.



## COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

**Subject:** Executive Director's Report

**Item Number:** XIV. Executive Director's Report

**Responsible Party:** Justin Hembree, Executive Director

**Attachment(s):**

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

- A. Officers' Slate
- B. Legislative Appreciation Luncheon

**Staff Recommendation:** N/A.

**Suggested Motion(s):** N/A