



# TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*World Class Region*

## Executive Committee Meeting

February 27, 2019

### MINUTES

#### **Executive Committee members attending:**

Bethany Chaney, Town of Carrboro  
Jim Crawford, Chatham County  
Ronnie Currin, Town of Rolesville  
DeDreana Freeman, City of Durham

Butch Lawter, Johnston County  
Marc Phillips, Town of Carthage  
Donald Rains, Town of Princeton  
Rebecca Wyhof Salmon, City of Sanford

#### **Executive Committee members absent:**

James Hill, Durham County  
Amy Dalrymple, Lee County (E)  
Sally Greene, Orange County

Pamela Baldwin, Town of Pittsboro (E)  
Sig Hutchinson, Wake County

(A) - Alternate

(E) - Excused

#### **TJCOG staff attending:**

Lee Worsley, Executive Director  
Renée Boyette, Admin. & Member Services Director  
John Hodges-Copple, Regional Planning Director  
Alana Keegan, Engagement Specialist

Ellen Norris, Office Operations Manager  
Ashley Ownbey, Intern  
Jen Schmitz, Principal Planner

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Chair Salmon called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m., declared a quorum in attendance, and thanked everyone for attending.

#### **Approval of agenda**

Chair Salmon presented for approval the agenda for the February 27, 2019 Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Worsley stated he would like to add the item, Resiliency Feedback, to the agenda. *Mr. Rains made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Recognitions and Presentations**

Chair Salmon asked Administration and Member Services Director Renée Boyette to present this item. Ms. Boyette stated that we had a few changes to the Executive Committee due to 2018 elections. She introduced Butch Lawter as the new Johnston County delegate and mentioned that Sally Greene of Orange County and Amy Dalrymple of Lee County had joined

the Executive Committee as well. Mr. Lawter stated he was happy to be here and Chair Salmon welcomed him to the Executive Committee. Mr. Worsley stated this was Ms. Freeman's first meeting as well.

### Consent Agenda

- **Approve – June 27, 2018 Executive Committee minutes**

Chair Salmon presented the consent agenda for approval. *Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Rains seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.*

### Old Business

- **2019 Regional Summit: A New Approach**

Chair Salmon asked Engagement Specialist Alana Keegan to present this item. Ms. Keegan stated that TJCOG is beginning plans for the October 10, 2019 Summit to be held in Chatham County at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. She visited the venue last week and said it is a great venue for the Summit. She hopes this year's Summit will be more interactive.

Ms. Keegan gave an overview of the plans, stating that there would be morning workshops focused on regional challenges and we hope to have Michael Goodman, with Innovation Associates Organizational Learning, present on "Systems Thinking". Ms. Keegan noted that Mr. Goodman has worked with many governments across the nation. She also stated that we hope to discuss challenges our members have been working on for a long time and talk about examples of solutions that have actually made the long-term solution harder to arrive at. Ms. Keegan stated the second half of the day would also be focused on workshops.

Mr. Crawford gave the long-term example of Jordan Lake, where the politics of the issue is preventing clear communications, making it harder to arrive at solutions. Chair Salmon asked how long Mr. Goodman was going to talk and how we plan to engage that many people. Ms. Keegan stated that Mr. Goodman would have 45 minutes to an hour to teach about "Systems Thinking", then attendees would break out into small groups and go into discussion to work with the "Systems Thinking" tool.

Mr. Phillips asked when we would decide on the challenges. Ms. Keegan stated that TJCOG, together with the Board, would decide on what will guide all programs. Mr. Rains stated that we should have workshops on police recruitment. Ms. Keegan stated that one of the challenges for discussion would automatically be the Sandbox challenge and that there would be a call for future Sandbox challenges at the Summit.

Chair Salmon asked, if our mission fit into the theme of the Summit and if it would be enticing to our colleagues. Ms. Chaney stated she thought it was a good idea to shake things up a bit and she said she really likes the offering of skill building. Ms. Keegan stated that TJCOG is

thinking about asking people for suggestions on challenges when they register for the event, however, our mission is to highlight some of the work that TJCOG is doing. Mr. Lawter stated that the real value in this mission is taking a skill with a specific tool back to utilize in one's community. Ms. Keegan stated that this idea came from discussion on conference fatigue and requests for more discussion. Chair Salmon suggested that everyone jot down a few challenge ideas.

- **Resiliency Feedback**

Chair Salmon asked Executive Director Lee Worsley to introduce this item. Mr. Worsley stated that there was lively discussion at the January Board meeting regarding resiliency concerns and the challenges facing our local governments. He then introduced Principal Planner Jen Schmitz.

Ms. Schmitz provided a handout that listed the major themes affecting our local governments. She stated that the overarching theme was how to plan now for the future. She asked the Committee if these themes were on the forefront of their plans and asked for feedback. Ms. Freeman stated that water infrastructure and roadway infrastructure were her community's concerns. Mr. Currin stated that we need to plan for financial resiliency. Chair Salmon thanked Ms. Schmitz for the one pager and told the Committee to expect more conversation on this at a future meeting.

### New Business

- **Review and Endorsement of Triangle J Tier System White Paper**

Chair Salmon asked Executive Director Lee Worsley and Triangle J Intern Ashley Ownbey to present this item. Mr. Worsley stated that the new whitepaper was formed under the new Economic Development District and that TJCOG would continue to roll out these recommendations related to work from the EDA. He stated that the goal was to see how we could use the strength of the COG to affect the region. Mr. Worsley stated that TJCOG staff is very good at doing research, and gathering and analyzing data.

Ms. Ownbey stated she had been working on the whitepaper and had already presented it to and received endorsement from the Legislative Committee of TJCOG. She stated she was asking for feedback on the paper from the Executive Committee and asking that the Executive Committee endorse it so it can be published. Ms. Ownbey presented the themes around the paper and gave a legislative history of the State's tier system. Ms. Ownbey stated that we have been misaligned with the Federal guidelines and she displayed a zip code map, highlighting major points of distress on the map. She stated that the whitepaper offers recommendations to encourage economic activity in these distressed areas.

Chair Salmon stated that the graphics were fantastic and a great launching tool for discussion. Ms. Freeman stated it would be a good idea to get other COGs interested. Ms. Ownbey stated that legislators are aware of these distressed areas and the question was how we convince them that tier redefining is good for the entire state.

Ms. Chaney stated that with the urban/rural divide, suggestion of a change in resource allocation is scary. Ms. Chaney asked if there could be a sampling of how the money has been allocated and whether or not it has added true value and she questioned what change would actually look like. She commented that she does not think legislators will do anything until they understand what the change will mean to the entire state. Chair Salmon stated she was comfortable with talking to legislators about this whitepaper. Ms. Chaney stated that we should get other regions onboard. Ms. Freeman added that GIS mapping is better today than it has been in the past.

Mr. Worsley stated that he already sees general support, that he likes the idea of getting allies and that he will engage COG directors to get them to sign on. He added that this paper is the foundation and he stated that Ms. Romeyn had helped with the paper. Ms. Freeman, Mr. Lawter and Mr. Rains all made a recommendation to move forward with the process to discuss the paper with other COGs.

- **Executive Committee Feedback on Legislative Day Strategy**

Chair Salmon asked Executive Director Lee Worsley to present this item. Mr. Worsley stated that the Statewide COG Association was a forum for Executive Directors and elected officials to advocate for regional solutions.

Mr. Worsley stated that on March 27 he would be joining representatives from COGs across the state for the NC Association of Regional Councils' Legislative Day at the General Assembly in Raleigh. He mentioned that all TJCOG Board members and Legislative Committee members are invited to attend the day to lobby for the three statewide policy agenda items - Regional Water Management, Rural Broadband, and Strengthening of COG Regions. He stated that if anyone was interested in attending or wanted additional information on Legislative Day to email Engagement Specialist Alana Keegan for details.

Mr. Worsley reminded everyone that Mr. Rains is our delegate to this forum and Ms. Ferguson is the alternate delegate. Chair Salmon stated that she has cancelled the Board of Delegates meeting on this same day in lieu of the Legislative Day. She stated that those attending would convene for a briefing in the morning and that there would be a lunch and a reception. Chair Salmon asked Ms. Schmitz and Ms. Keegan to speak more about the logistics of the day.

Ms. Schmitz stated that the strategy of seeking funding through bills has not been successful in the past. She hopes this new strategy will help secure more money in the budget for water resources. Ms. Schmitz encouraged the Board to reach out to members of the legislature should they know of someone who could help champion this item and so meetings could be arranged with them.

Ms. Keegan distributed a draft schedule for Legislative Day and stated that everyone will receive an email about coordinating the day. Mr. Rains stated that the talking points had already been discussed about water resources and the whitepaper and that everyone is on the

same page. He stated that the Association schedule is not yet final. Mr. Lawter offered his office as a meeting place.

**Chairperson's Report**

Chair Salmon stated she has nothing to report.

**Executive Director's Report**

Chair Salmon asked Executive Director Lee Worsley to present this item. Mr. Worsley reported that the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund awarded TJCOG the opportunity to work with Durham and Harnett counties. He also mentioned that Principal Planner Jen Schmitz and her team were working with Princeton and Kenly on regional opportunities around water. He stated that TJCOG had been working on Board retreats for Princeton and Angier.

**Other Business/Announcements**

Chair Salmon ask for any other business. Ms. Chaney stated she would like to see staff seated at the main table if there is room available. Chair Salmon concurred.

*Having no further business, Chair Salmon adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.*



Ellen Norris, Recording Officer



Rebecca Salmon, Chair

