



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

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

**Meeting of
Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates
February 24, 2016**

Minutes

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Goosmann called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- II. Invocation - Charles Dicken gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance - Chairman Goosmann lead the Delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Roll Call - The roll was called by Mike Hawkins. The following members were present: Denise Braine, Wayne Brigman, Mike Hawkins, George Goosmann, Jonathan Kanipe, Larry Harris, Charlie Landreth, Anne Coletta, Bob Davy, Ron Stephens, Dona Mennella, Darhyl Boone, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Brenda Mills, John Mitchell, George Morosani, Ryan Cody, Mark Burrows, Charles Dickens, and Kathe Harris. The following guests were present: April Riddle (Governor's Western Region Director), Steve Metcalf (Regional Advocate/The Policy Group), Woodie Dyches (RSVP Volunteer), Joy Fields (Planner, Transylvania County). It was announced that a quorum was present.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda - No modification to the agenda was made.
- VI. Public Comment - Chairman Goosmann opened the public comment period. Hearing none, the public comment period was closed.
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests - Chairman Goosmann recognized the following guests: Steve Metcalf, our advocate in Raleigh and April Riddle. Mark Burrows introduced Joy Fields who was hired as a planner by Transylvania County in January. She will be attending the CEDS meeting immediately after LOSRC meetings.
- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Roundtable - Bob Davy- Shared that in the Town of Fletcher the Blue Ghost Brewery is opening a week from Saturday and a gas pipe is being laid under the park at Lake Julian to feed the power plant. Dona Mennella - Shared that in the Town of Laurel Park, the big topic has been what fish to stock the Rhododendron Lake Park with. Larry Harris - Shared that Montreat College will be celebrating their 100th anniversary this spring. Paul Maurer, the new president of the College has been doing a great job. Brenda Mills - Shared that the Asheville City Council had one of their shorter meetings at which they approved their strategic plan which creates the vision for the City through 2036. The plan can be found on the City of Asheville's website: <http://www.ashevilenc.gov/Departments/CommunityRelations/StrategicOperatingPlan.aspx>. She also shared about the upcoming conference: Opportunities 2016, at the US Cellular Center on March 14th. Ron Stephens - Shared that there are a couple of things going on in the City of Hendersonville: the third phase of the greenway is under construction and paving will begin in the next couple of weeks- funds were provided through an NCDOT grant. The Hendersonville City Council has just held their retreat and there are a lot of great opportunities for the City moving forward; particularly the improved capacity of the water system and tourist season is just around the corner. John Mitchell - Shared that in Henderson County the Commissioners finished up the budget retreat mid-month and looked at capital projects and needs going forward. There are a high number of capital projects that need to be discussed in the next few weeks before the budget begins including construction of the \$15 million Career Academy, a combination of Balfour Education Center and the Early College High School at Blue Ridge Community College and also a \$10 million Emergency Management headquarters on the site of the current Balfour School. Patrick Fitzsimmons - Shared that in the Town of Weaverville, Zebulon Ales is open and it's the second brewery in the Town. Budget meetings are also underway. April Riddle - Shared the exciting news about the Linamar expansion in Mills River in Henderson County. John Mitchell communicated that Linamar is partnering with George Fisher

(GF) Automotive; a German firm and he shared that over the next five years, the joint manufacturing venture plans to invest \$217 million and bring 350 more jobs to the area. April Riddle also shared that a visit was made to the Sierra Nevada Brewery in Mills River and it is a very impressive place. She shared that a tree was struck by lightning and fell over on the capital grounds- it was saved and an artist came in and made bowls from the wood; two of those bowls were presented to representatives of Linamar and George Fisher during the recent economic development announcement. Mike Hawkins - Shared that the GF Linamar expansion will mean jobs for folks in Transylvania County and throughout the region. George Morosani - Shared about the brand new aluminum technology that will be used at the GF Linamar plant and he expressed appreciation for Andrew Tate, President of Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development and shared that he is a wonderful representative for Henderson County. He also expressed the hope that we don't lose him to the state for any reason. Ann Coletta - Shared that all is quite in the Village of Flat Rock. Kathe Harris - Shared for Volunteer Services that the Senior Volunteer Advisory Board met last week. She also shared that the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) operated through LOSRC is seeking \$25,000 in matching funds to be able to access the federal funds for the program. She shared that she presented this need in case anyone has any ideas how the need may be met. Ryan Cody - Shared that in Madison County the Chamber of Commerce will host Expo Madison on Saturday, March 12th on the campus of Mars Hill University. The event is designed as a business conference to promote local resources and showcase businesses in Madison County. More information can be found at the following link: <http://www.expomadison.com/>. Wayne Brigman - Shared that Madison County has made the final appropriations for another Early College. The county is also looking for a Landfill Director. He shared also that a brewery is being built in downtown Marshall. Darhyl Boone - Shared that the Town of Mars Hill has had a lot of opportunities to hire new employees to replace long-term staff that have retired. He shared also that the greenway project is in phase one and will make connections to the sidewalk system providing multiple miles of walkways for citizens. Jonathan Kanipe - Shared that the Town of Biltmore Forest is rolling out the recycling program, distributing containers and home pickup will start on March 7th. He shared also that the LOSRC Leadership Team held their retreat in Biltmore Forest. George Goosmann - Shared that the Assistant Fire Chief (who is probably the best grant writer) for the Town of Biltmore Forest has retired and that all of the rain has caused some problems that will be costly to repair. Other than that, the Town is doing great. George Morosani - shared that the UNC System and others would appreciate the jurisdictions represented on the Board of Delegates supporting the ConnectNC Bond Act. Chairman Goosmann shared also that Dr. Mary Grant is doing an outstanding job as the new Chancellor of UNC-A.

- IX. Approval of Minutes from the February Regular Meeting - The minutes of the February meeting were provided prior to the meeting and contained in the agenda packet. Kathe Harris moved to accept the minutes as presented. Brenda Mills seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.
- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items - Mark Burrows moved to accept the Consent Agenda which consisted of: Item A. February FY2016 Treasurer's Report. George Morosani seconded and the motion carried without further discussion
- XI. Presentations/Recognition
A. Overview of Mountain Area Workforce Development & Current Initiatives - Nathan Ramsey, Director of Workforce Programs shared that he appreciates the opportunity to be a part of LOSRC and the Workforce Development Department. He shared that he spoke this morning to five classes of first-grade students for their career day. Nathan Ramsey communicated to the Delegates that the Workforce Programs at LOSRC are funded under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. The purpose of the Act is to increase access to opportunities for employment, education, training and support services for individuals (particularly those with barriers to employment) to help them succeed in the labor market. The WIOA also supports the alignment of workforce investment, education and economic development systems to provide a comprehensive, accessible and high quality workforce development system in the US, among other purposes. He shared that the mission of the Mountain Area workforce Development Board is to provide employers and job

seekers a fully integrated system of employment, education and training services for the purpose of developing the economic strength and global competitiveness of this area. For FY2015/16 the Workforce Board's budget is \$2,470,861. The Board contracts with the county school systems and other providers of youth services in the region to assist low-income, mainly out-of-school youth develop career pathways, meet requirements for secondary school completion and provide opportunities for post-secondary education through supported training. The NCWorks Career Centers (and Madison County Career Center at AB Tech/Madison) are under contract to the Workforce Board and provide a full array of integrated services to un- and under employed adults and to those folks that have been displaced from employment by partnering with the staff from the Division of Workforce Solutions under the NC Department of Commerce. Other Workforce Partners include the community colleges, the chambers of commerce and economic development entities, and Vocational Rehabilitation among other agencies.

Nathan Ramsey discussed employment data with the Delegates and shared that the LOSRC region has the lowest unemployment rate of any workforce region in North Carolina. However, employers in the region can have a difficult time finding workers with the requisite skills. In order to help people get good jobs and to assist employers in finding the workforce they need, the Workforce Programs employ sector strategies aligned with career pathways that include earn and learn and other work-based learning opportunities. The top five employment sectors in the LOSRC region are: Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare, Hospitality and Tourism and Skilled Trades. These five employment sectors are expected to grow and many of the jobs available provide above average wages to help families in the region sustain themselves. He closed by sharing that now is the time to take advantage of the low unemployment rates as the workforce and economic developers are focused on where the labor market needs to be or is moving.

Charles Dickens commented on the impact that artificial intelligence may have on the job market of tomorrow and Nathan Ramsey shared that he attended the Emerging Issues Forum in Raleigh recently where there was discussion of artificial intelligence and its impact on job loss- he shared that NC Commerce's Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD) has the predictive capability to track these types of developments and provide a high level of quality economic data. He discussed the biggest workforce challenge: if folks in our region don't have the requisite skills for the in-demand jobs, issues with other things (like housing, reliance on public assistance, criminal justice system involvement, etc.) will follow.

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

XIV. Executive Director's Report -

A. Officers' Slate - Justin Hembree shared that the Nominating Committee's recommendations will be upcoming for the March meeting. Delegates should be seeing in the next week or so the recommended slate out to the full Board of Delegates. He mentioned again that any Delegate having an interest in serving on the Executive Committee should let him know.

B. Legislative Appreciation Luncheon - Justin Hembree shared that LOSRC in association with the region's Senior Tar Heel Legislators (STHL) will be hosting the appreciation luncheon which is being planned for the March meeting. Invitations will go out soon. The luncheon will allow STHL representatives in the region the opportunity to provide their updated legislative priorities to our region's legislative representatives. We are hopeful that this will be more of a social event and provide the opportunity to let our legislators know what we as a region are doing. It is hoped that this will become an annual event (held prior to the General Assembly going back into session).

Steve Metcalf shared his appreciation for the opportunity to work with LOSRC. The Policy Group's regional advocacy efforts in Raleigh are being directed towards putting together a legislative agenda for our jurisdictions. To that end, interviews are underway with the jurisdictions that make up the Board of Delegates.

Discussion occurred regarding what might come up in the upcoming short session. Steve Metcalf shared that some issues could arise around regulatory issues stemming from the Medicaid reform that was enacted

last year. Redistricting is also a hot topic in Raleigh right now. The majority that's been in the GA for the last few years has been more efficient at getting the work done and getting out.

Discussion also occurred regarding the confusion that the redistricting has caused among voters. Steve Metcalf reviewed the dates that elections will be held.

XV. Important Dates -

The NC Tomorrow Conference in Raleigh, April 18-19, 2016. John Connet (Manager- City of Hendersonville) is on the conference agenda. Ben Teague (Asheville-Buncombe Economic Development Coalition) is also on the agenda to talk about how Asheville built its economic development brand. There are some scholarship funds available for member jurisdictions.

The Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) will be meeting here in Asheville at the Renaissance the week of April 25th.

The next Board of Delegates meeting will be March 23, 2016. A Legislator's Appreciation Luncheon will be held before the meeting.

XVI. Adjournment - Chairman Goosmann adjourned the meeting with no further business before the Delegates.