

MINUTES
UPPER COASTAL PLAIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JUNE 19, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Barbara S. Simmons, Chairman	At-Large Board Member	Halifax County
Doug Hughes, Vice-Chairman	At-Large Board Member	Northampton County
Greg Browning, Sec/Treas.	Alternate Board Member	City of Roanoke Rapids
Julia Meacham	Mayor	Town of Weldon
Eddie Braxton	Mayor	Town of Scotland Neck
Phil Boone	Alternate Board Member	Town of Dortches
Sherry L. Lucas	Commissioner	Wilson County
Brenda Lucas	Commissioner	Town of Spring Hope
Norlan Graves	At-Large Board Member	Halifax County
Denise Stinagle	Manager	Wilson County
Leo Taylor	Mayor Pro-Tem	Town of Tarboro
Jonathan Felton	Commissioner	Edgecombe County
A. P. Coleman	Council Member	City of Wilson
Mary Wells	Commissioner	Nash County
Roy Bell	Mayor	Town of Garysburg
Fred Belfield, Jr.	Commissioner	Nash County
Grady Smith	Mayor	Town of Elm City
Samuel R. Davis	At-Large Board Member	Edgecombe County
Bobbie D. Jones	Mayor	Town of Princeville
Tony Brown	Manager	Halifax County

*If your name is missing, you may not have signed in. Please let us know so we can make that correction

GUESTS

Jae Kim	Manager	Town of Spring Hope
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MEMBERS PRESENT BY PROXY

Florence Pender	Commissioner	Town of Pinetops
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STAFF

Greg T. Godard	Executive Director
Michael Williams	Workforce Development Program Director
Mary Marlin	Area Agency on Aging Program Director
Ron Townley	Planning & Development Services Program Director
Mark Hill	Finance Director
Jennifer Andrews	Acting Clerk to the Board in Ms. Abrams' absence

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Barbara Simmons called the June 19, 2018 meeting of the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments board of directors to order at 6:45 p.m. at Word Impact Center, Rocky Mount, NC.

SPECIAL RECONVENING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

With the recognition that there was no quorum present for the full board to open the Public Hearing, the Executive Committee was asked to reconvene briefly to vote to conduct the Public Hearing for the FY 2018-2019 Budget.

Chairman Simmons called for a motion of the Executive Committee members of the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments to open the public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget. Mr. Coleman made a motion to open the public hearing, Mr. Felton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The public hearing was open for remarks. Chairman Simmons called for comments from the general public regarding the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget Ordinance. There being no comments, Chairman Simmons called for a motion from the Executive Committee members to close the public hearing. Mr. Belfield made a motion to close the public hearing, Mr. Leo Taylor seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Presenters: **Francine Durso & Jennifer Haene (check on names)**
Representing: NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure
Topic: Statewide Infrastructure Master Plan

Ms. Durso explained how the Division of Water Infrastructure was created in 2013 by the General Assembly, along with the State Infrastructure Authority which is made up of nine members appointed by the Governor, the House, and the Senate. The Legislature wanted to setup this separate authority for different reasons, the two primary reasons being: 1.) to make all of the

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funding decisions, and 2.) to look at what kind of water and sewer problems there are across the whole state so they will know best how to deal with all of the issues the towns across the state are facing with their water systems. With this information, the authority was asked to put together a statewide water and wastewater infrastructure master plan. The authority is the agency who developed the key ideas that should be included in the infrastructure master plan. They came up with a list of key characteristics that make an infrastructure system viable:

- Infrastructure (pipes, pumps, elevated storage tanks)
- Organization setup (staff members and management)
- Understanding (do the elected officials understand enough about running a water and sewer utility to understand the costs involved)
- Financial management (is the utility bringing in enough money to do what needs to be done to maintain the infrastructure)

“The Road to Viability” is the title of the Master Plan. The vision is that all utilities across the state are viable or moving towards becoming viable by taking proactive approaches towards infrastructure and finances. The authority encourages partnerships within the state utilities, i.e. sharing staff or equipment between municipal utilities. The authority takes into consideration the long-term effect of the projects they fund; will the funding make the system operable long-term or will it just provide a temporary solution to an underlying issue that will cause the system to break again down the road? Ms. Durso asked the elected officials present if they felt they had an understanding of how the water/sewer utilities in their municipalities operate and if they had ever visited their wastewater treatment plant or water treatment plant. There was a brief discussion from the floor.

Jennifer Haene discussed grant money available for infrastructure projects. She gave some examples of why it is important to have an asset management plan and be prepared financially when things do go wrong.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the full board were not approved due to a lack of quorum. They are to be approved at the August 21, 2018 board meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Workforce Development, Michael Williams, Program Director

Report given at Special Session of the UCPCOG Executive Committee Meeting.

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Impact Report highlights for May:

- Assisted providers with training
- Worked on year end closeouts; it was a successful year
 - Have gotten great feedback from providers
- Youth provider presented at the last Workforce Development Board meeting and showed the robot that they had created and won several competitions with; they were very excited and we are excited for their opportunities moving forward.
- Unemployment rates:
 - Regionally – down to 5.9% from 6.4%
 - Regionally by county as follows:
 - Edgecombe – 7.1%
 - Halifax 6.0%
 - Nash 5.2%
 - Northampton, 5.0%
 - Wilson 6.2%
 - State – 3.7%;
- There are 303 more people working than last month; however, 916 less people are working than this time last year, so it is up and down

Area Agency on Aging, Mary Marlin, Program Director

Report given at Special Session of the UCPCOG Executive Committee Meeting.

Impact Report Highlights:

- 1 correction on the Impact report: Meals served from July - April should be 124,927 total (the 927 got left off)
- We do expect to be able to fully expend the HCCBG funding within the counties that the funds were originally designated and we will not need to make any transfers from one county to another
- We received notification that the state budget included an additional \$1 million in HCCBG funding, which works out to be about an additional \$10,000-12,000 per county in our region
- A resolution of support has been drafted, as requested by the board at the last meeting, for background checks to be required of residents in adult care homes.
- The AAA staff were able to attend the listening session in Greenville and voice some of their concerns on topics related to aging services.

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Planning and Development Services, Ron Townley, Program Director

Impact Report Highlights:

- Powering Energy Efficiency and Impact Framework project was presented in Raleigh June 19, 2018 with our 8 partners and will be presenting it nationwide June 21, 2018. This is the big-data overlay project that has been mentioned at past meetings that will allow different departments to share data and evaluate programs together and make services more efficient (i.e. energy efficiency).

Business Resource Center, Greg Godard, Business Resource Loan Officer

Report given at Special Session of the UCPCOG Executive Committee Meeting.

There are no loans for approval. Mr. Townley will be taking over the program.

General Administration/Business Development Center, Olga Abrams, Manager

Report given at Special Session of the UCPCOG Executive Committee Meeting.

Mr. Godard stated that Ms. Abrams had to leave early because she is caregiver for her brother and he had to have emergency surgery.

Finance, Mark Hill, Finance Director

Report given at Special Session of the UCPCOG Executive Committee Meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Godard thanked the board for their support for the past 25 years; he also thanked the program directors for their hard work.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

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The board gave Mr. Godard a round of applause for his 25 years of service and a job well done.

Ms. Simmons expressed her thanks to Mr. Godard. She stated that it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Godard during the past 8 years she has served on the board. She presented Mr. Godard with a plaque for Outstanding Leadership on behalf of the UCPCOG Board of Directors that read: "Outstanding Leadership Award, presented to Greg T. Godard. Thank you for your unwavering service to member governments and citizens of the Upper Coastal Plain COG region, for your leadership, for always seeing the good in others, and for giving the very best of yourself for 25 years." Dated June 2018

On behalf of the UCPCOG Board of Directors, Ms. Simmons also presented Mr. Godard with a bonus check as a token of appreciation for the work he has done. Mr. Godard thanked the board and said that he will be using the bonus to construct a workshop at his home.

Chairman Simmons opened the floor to board members for comments.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Mr. Coleman commended Mr. Godard for appreciating the authority of his governing board and told a story of how there were 2 directors before Mr. Godard who did not do so before Mr. Godard was hired. Mr. Coleman stated that he had been chairman of the board a couple of times and thanked Mr. Godard for his service, and for his ability to take direction from the board and show respect for their authority as the board. Mr. Coleman stated that he and Mr. Godard have a friendship outside of the board and that he appreciates everything Mr. Godard has done under the leadership of the board for the past 25 years.

Mr. Belfield stated that this is his 20th year as a Nash County Commissioner and that he has enjoyed working with Mr. Godard during that time. He expressed thanks for all the work that has gone into making the region a better place for our citizens to live, even though we were classified as tier 1 counties we kept moving forward. Mr. Belfield stated that his only disappointment during his time as chairman of the board was when the UCPCOG office had to be moved from Rocky Mount to Wilson but stated that it was by no fault of Mr. Godard because he tried everything he could and just did not get the support the board had hoped for in Rocky Mount. Mr. Belfield said he had never expressed that disappointment until now because he had no criticism of the way Mr. Godard had handled the situation and the way it was carried out. Mr. Belfield expressed congratulations to Mr. Godard on his retirement and encouraged him to do some volunteer work, but also to make sure he makes time for fun to help keep him healthy and strong.

Ms. Wells stated that she and Mr. Godard came on the board about the same time, that she started as a private citizen and was elected as a County Commissioner since then. She commended Mr. Godard for his leadership and stated that she has learned a lot and has seen the

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support he has given to his staff by letting them do their jobs and it shows in the work that has been accomplished during his time as Executive Director. Ms. Wells reflected back to some trips to Washington, D.C. that she took under Mr. Godard's leadership with some of the other board members and thanked Mr. Godard for being a friend, for looking out for the counties, and for putting God first, then his family, and then the COG, as it should be.

Mayor Grady Smith expressed his thanks to Mr. Godard and that he was looking forward to staying involved with Mr. Godard in projects, as Mr. Godard resides just outside of his town. Mayor Smith stated that he had been on several of those trips to Washington, D.C. as well and appreciated all that Mr. Godard had done over the years for the region and congratulated him on his retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no quorum for the UCPCOG Board of Directors, Chairman Simmons asked for the Executive Committee members only to remain seated for a special called session of the UCPCOG Executive Committee to vote on the budget ordinance and any items for action.

Dough Hughes, Chairman

Bobbie Jones, Secretary/Treasurer