



TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

World Class Region

Board of Delegates Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

6:00 PM

Held via simultaneous communication on Webex

Delegates and Alternate Delegates Attending:

Wilma Laney, Town of Aberdeen
Bob Smith Town of Angier
Brett Gantt, Town of Apex
Mark B. Wilson, Town of Archer Lodge
Cassandra Stack, Town of Benson (A)
Thomas Beal, Town of Broadway
Randee Haven O'Donnell, Town of Carrboro
Jennifer Robinson, Town of Cary
Ken Marshburn, Town of Garner
Kathleen Ferguson, Town of Hillsborough

Shaun McGrath, Town of Holly Springs
Butch Lawter, Johnston County
Steve Rao, Town of Morrisville (A)
Donald Rains, Town of Princeton
Rebecca Salmon, City of Sanford
Byron McAllister, Town of Selma
Sig Hutchinson, Wake County
Chad Sary, Town of Wake Forest
David McGowan, Town of Wilson's Mills

Delegates Absent:

Jerry Medlin, Town of Benson
Vacant, Town of Cameron
Jimmy Chalfinch, Town of Carthage
Michael Parker, Town of Chapel Hill
Jim Crawford, Chatham County
Jason Thompson Town of Clayton
James A. Hill, Durham County
DeDreana Freeman, City of Durham
Tim Cunnup, Town of Goldston
Trinity Henderson, Town of Kenly
James Roberson, Town of Knightdale
Amy Dalrymple, Lee County
Jay Langston, Town of Micro

Satish Garimella, Town of Morrisville
Sally Greene, Orange County (E)
Jeff Holt, Town of Pine Level
Kevin Drum, Village of Pinehurst
Pamela Baldwin, Town of Pittsboro
Corey Branch, City of Raleigh
Lonnie English, Town of Robbins
Ronnie Currin Town of Rolesville (E)
Bill Haiges, Town of Siler City (E)
Andy Moore, Town of Smithfield
Carol Haney, Town of Southern Pines
Jon Lutz, Town of Wendell (E)
Larry Loucks, Town of Zebulon

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

TJCOG staff attending:

Renée Boyette, Admin & Member Services Director
Erika Brown, Senior Planner
John Hodges-Copple, Regional Planning Director

Alana Keegan, Engagement Specialist
Lindsay Whitson, Senior Planner
Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Also Attending:

Robert Brown, NC Central University
Monica Croskey-Chappara, City of Durham

Sharon Williams, City of Durham

Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Chairman Donald Rains called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed all attendees. Renée Boyette, TJCOG Administration & Member Services Director, conducted the roll call to verify the attendance of delegates and alternates, then declared a quorum was present.

Review of Agenda

Chairman Rains presented the agenda for the November 18, 2020 Board of Delegates meeting and asked for consent on the agenda. Hearing no changes, Chairman Rains declared the agenda approved by consent.

Recognitions and Presentations

- **Recognition of Outgoing Triangle J Delegates**

Chairman Rains thanked all outgoing board members and expressed his appreciation for their service.

Chairman Rains recognized Lee County Commissioner Amy Dalrymple and asked Ms. Salmon to offer comments. Ms. Salmon recognized Ms. Dalrymple as a phenomenal leader and shared how she helped lead the community through hard times. Ms. Salmon also said she was impressed with how much Ms. Dalrymple loves Lee County and her dedication to everything she has done.

Chairman Rains recognized Lee County Commissioner Kevin Dodson and noted he is in the hospital. Ms. Salmon commented that Mr. Dodson has been very supportive of Lee County.

Chairman Rains recognized Wake County Commissioner Greg Ford and asked Mr. Hutchison to provide comments. Mr. Hutchinson noted that Mr. Ford is moving to California and did not seek re-election.

Chairman Rains recognized Durham County Commissioner James Hill and expressed his appreciation for Mr. Hill's service.

Chairman Rains recognized Orange County Commissioner Penny Rich and said he had served with Ms. Rich for many years and appreciated her contributions to Triangle J. Ms. Ferguson expressed her appreciation for Ms. Rich and her passion for Orange County. Ms. Haven-O'Donnell said Ms. Rich's leadership helped the county navigate the treacherous waters of COVID.

Chairman Rains recognized former Cameron Town Commissioner David Seiberling and asked if anyone wished to offer remarks. Mr. Worsley noted that the Town is a Commission style local government and Mr. Seiberling was very engaged and worked closely with TJCOG.

- **Recap of Regional Summit and Recognition of Speakers**

Chairman Rains asked Alana Keegan, TJCOG Assistant to Executive Director, to present this item.

Ms. Keegan shared the focus and goals of the 2020 Summit Recap:

- Build off our systems thinking foundation.
- Adapt to the COVID-19 world.
- Enable region-wide collaboration and peer learning.
- Highlight TJCOG as a key regional partner.
- Address a critical and relevant topic - equity and local governments.
- Provide a safe space to start with the basics.

Ms. Keegan provided data on our region's diverse growth and how in 2050 it is projected that more than 50% of the region's residents will be of a race other than white. She also provided data showing the median hourly wage of our region's population.

Ms. Keegan said the summit addressed how our local governments can intentionally design and promote policies, practices and procedures that ensure equitable outcomes. She then highlighted the topics covered during the summit and provided an answer to this question for each topic.

Ms. Keegan recognized presenters from our region that spoke during the summit. She expressed her appreciation to the following presenters who were able to attend tonight and asked them to offer comments:

- Sharon Williams, City of Durham
- Monica Croskey-Chappara, City of Durham
- Bobby Brown, NC Central University

Ms. Keegan also expressed her appreciation to the following presenters who were unable to attend tonight:

- Brianna Lyda-McDonald, NC Institute of Medicine
- Karinda Roebuck, Chatham County
- Michelle Wright, Chatham County
- Kevin Strom, RTI International

Ms. Keegan provided feedback from attendees and highlighted how TJCOG is keeping this focus internally by:

- Defined TJCOG Core Values to incorporate a diversity, equity and inclusion lens.
- Joined the Government Alliance on Race & Equity to allow staff access to peer learning and tools.
- Engaged TruAccess for a set of facilitated Courageous Conversations on Race Relations (January 2021).
- Initiated the TJCOG Book Club which is reading *Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How our Government Segregated America*.

Ms. Keegan explained that TJCOG is focusing on this question externally through the following avenues:

- Regional Summit
- Coffee and Collaborations in the Virtual Sandbox – will host three conversations in the next few months
- Resource Gathering

Ms. Keegan then posed the following questions:

- How is equity being discussed in your local government? For those who attended the Summit, have you been able to utilize the racial equity lens?
Ms. Haven-O'Donnell said Carrboro has been working on this for a couple of years. She said that membership of advisory boards, economic development, community safety and law enforcement have been focus areas.

Ms. Keegan responded to questions in the chat box. Ms. Croskey-Chappara said the grant is open to all jurisdictions and the grant resources are completely free to cities.

- How do you think our region should consider equity as we plan for reopening and recovery?
- How should TJCOG continue to support your communities as you learn about and implement equitable policies/practices into your work?
Chairman Rains said that as we look at zoning, affordable housing and other areas this should be included in our thought pattern and how we involve our whole community.

Ms. Keegan asked Board members to encourage staff to attend the first Coffee and Collaboration on December 17.

Chairman Rains thanked Ms. Keegan and the presenters.

Business

- **Presentation of TJCOG's regional economic development strategy, *Strength in Numbers: A Regional Plan for Economic Resilience & Prosperity***

Chairman Rains asked Lindsay Whitson to present this report.

Lindsay Whitson, TJCOG Senior Planner, noted she will present a status update and is asking for approval of the plan. The plan is due to the US Economic Development Administration on December 1.

Ms. Whitson said the goals are centered around fostering economic inclusion by building regional capacity, guiding economic prosperity and resiliency, and creating partnerships and investing in regional collaboration. She also said that since we are the designated Economic Development District, we can provide project development and technical assistance and having the EDD increases funding opportunities for the region.

Ms. Whitson highlighted the contents of the plan and the engagement process used in its development. She also outlined the following goals and how they were created:

- Business retention, expansion, and innovation
- Robust infrastructure to support business and population growth
- Workforce Development
- Connected and Vibrant Places
- Economic Resiliency

Ms. Whitson noted the goal sheets were sent to the Board of Delegates and feedback was requested; then she identified the strategies for each goal. She also outlined performance measures that will be used to determine what is or is not working, and updates requested by the steering committee.

Ms. Whitson said implementation will include creating additional partnerships and strengthening the partnerships already in place and she hopes to include a dashboard on TJCOG's website and make it a "living, breathing plan". She talked about next steps and how focus groups, the steering committee and the Board of Delegates will be involved going forward.

Ms. Whitson reiterated that the plan will be considered for adoption during the consent agenda.

First Vice-Chair Ferguson thanked Ms. Whitson for this information and noted she will chair the remainder of the meeting. She shared that Chairman Rains was called away due to a major fire in Princeton and asked everyone to keep the town in their prayers. First Vice-Chair Ferguson opened the floor for questions.

Mr. McAlister expressed his appreciation for this document and presentation. He noted the Town of Selma is beginning to realize that working with surrounding communities is important.

Mr. McGrath asked how we tie this to the individual level and resilience, citing transportation and affordable housing as issues. Ms. Whitson said this is a good suggestion and could fit in with goals 4 and 5.

Mr. Rao said he is curious to see job numbers as we end the year with so much uncertainty. Ms. Whitson noted there is an appendix focused on COVID and recovery.

First Vice Chair Ferguson asked if the economic development directors in the region were included in the development of the CEDS. Ms. Whitson said she worked with many of them.

Mr. Hutchinson asked about the social determinants of health and how they fit into the program. Ms. Whitson said they are tied into all the goals to some degree.

Ms. Haven-O'Donnell asked if there is a recommended framework for the creation of non-traditional entrepreneurial enterprises. Ms. Whitson said she does not have a specific framework in mind but hopes to have a clearinghouse with this information.

First Vice Chair Ferguson closed the discussion and asked Board members to send additional questions to Ms. Whitson.

Consent Agenda

- ***Approve A Resolution in Support of Strength in Numbers: A Regional Plan for Economic Resilience and Prosperity***
- ***Approve FY 2020-21 Budget Amendment No. 2 & Interim Budget/Expenditure Comparison Report***
- ***Cancel December 16, 2020 Executive Committee meeting***
- ***Adopt Revised TJCOG Assignment of Classes to Grades and Salary Ranges***

First Vice Chair Ferguson presented the Consent Agenda for approval and asked if anyone wished to pull an item for individual consideration. Hearing none, *Mr. Hutchinson made a motion to approve the Consent as presented; Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Boyette conducted the vote via roll call; the motion was passed unanimously.*

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None Removed.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Worsley asked Ms. Keegan to give an update on the Innovation Academy TJCOG is hosting.

Ms. Keegan said this is an initiative of the strategy and innovation network with the idea to make concepts of innovation accessible to any of our communities. The sessions will be taught by staff from some of our larger jurisdictions that have dedicated innovation staff. It is free and applications are being accepted through December 10.

Mr. Worsley thanked staff for the great work on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Mr. Worsley also noted that TJCOG staff continues to do a great job in the face of COVID. He said some staff are in the office at various times. He said the Aging staff is working with the state on a plan for the long-term care ombudsman to enter facilities again.

Mr. Worsley noted the January meeting will be held on the Microsoft Teams platform rather than Webex and more details will follow.

Chairman's Report


First Vice Chair Ferguson asked delegates to keep Chairman Rains and the Town of Princeton in prayers.


Around the Region

First Vice Chair Ferguson stated the following question and asked Board members to respond: What do you want to achieve by the end of the year in your community?

Other Business

First Vice Chair Ferguson asked if there was any other business. Having no further business, *First Vice-Chair Ferguson wished all a happy holiday and adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.*

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Renee Boyette, Recording Officer

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Kathleen Ferguson, First Vice Chair