

Minutes
Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Bimonthly Policy Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 23, 2018
South Mountain Distilling Co., Rutherford College

Members Present:

Barbara Pennell, Chair
Bob Floyd, Jr., Vice-Chair
Jill Patton, Secretary
Johnny Berry, Treasurer
George Holleman, Past Chair
Robert Smyre, At-Large
Kitty Barnes, At-Large
Chip Black, At-Large
Josh Lail
Johnnie Carswell, Alternate
Ronnie Setzer
Donald Robinson
Dale Sherrill
Joie Fulbright
Kyle Hayman, Alternate
Dennis Anthony
Dr. Caryl Burns
Larry Knight, Alternate
Ben Honeycutt
Ben Willis
Joe Gibbons, Alternate
Marla Thompson
Forrest Fleming
Rick Justice
Gary McClure
Wayne Annas, Alternate
Keith Warren
Roy Sweezy, Alternate
Sara Black
Malla Vue
Tommy Luckadoo
Helen Chestnut
Elle Engstrom
Amparo Alfaro

Local Government/Agency:

Gamewell
Cedar Rock
Hickory
Connelly Springs
Taylorsville
Maiden
Catawba County
Valdese
Alexander County
Burke County
Cajah's Mountain
Catawba
Claremont
Conover
Conover
Drexel
Granite Falls
Granite Falls
Hildebran
Lenoir
Lenoir
Long View
Morganton
Rhodhiss
Rutherford College
Rutherford College
Sawmills
Valdese
Appointed
Appointed
Appointed
Appointed
Appointed
Appointed

Members Absent:

Vacant	Brookford
Mike Labrose	Caldwell County
Vacant	Glen Alpine
Larry Chapman	Hudson
Jerry Hodge	Newton
Larry Yoder	Appointed

Guests/Others Present:

Scott Hildebran, Lenoir
Mary Carter, Gamewell
Donald Duncan, Conover
Tamara Brooks, Connelly Springs
Jerry Church, Granite Falls
Chase Winebarger, Catawba
Christopher Todd, Sawmills
Sherri Bradshaw, Drexel
Gerald Smith, Rutherford College
James Huffman, Jr., Rutherford College

WPCOG Staff Present:

Anthony Starr, Executive Director
Sherry Long, Assistant Executive Director/Community & Economic Development Director
Ashley Bolick, Director of Administrative Services and Human Resources
Andrea Biddix, Finance Director
Jason Toney, Communications Specialist
Tina Miller, Director of Area Agency on Aging
Johnny Wear, Acting Director of Planning, Transportation & Environmental Programs
Scott Miller, Director of IT/GIS
Stephanie Hanvey, Director of Regional Housing Authority
Wendy Johnson, Director of Workforce Development

Call to Order/Welcome

A regular meeting of the WPCOG Policy Board was called to order at 6:45 pm by Chair Barbara Pennell. Chair Pennell thanked Rutherford College for hosting the meeting. Mayor Gary McClure welcomed the Policy Board to Rutherford College and to South Mountain Distilling Company.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were considered. Mr. Joie Fulbright made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Johnny Berry offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business/Reports

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Welcome New Board Members

Chair Pennell asked each of the newly appointed Policy Board delegates to come forward to receive a certificate of recognition. Each of the name delegates were appointed in January to the WPCOG Policy Board. New delegates include Dennis Anthony of Drexel, Ben Honeycutt of Hildebran, Marla Thompson of Long View, Sara Black Appointed Delegate, Elle Engstrom Appointed Delegate and Malla Vue Appointed Delegate. Also recognized for his appointment to the Policy Board in April of 2017, Ronnie Setzer of Cahah's Mountain.

FY 2018-19 WPCOG Assessments for Local Governments

Mr. Anthony Starr presented information regarding 2018-2019 dues assessments for member local governments. Each year, the WPCOG assesses dues to its local governments. The WPCOG Policy Board unanimously approved a 10-cent increase to 60 cents per capita for FY2018-19. The table in the agenda packet reflects the new dues rate. This represents the first dues increase since 1997 and generates about \$36,725 in additional funds for implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, project development and grant writing, Regional Data Center services, and Area Agency on Aging administration. Increases in future years will be considered to reach the target for total additional funds of \$95,000-\$100,000.

The assessments also include the required dues for MPO per federal and state requirements. The table shows all the assessments including the required Water Resources dues and optional dues for Sister Cities and the Alliance for Innovation.

Mr. Starr asked that the board approve the assessment.

Mr. Chip Black made a motion that the Board approve the assessments as presented. Mr. Bob Floyd offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Workforce Development By-Laws and conflict of Interest Policy

Ms. Wendy Johnson, Director of Workforce Development presented to the board an updated set of by-laws as well as a new detailed conflict of interest policy for the Workforce Development Board. In keeping with the current policy statements from the Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS), the Workforce Development staff has recommended changes to the Workforce Development By-Laws based on updates from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, regarding conflict of interest requirements for the Workforce Development Board, Staff and Contractors.

- Conflict of Interest clause in the By-laws was reduced to direct members to a new policy.
- New detailed Conflict of Interest Policy, including Code of Conduct standards that workforce development board members will have to sign, is now required by the Division of Workforce Solutions per the Department of Labor.

Staff requested that the board approve the proposed changes.

Mr. Bob Smyre made a motion that the Board approve the Workforce Development Boards By-Laws and new Conflict of Interest Policy. Ms. Kitty Barnes offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Workforce Development One-Stop Partner MOU

Ms. Wendy Johnson, Director of Workforce Development presented to the board an updated One-Stop Partner Memorandum of Understanding. As a requirement of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Public Law 113-128, the local Workforce Development Board, with the agreement of the Chief Elected Official, shall develop and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the local Workforce Development Board and the One-Stop Partners, concerning the operation of the One-Stop delivery system. The Department of Labor has provided further requirements for the One-Stop MOU and the Infrastructure Funding Agreement., which was added as attachment F seen in the agenda packet. Current One-stop partners are listed in Section II of the MOU. Attachment D list specifics on serving individuals with barriers to employment

Mr. Bob Smyre made a motion that the Policy Board approve the updated One Stop Partner Memorandum of Understanding. Ms. Helen Chestnut offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

NADO Award Presentation

Chair Barbara Pennell presented information as well as Awards to various WPCOG Staff whose work had recently been recognized by the National Association of Development Organizations' (NADO). NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities. Award-winning projects were honored during NADO's 2017 Annual Training Conference, held September 9-12 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Western Piedmont Council of Governments was honored at the 2017 NADO Conference for the project entitled "Priorities Firsts, Let's Communicate" submitted by WPCOG Communications Specialist, Jason Toney and Director of Administrative Services and Human Resources, Ashley Bolick.

Staff Updates

Mr. Anthony Starr said that he and other staff continue to assist in the Town of Rhodhiss manager search. Additionally he mention that he or other staff would be available to assist with planning retreats as needed.

Ms. Sherry Long announced that Rutherford College just received a \$500,000 grant for the new firearm manufacture locating in the town. The Town of Drexel just received a half million-dollar grant to do some cleanup work.

Adjournment

Mr. Bob Smyre made a motion that the meeting adjourn at 7:29 pm and the motion was seconded by Mr. Chip Black. The motion passed unanimously.