



Triangle J Board of Delegates

Wednesday, March 24, 2021
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Triangle J Council of Governments
Virtual Meeting

The Honorable Donald Rains, Presiding

Agenda

<u>Time</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Official</u>
6:00 PM	Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum	Donald Rains
6:10PM <i>Approve by consent</i>	Review of Agenda	Donald Rains
6:11 PM <i>Motion to approve Moore County and Vass membership</i>	Special Orders of Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of Moore County's Request for TJCOG Membership• Consideration of the Town of Vass's Request for TJCOG Membership	Lee Worsley Lee Worsley
6:21 PM <i>Receive as information</i>	Recognitions and Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation from MyFutureNC: Closing the Educational Gap in North Carolina• Recognition of Jennifer Robinson on her election as Senior Vice-President of NARC• Recognition of Renée Boyette upon her upcoming retirement from Triangle J	Lindsay Whitson
<i>Receive as information</i>		Alana Keegan
<i>Receive as information</i> <i>Action via Consent Agenda</i>		Lee Worsley
7:00 PM <i>Receive as information</i>	Business <i>Items in this section requiring Board of Delegates action have been added to the Consent Agenda.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the Research Triangle Area Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ #93) 2020 Annual Report	Renée Boyette Tom White
7:28 PM <i>Motion to approve</i>	Consent Agenda <i>Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by a single motion unless a member of the Board of Delegates requests an item be removed. Any item removed from the Consent Agenda will be considered individually after the Consent Agenda.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt A Resolution in Recognition of Renée Boyette and her Twenty-Four Years of Service to TJCOG• Approve minutes of January 27, 2021 Board of Delegates meeting	Lee Worsley Renée Boyette
7:29 PM <i>Discuss and consider</i>	Items Removed from the Consent Agenda	Donald Rains

Continued

March 24, 2021 Board of Delegates Agenda (continued)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Official</u>
7:30 PM <i>Receive as information</i>	<i>Executive Director's Report</i>	Lee Worsley
7:35 PM <i>Receive as information</i>	<i>Chairman's Report</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charge to the Nominating Committee	Donald Rains
7:40 PM	<i>Around the Region</i>	Donald Rains
7:55 PM	<i>Other Business</i>	Donald Rains
8:00 PM	<i>Adjourn</i>	Donald Rains

Triangle J Board of Delegates Meeting Agenda Comments – March 24, 2021

Agenda Section: Special Orders of Business

Consideration of Moore County's Request for TJCOG Membership

Background: Moore County, one of the seven counties in the TJCOG region, is requesting membership in the organization, effective March 24, 2021. At the County's February 2nd Board Meeting, the Commissioners adopted the attached resolution accepting and approving TJCOG's Bylaws and Charter Resolution and is now petitioning for membership. The Board of Commissioners also appointed Moore County Chairman Frank Quis to serve as their Delegate.

All things required have been accomplished, and the request for membership now comes before the Board of Delegates for consideration. Moore County officials will be present and provide introductory remarks about their jurisdiction during this time.

Recommendation(s): It is recommended the Board of Delegates receive this information, welcome officials from the County, approve the County's membership request by roll call vote, and seat their delegate.

Staff Responsible for Technical Support: Alana Keegan, Member Engagement Manager.



A RESOLUTION RATIFYING, ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE BYLAWS AND CHARTER RESOLUTION OF THE TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Moore County, North Carolina, has determined to make application for membership in the Triangle J Council of Governments; and,

WHEREAS, as a prerequisite to membership in Triangle J, the County's Board of Commissioners is required to ratify, accept and approve the Bylaws and Charter Resolution of the Triangle J Council of Governments; and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Moore County to become a member of the Council of Governments and be an integral part of Region J; and,

WHEREAS, the Moore County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the referenced documents and finds them in order sufficient to ratify same as a condition of membership; and,

WHEREAS, Moore County looks forward to joining its municipal and county colleagues in addressing the regional issues of concern to local governments throughout the region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MOORE COUNTY that the County does hereby ratify, accept and approve the Triangle J Council of Governments' Bylaws and Charter Resolution as a condition of the County's membership within the Triangle J Council of Governments.

Adopted and approved this the 2nd day of February 2021.

DocuSigned by:

Frank Quis

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Frank Quis
Chairman

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Laura M. Williams

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Laura M. Williams
Clerk to the Board

Triangle J Board of Delegates Meeting Agenda Comments – March 24, 2021

Agenda Section: Special Orders of Business

Consideration of the Town of Vass's Request for TJCOG Membership

Background: The Town of Vass, located in Moore County, is requesting membership in the organization, effective March 24, 2021. At the Town's recent Board Meeting, the Commissioners adopted the attached resolution accepting and approving TJCOG's Bylaws and Charter Resolution and is now petitioning for membership. The Board of Commissioners also appointed Town Commissioner Al Mosley to serve as their Delegate.

All things required have been accomplished, and the request for membership now comes before the Board of Delegates for consideration. Town officials will be present and provide introductory remarks about their jurisdiction during this time.

Recommendation(s): It is recommended the Board of Delegates receive this information, welcome officials from the Town, approve the Town's membership request by roll call vote, and seat their delegate.

Staff Responsible for Technical Support: Alana Keegan, Member Engagement Manager.

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING, ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE
BYLAWS AND CHARTER RESOLUTION OF THE
TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the Town of Vass has determined to make application for membership in the Triangle J Council of Governments; and,

WHEREAS, as a prerequisite to membership in Triangle J the Town is required to ratify, accept, and approve the Bylaws and Charter Resolution of the Triangle J Council of Governments; and,

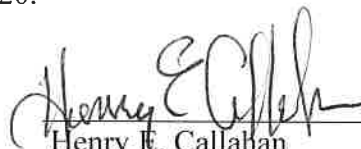
WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town of Vass to become a member of the Council of Governments and be an integral part of Region J; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Vass has reviewed the referenced documents and finds them in order sufficient to ratify same as a condition of membership; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Vass looks forward to joining its municipal and county colleagues in addressing the regional issues of concern to local governments throughout the seven-county region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VASS that the Town does hereby ratify, accept and approve the Triangle J Council of Governments' Bylaws and Charter Resolution as a condition of the Town's membership within the Triangle J Council of Governments.

Adopted and Approved this the 12th day of October, 2020.


Henry E. Callahan
Mayor

ATTEST:


Mabel A. Walden
Town Clerk

Triangle J Board of Delegates Meeting Agenda Comments – March 24, 2021

Agenda Section: Recognitions and Presentations

Presentation from MyFutureNC: Closing the Educational Gap in North Carolina

Background: MyFutureNC is a nonprofit organization working across sectors to support efforts to close the educational attainment gap in North Carolina, ensuring that by 2030, two million North Carolinians have a high-quality credential or a post-secondary degree. As our economy grows, the vast majority of new jobs require more than a high school diploma – something that less than half of North Carolinians ages 25-44, and even fewer from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, currently have.

At this time on the agenda, Cecilia Holden, President & CEO, Jeni Corn, Ph.D., Director of Strategic Initiatives, and Melissa Caperton, Director of Regional Impact from MyFutureNC will share the work they are doing, processes taken, goals and visions, and how communities can be involved by implementing practices to achieve MyFutureNC's goals. Presenters will also share ways they envision partnering with TJCOG to help further their mission.

Recommendation(s): It is recommended the Board of Delegates receive this information, ask questions as needed, and share findings with local elected officials and staff.

Staff Responsible for Technical Support: Lindsay Whitson, Community and Economic Development Program Manager.

Triangle J Board of Delegates Meeting Agenda Comments – March 24, 2021

Agenda Section: Recognitions and Presentations

Recognition of Jennifer Robinson on her election as Senior Vice-President of NARC

Background: Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) Past Chair, Board Member, and Cary Town Council Member Jennifer Robinson was elected Senior Vice President of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) for the 2021-2022 fiscal year during the National Conference of Regions in early February. In her new role, Ms. Robinson will become one of five officers for NARC's Board of Directors, the Association's governing body that is comprised of 26 appointed and elected policy officials and Executive Directors of member organizations. The Board oversees NARC's work to advance regional cooperation, strengthen relationships between Congress and regions, and identify key policy issues and regional best practices.

The appointment displays national recognition of Ms. Robinson's unwavering leadership and support for regional efforts. Currently, she serves as NARC's Regional Representative for District IV (NC, SC) and the Town of Cary's delegate on the TJCOG Board (2008-Present), and previously served as TJCOG Chair (2015-2016), 1st Vice Chair (2014-2015), 2nd Vice-Chair (2013-2014) and Secretary/Treasurer (2012-2013).

Additionally, the appointment will offer the Board of Delegates a stronger connection and resource at the national and federal level to help with support and education on regional issues.

Recommendation(s): It is recommended the Board of Delegates receive this information and recognize Ms. Robinson on the achievement.

Staff Responsible for Technical Support: Alana Keegan, Member Engagement Manager.

Triangle J Board of Delegates Meeting Agenda Comments – March 24, 2021

Agenda Section: Recognitions and Presentations

Recognition of Renée Boyette upon her upcoming retirement from Triangle J

Background: Upon her retirement on March 31, 2021, Renée Boyette will have served in various roles at TJCOG throughout her twenty-four year tenure. Renée currently serves as the Administration Officer where she is the Clerk to the Board, Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Manager, and Foreign Trade Zone Administrator. Previously, she served as the Member Services Director supporting the region and our members. Renée has been a dedicated public servant helping launch and manage many key initiatives in the organization and establishing valuable relationships with the public, elected officials, and staff at our member governments. Renee's experience, special skills and commitment have been invaluable to TJCOG. The entire TJCOG staff wishes Renée all the best as she enters a well-deserved retirement.

Recommendation(s): It is recommended the Board of Delegates thank Renée for her dedicated work at TJCOG and wish her well in her retirement! It is also recommended the Board adopt *A Resolution in Recognition of Renée Boyette and her Twenty-Four Years of Service to Triangle J Council of Governments.*

Staff Responsible for Technical Support: Lee Worsley, Executive Director.

Triangle J Board of Delegates Meeting Agenda Comments – March 24, 2021

Agenda Section: Business

Presentation of the Research Triangle Area Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ #93) 2020 Annual Report

Background: Triangle J administers a federal grant for administration of the Research Triangle Area Foreign Trade Zone, also known as FTZ #93. Users and Operators in the zone are required to complete annual reports by February 28 of each year. The grantee must then use these reports to develop and submit to the US Foreign-Trade Zones Board the annual report for the entirety of FTZ #93 by March 31 of each year.

At this time on the agenda, Renée Boyette and FTZ #93 Board Chairman Tom White will present the 2020 Annual Report.

Recommendation(s): It is recommended the Board of Delegates receive this information, recognize FTZ Board members, and thank them for their support.

Staff Responsible for Technical Support: Renée Boyette, Administration Officer.



TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

World Class Region

A Resolution in Recognition of Renée Boyette and her Twenty-Four Years of Service to Triangle J Council of Governments

Whereas, Renée Boyette began her career with Triangle J Council of Governments as the Member Services Officer in 1996, and after almost twenty-five years, will be retiring on March 31, 2021; and

Whereas, Ms. Boyette has been a committed and dedicated public servant, and has worked tirelessly to support the well-being of the region and member governments through her role as Member Services Director and Clerk to the Board; and,

Whereas, Ms. Boyette has been involved in launching and managing many key initiatives in the organization and strengthening service offerings through her ability to interact with the public, elected officials, and staff, and her focus on details; and,

Whereas, Ms. Boyette has served as the Foreign Trade Zone #93 Administrator and enabled the program to grow in geographic scope and participating companies, through her devotion to the program and its goal of increasing international trade in the region;

Now, therefore it be resolved, that the Triangle J Council of Governments' Board of Delegates, on behalf of a grateful region, expresses its appreciation to Renée Boyette for her longstanding dedication to the organization and the region throughout her career.

Adopted and approved this 24th day of March, 2021.

Don Rains, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

Lee Worsley, Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES

Board of Delegates Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

6:00 PM

Held via simultaneous communication via Microsoft Teams

Delegates and Alternate Delegates Attending:

Wilma Laney, Town of Aberdeen	Kirk Smith, Lee County
Bob Smith Town of Angier	Arianna Lavallee, Lee County (A)
Brett Gantt, Town of Apex	Steve Rao, Town of Morrisville (A)
Mark B. Wilson, Town of Archer Lodge	Sally Greene, Orange County
Jerry Medlin, Town of Benson	Kevin Drum, Village of Pinehurst
Thomas Beal, Town of Broadway	Ronnie Currin Town of Rolesville
Randee Haven O'Donnell, Town of Carrboro	Michelle Medley, Town of Rolesville (A)
Dan Bonilla, Town of Carthage	Rebecca Salmon, City of Sanford
Jim Crawford, Chatham County	Byron McAllister, Town of Selma
DeDreana Freeman, City of Durham	Bill Haiges, Town of Siler City
Heidi Carter, Durham County	Andy Moore, Town of Smithfield
Larry Smith, Town of Fuquay-Varina	Sig Hutchinson, Wake County
Ken Marshburn, Town of Garner	Susan Evans, Wake County (A)
Kathleen Ferguson, Town of Hillsborough	Chad Sary, Town of Wake Forest
Shaun McGrath, Town of Holly Springs	Joe DeLoach, Town of Wendell (A)
Butch Lawter, Johnston County	David McGowan, Town of Wilson's Mills
Jessica Day, Town of Knightdale (A)	

Delegates Absent:

VACANT, Town of Cameron	Pamela Baldwin, Town of Pittsboro
Jennifer Robinson, Town of Cary	Donald Rains, Town of Princeton (E)
Michael Parker, Town of Chapel Hill	Corey Branch, City of Raleigh
Jason Thompson Town of Clayton	Vacant, Town of Robbins
Tim Cunnup, Town of Goldston	Cheryl Oliver, Town of Selma (A) (E)
Trinity Henderson, Town of Kenly	Carol Haney, Town of Southern Pines
VACANT, Town of Knightdale	Vivian Jones, Town of Wake Forest (A) (E)
Jay Langston, Town of Micro	Phil Tarnaski, Town of Wendell
Satish Garimella, Town of Morrisville	Larry Loucks, Town of Zebulon
Jeff Holt, Town of Pine Level	

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

TJCOG staff attending:

Emily Barrett, Natural Resources & Resilience Program Manager	Shuchi Gupta, Program Coordinator
Renée Boyette, Administration Officer	Katrese Hale, Planner II
Erika Brown, Housing Program Manager	Alana Keegan, Member Engagement Manager
Sean Flaherty, Principal Planner	Judy Weller, Finance Director
	Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Also Attending:

April Adams, Cherry Bekaert

Amber Metts, Cherry Bekaert

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

First Vice Chair Kathleen Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed all attendees. She noted that Mayor Rains will not be in attendance. Renée Boyette, TJCOG Administration Officer, conducted the roll call to verify the attendance of delegates and alternates, then declared a quorum was present.

Review of Agenda

First Vice Chair Ferguson presented the agenda for the January 27, 2021 Board of Delegates meeting and asked for any edits to the agenda. Mr. Haiges made a motion to approve the agenda; Ms. Salmon seconded the motion. Hearing no changes, First Vice Chair Ferguson declared the agenda approved by consent.

Recognitions and Presentations

- ***Moment of Silence and Introduction of A Resolution in Memory and Honor of Kevin Dodson, Former Alternate Delegate to the Triangle J Council of Governments***

First Vice Chair Ferguson announced the passing of Kevin Dodson, a former Lee County Commissioner, on December 3, 2020. First Vice-Chair Ferguson pointed out the Resolution included in the agenda packet and said the Resolution was included for consideration on the Consent Agenda. She opened the floor for any Board members to provide comments.

Rebecca Salmon commented that Mr. Dodson really cared about the community and had a real passion for Lee County and its residents. He will be missed by the community.

Arianna Lavalley noted she had the pleasures of serving with Mr. Dodson, noting he was funny, kind and really cared about the community.

First Vice-Chair Ferguson asked the Board of Delegates to observe a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Dodson.

- ***Recognition of Outgoing Triangle J Delegates***

First Vice Chair Ferguson noted the following individuals have rotated off the TJCOG Board:

- Jon Lutz, Town of Wendell
- John Boyette, Town of Wendell
- Brenda Howerton, Durham County
- Lonnie English, Town of Robbins
- James Roberson, Town of Knightdale

She expressed her appreciation to each of these delegates and wished them well.

- **Introduction of New Triangle J Delegates and Alternate Delegates**

First Vice Chair Ferguson commented that TJCOG has a number of new delegates and alternate delegates and recognized the following:

<u>JURISDICTION</u>	<u>DELEGATE</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>
Siler City		Lewis Fadeley
Durham County	Heidi Carter	Nida Allam
Pine Level	Jeff Holt	Greg Baker
Lee County	Kirk Smith	Arianna Lavallee
Carthage	Dan Bonillo	
Orange County		Renée Price
Hillsborough		Matt Hughes
Wake County		Susan Evans
Wendell	Phil Tarnaski	Joe DeLoach

She asked those attending to provide introductory remarks. After remarks, First Vice Chair Ferguson welcomed all to the Board of Delegates.

- **Introduction of New Staff Members**

First Vice Chair Ferguson asked Lee Worsley, TJCOG Executive Director, to introduce this topic. Mr. Worsley said he is excited to welcome new staff members to TJCOG and introduce them to the Board of Delegates.

Mr. Worsley asked Erika Brown, TJCOG Housing Program Manager, to introduce a new team member. Ms. Brown introduced Katrese Hale as a planner II focused primarily on housing projects.

Ms. Hale introduced herself and provided background information. She said she will provide expertise on housing technical assistance projects, assist in the administration of home repair programs, and seek new opportunities to serve TJCOG member communities. She said she joined TJCOG because of the opportunity to make a regional impact in underserved communities, all while offering flexibility.

Mr. Worsley said we are thrilled to have Katrese as part of our growing housing focus area.

Next, Mr. Worsley, introduced Emily Barrett, as TJCOG’s Natural Resources & Resilience Program Manager.

Ms. Barrett introduced herself and noted she is taking over the water resources programs at TJCOG. She provided background information. In addition to water resources, she said her projects will include air quality/energy/climate, solid waste, and resilience.

First Vice Chair Ferguson asked the Board to join her in welcoming Ms. Hale and Ms. Barrett to the TJCOG staff.

Business

- **Presentation of FY 2019-20 Financial Statements and Annual Audit Report**

First Vice Chair Ferguson asked Mr. Worsley to start this presentation. Mr. Worsley noted the [link to the audit report](#) was in the agenda packet. He expressed his pride in the TJCOG staff and the work they do in a fiscally responsible way. He congratulated finance staff, Finance Director Judy Weller and Finance Specialist Maurice Jackson, for a job well done, as well as all staff.

Amber Metts introduced herself as an audit manager at Cherry Bekaert. She echoed the comments about Judy Weller and Maurice Jackson.

Ms. Metts explained the role of the external auditor and noted it is the auditor's responsibility to plan and perform the audit each year to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements. This also includes testing against the applicable compliance requirements. She said the Board will see four opinions in the financial statements.

Ms. Metts said the financial statement is an unmodified opinion which is the highest assurance they can give and the same for internal control over financial reporting, federal compliance, and state compliance.

Ms. Metts said audit standards require they understand the organization's internal controls, and they are required to test these controls. This year they tested payroll with no findings.

Ms. Metts said they are also required to test journal entries. She said they got a big data dump of the general ledger. This year they used an artificial intelligence tool called Mind Bridge and there were no findings.

Ms. Metts also noted they look at information technology controls and the COG follows IT best practices.

Ms. Metts identified receivables and revenues, payroll, pensions and OPEB, and single audit as the significant audit areas of testing this year. These areas were tested substantively. The Aging area was tested as the single audit major program and no findings were noted.

Ms. Metts provided the following audit results:

- Opinions – unmodified opinion - financial statements, internal control over financial reporting and federal and state single audit
- Internal Controls - no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses
- Single Audit - No findings

- Required Communications – no significant account policy changes; no changes to the significant estimates: allowance, depreciation, OPEB, pension; no journal entries.

Ms. Metts said that even with the difficulties and challenges of the past year, TJCOG was able to add \$500,000 to the fund balance even though revenues were under budget. TJCOG is now actually exceeding the fund balance policy for 2020.

Ms. Metts said the OPEB trust fund assets increased by \$71,000 but liabilities increased as well.

Ms. Metts asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, First Vice Chair Ferguson thanked the staff for their work during difficult times.

- **Update on the Transportation Demand Management Program**

First Vice Chair Ferguson asked TJCOG Principal Planner Sean Flaherty to make this presentation.

Mr. Flaherty reported the primary goals of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) in the Triangle as improving air quality and reducing congestion. He then provided information about program administration and noted fourteen service providers were funded this year. He said the primary performance metric is vehicle miles travelled. Since 2007, the program has reduced over 560 million commuter miles travelled.

Mr. Flaherty noted the following impacts of TDM in FY2019:

- 6.5 million vehicle trips avoided,
- 2.9 million gallons of gasoline saved,
- 70 million commute miles reduced,
- 60,300 alternative transportation users supported, and
- 58 million pounds of CO2 release prevented.

Mr. Flaherty thanked the partners and the Board for their support. He noted the Triangle TDM program has been named a national model.

First Vice Chair Ferguson opened the floor for questions.

Mr. McGrath asked how to get good ridership numbers. Mr. Flaherty said he would contact him to provide assistance.

Mr. Worsley reminded the Board of the uncertainty of this program when preparing the FY21 budget. This program supports multiple jobs in our region. He noted staff did a great job of getting contracts out once the funding issues were settled.

First Vice Chair Ferguson thanked Mr. Flaherty and Ms. Gupta for this information and congratulated them on the national recognition.

Consent Agenda

- ***Adopt A Resolution in Memory and Honor of Kevin Dodson, Former Alternate Delegate to the Triangle J Council of Governments***
- ***Accept FY 2019-20 Financial Statements and Annual Audit Report***
- ***Approve Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2020 and November 18, 2020***
- ***Approve FY 2020-21 contract to prepare Financial Statements and Audit Account; Authorize Chairman to sign the LGC Contract; Authorize Finance Director to sign the engagement letter***
- ***Approve FY 2020-21 Budget Amendment No. 3 & Interim Budget/Expenditure Comparison***

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. Marshburn made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Ms. Greene seconded the motion. Ms. Boyette conducted the vote via roll call; the motion was unanimously approved.*

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None Removed.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Worsley welcomed everyone and said happy new year. He welcomed all new delegates and alternates and announced Board orientation scheduled for 4-6 PM on February 16.

Mr. Worsley said staff continue to be mostly working remotely, and the office remains closed. He said we are beginning to do some site visits following proper protocol.

Mr. Worsley also noted that the end of lease at our current space is approaching. He said this could be an opportunity for us to begin negotiations with the landlord a little early. He said we are thinking about space and how telework will impact our space.

Mr. Worsley said the Regional Innovation Academy had its first session today and the academy is taught by volunteers from our member governments. He said the Academy was opened up to a 25-person cohort but 50 people applied. He said there will likely be a second cohort and participants represent a good cross section of local governments.

Additionally, Mr. Worsley made the following announcements:

- Expects to welcome Moore County back as a TJCOG member in March which will result in 100% of counties in membership.
- Helping City of Fayetteville and partnering with MidCarolina COG to do housing work.
- Received a US EDA grant for work in the Neuse River watershed and to help support communities around water and waste water.

- Partnering with the MidCarolina COG to provide finance assistance for local governments. He said we are assisting Spring Lake (Cumberland County) and using a retired deputy manager and finance director to perform this work.
- The Area Agency on Aging has delivered 60 tablets to long term care facilities.
- Received rehabilitation grants from the State connected to one of the hurricanes. Funds will help two non-profits rehabilitate two Rosenwald Schools and help Lee County rehabilitate their historic courthouse.
- Assisting Rolesville with their planning director search and Selma with their manager search.

First Vice Chair Ferguson asked staff to share any social media posts that can be shared with Board members.

Chairman's Report

First Vice Chair Ferguson reported the Forum will be meeting in February and is expecting to hear from MyFuture NC and the NC Department of Transportation.

Around the Region

First Vice Chair Ferguson stated the following question and asked Board members to respond: What new initiatives, strategies or policies are being launched in your community this year?

Other Business

First Vice Chair Ferguson asked if there was any other business.

Having no further business, *Ms. Freeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Haiges seconded the motion. First Vice-Chair Ferguson adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM.*

Renée Boyette, Recording Officer

Donald Rains, Chairman