



TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

World Class Region

MINUTES

Board of Delegates Meeting

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Delegates and Alternate Delegates Attending:

Ken Byrd, Town of Aberdeen
Lewis Weatherspoon, Town of Angler
Brett Gantt, Town of Apex
Mark Wilson, Town of Archer Lodge
Jerry Medlin, Town of Benson
Bethany Chaney, Town of Carrboro
Marc Phillips, Town of Carthage
Jennifer Robinson, Town of Cary
Michael Parker, Town of Chapel Hill
Nancy Oates, Town of Chapel Hill (A)
Jim Crawford, Chatham County
Dedreana Freeman, City of Durham
Marilyn Gardner, Town of Fuquay-Varina

Delegates Absent:

Thomas Beal, Town of Broadway (E)
David Seiberling, Town of Cameron (E)
Diana Hales, Chatham County (A) (E)
Jason Thompson, Town of Clayton
James Hill, Durham County
Tim Cunnup, Town of Goldston
Pete Villadsen, Town of Holly Springs (E)
Butch Lawter, Johnston County (E)
Trinity Henderson, Town of Kenly
James Roberson, Town of Knightdale
Jay Langston, Town of Micro

(A) – Alternate Delegate (E) – Excused Absence

TJCOG staff attending:

Lee Worsley, Executive Director
Renée Boyette, Administration & Member Services Director
Andrea Eilers, Energy & Environment Program Manager
John Hodges-Copple, Regional Planning Director
Alana Keegan, Engagement Specialist

Also attending:

April Adams, Cherry Bekaert

Sally Greene, Orange County
Ken Marshburn, Town of Garner
Kathleen Ferguson, Town of Hillsborough
Amy Dalrymple, Lee County
Steve Rao, Town of Morrisville
Pamela Baldwin, Town of Pittsboro
Donald Rains, Town of Princeton
Corey Branch, City of Raleigh
Rebecca Wyhof Salmon, City of Sanford
Jim Simeon, Town of Southern Pines (A)
Bridget Wall-Lennon, Town of Wake Forest
Jon Lutz, Town of Wendell
David McGowan, Town of Wilson's Mills

Penny Rich, Orange County (A) (E)
Nancy Fiorillo, Village of Pinehurst
Lonnie English, Town of Robbins
Ronnie Currin, Town of Rolesville (E)
Cheryl Oliver, Town of Selma (E)
Bill Haiges, Town of Siler City (E)
Andy Moore, Town of Smithfield
Carol Haney, Town of Southern Pines (E)
Sig Hutchinson, Wake County
Robert Matheny, Town of Zebulon (E)

Ellen Norris, Office Operations Manager
Jen Schmitz, Principal Planner
Mary Warren, Area Agency on Aging Director
Judy Weller, Finance Director

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Call to Order, Welcome & Declaration of Quorum

Chair Salmon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and declared a quorum in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Salmon presented the agenda for the January 23, 2019 Board of Delegates meeting. *Mr. Simeon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Ferguson seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.*

Recognitions and Presentations

- **Introduction of new TJCOG Delegates and Alternate Delegates**
Chair Salmon asked Engagement Specialist Alana Keegan to present this item. Ms. Keegan introduced Sally Greene, the new delegate for Orange County and mentioned that Butch Lawter, formerly delegate for the Town of Clayton, would now be the new delegate for Johnston County. Jason Thompson will now be the delegate and Bob Satterfield will be the alternate delegate for the Town of Clayton. Chair Salmon also welcomed Amy Dalrymple who served as an alternate and is now the delegate for Lee County, and she mentioned that Kevin Dodson would be the alternate delegate for Lee County. Chair Salmon expressed the Council's warmest welcome to the newest delegates and alternate delegates to the Triangle J Council of Governments.

- **Presentation of FY 2017-18 Financial Statements and Annual Audit Report**
Chair Salmon asked Executive Director Lee Worsley and Finance Director Judy Weller to present this item. Executive Director Lee Worsley stated that the Council's auditing firm prepared Triangle J's FY 2017-18 Financial Statements, Compliance and Independent Auditor's Report and it is ready for presentation to the Board of Delegates. Mr. Worsley introduced Ms. April Adams of the auditing firm Cherry Bekaert.

Ms. Adams stated that the audit contains the customary and usual unqualified "clean" audit opinion, which offers a sound financial picture for Triangle J during the last fiscal year. She stated that four "clean" opinions were based on the following:

1. there were no journal entries
2. results were outstanding with good internal controls
3. there were no single audit findings
4. there was full cooperation with management

Ms. Adams asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Chair Salmon congratulated staff and Ms. Adams and explained that the report would also be distributed to all appropriate parties needing copies of the audit - grantors, state agencies, funding organizations, etc.

The complete audit report is available on the TJCOG website at http://www.tjco.org/Data/Sites/1/media/finance/audits/audit_2017-2018.pdf and Ms. Adams' presentation is attached to these minutes. Mr. Worsley thanked Ms. Adams and the TJCOG staff members and stated that the clean audits reflected TJCOG's hard-working staff.

Ms. Robinson made a motion to accept Triangle J's FY 2017-18 Financial Statements, Compliance and Independent Auditor's Report as presented. Mr. Simeon seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

- **TJCOG's Efforts on Regional Resiliency Efforts**

Chair Salmon asked Principal Planner, Jen Schmitz to present this item. Executive Director Lee Worsley added that TJCOG wants to do more over the next year to provide the Board with a taste of significant regional issues. Over the next year, TJCOG staff will "tee up" on additional critical topics for the region through a brief presentation to the Board. At a subsequent meeting, the Board will dive deep into this topic. Mr. Worsley encouraged the Board to engage staff of our local government members and then the Board can have a more robust discussion on the issues going forward.

Ms. Schmitz stated that TJCOG is leading the effort to make our region more resilient to changing weather and at the next meeting we will discuss more about patterns and increasing populations. She mentioned that, as we have seen over the past several years, extreme weather events like Hurricanes Matthew and Florence, are only increasing. These changing weather patterns, coupled with the region's rapid growth, require local governments to think proactively about resilience and the ability to anticipate and plan for risk. TJCOG is leading the effort to make our region more resilient through partnerships with local governments on the Triangle Region Resilience Partnership; the new NC Office of Resiliency and Recovery; and the US Economic Development Administration to provide technical assistance, mitigation planning and support to our counties impacted by such weather events.

Delegates are encouraged to discuss resiliency priorities and needs with their fellow elected officials and staff, and to bring this information back to the April Board Meeting. At the April Board meeting next steps and regional options will be discussed, including ways TJCOG's EDA grant can address those needs.

Ms. Schmitz asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Rao commented that it would be interesting to have information on data recovery and cyber security.

Mr. Branch reminded all to look at their storm water policies and assess how current they are.

Mr. Crawford stated Chatham County needs to assess if there are any homes that should be removed due to storms and Ms. Robinson stated Cary has improved public policies, has bought some houses and they have noticed improvement. She stressed the importance of standardizing ordinances.

Ms. Wall-Lennon spoke of Wake Forest ordinances in which you cannot build in the 500-year flood plain.

Mr. Byrd stated there are some flood map updates that have been done in Brunswick County.

There were no other questions.

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of Board of Delegates minutes – November 28, 2018**
- **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget Amendment No. 2 & Interim Budget/Expenditure Comparison Report**

Chair Salmon presented the Consent Agenda of the January 23, 2019 Board of Delegates meeting for review and consideration. *Ms. Chaney made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Ferguson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.*

Old Business

- **Report from The Forum**

Chair Salmon stated that The Forum was organized by the NC Association of Regional Councils to champion regional solutions for challenges facing governments across the state and that Mr. Rains from Princeton and Ms. Ferguson from Hillsborough serve as the delegate and alternate, respectively. She asked them to report on the last meeting of The Forum.

Mr. Rains stated that there are 16 COGs throughout the state served by The Forum. The Forum met in December and elected a Chair and Vice Chair and Mr. Rains was asked to serve as Vice Chair. The Forum acts as an advisory group with legislative issues being their biggest mission. Ms. Ferguson mentioned that The Forum had an informative presentation from State Emergency Management and discussed a recommendation for disaster training for elected officials. She also noted The Forum adopted three areas of focus for the upcoming legislative session: broadband, water resources planning, and the use of COGs as regional infrastructure. She stated that all the COGs are very active, and all have the same charge. The Forum is working together to build up COGS throughout the state. Ms. Ferguson added that COGs are now known as purveyors of information.

Mr. Rains noted the TJCOG legislative committee dug into broadband at their November meeting. He said there were many suggestions on how to implement broadband across the state. He said COGs could take the lead in assembling information for the State Broadband Office. He noted the committee is compiling an agenda of what Triangle J can do to help our region on this issue. He also reported there was discussion about the work that TJCOG is doing to highlight that some municipalities, while in Tier 2 and Tier 3 counties, are actually Tier 1 communities

Mr. Rains stated that the Board of Delegates recently approved the relaunch of the TJCOG Legislative Committee, which was established to further the State COG Association Legislative Agenda. The committee is working to move forward with water resource management issues to the General Assembly through potential asset mapping and regionalization efforts. Additionally, the Committee endorsed two other policies - rural broadband and regional delivery of services. Mr. Rains stated that the upcoming COG Legislative Day will be on March 27 and told all to be on the lookout for more information.

Chair Salmon thanked Ms. Ferguson and Mr. Rains for this report.

- **Report from the Legislative Committee**

Chair Salmon asked Executive Director Lee Worsley to report on this item. He stated that he appreciates that the Board supported the reengineering the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee has met three times to date - on November 1 and 26, 2018, and January 10, 2019. At the November 1 meeting, the purpose of the committee was established, and the expectations of Triangle J's Board of Delegates were reviewed. The Legislative Committee will focus on issues that are unique to the Council of Governments platform of work and build on the strengths of our region. The Committee reviewed the agenda of the COG's State Association, which focuses on three issues: rural broadband, regional water resources management and utilizing COG structures – how COG partner with emergency management and other regionalization of services. The committee decided to discuss one of these issues at each upcoming meeting.

Ms. Ferguson stated COGs could tap each other's strengths and provide a unified force to the legislative delegations. Mr. Rains stated that there is a strong focus at TJCOG on water resource management and that he hopes we can apply for grants to help other COGS in this area.

The Committee also discussed the State Association's Legislative Day, scheduled for March 27. TJCOG delegates will focus on meeting with legislators representing communities in Region J.

Chair Salmon thanked all serving on the committee

The Executive Director recommended that the Board of Delegates cancel the March 27 Board meeting to allow an opportunity to attend Legislative Day. He stated the Board could huddle as a Board on that date, talk about strategy, and focus on the three issues. He stressed that all members of our Board of Delegates are welcome to attend Legislative Day. He said, the more elected officials, the better.

Mr. Branch stated he would like a list of the representatives for each COG. Mr. Worsley stated we would send out more information on the day.

New Business

None at this time.

Chair's Report

Chair Salmon stated that she had nothing to report and yielded time to Administration and Member Services Director Renee Boyette to discuss an upcoming meeting of the Foreign Trade Zone #93. Ms. Boyette stated that there would be an FTZ Essentials Seminar on February 20, 2019 at Wake Tech Auditorium from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm and that lunch would be provided. Ms. Boyette stated that the purpose of the seminar was to train economic developers and to provide the basics about talking to and identifying businesses that could benefit.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Worsley stated that the Executive Director's report was at everyone's place and that highlights of the report were that he was asked to speak about rural and urban issues at the February 11, 2019 Institute for Emerging Issues and that he will be doing a podcast series for the Institute for Emerging Issues at the Hunt Library. He stated that he was also asked to serve as the Vice Chair of the Executive Directors group of the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils.

Around the Region


Chair Salmon asked Board members to do their resiliency homework by thinking about topics that affect us all.

Other Business

Chair Salmon asked if there was any other business to discuss. Having no further business, Chair Salmon adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.



Ellen Norris, Recording Officer



Rebecca Salmon, Chair