

## **MINUTES**

Board of Delegates Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

6:00 PM

Held via simultaneous communication via Microsoft Teams

### *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  
Donald Andrews, Town of Broadway (A)  
Ranee Haven O'Donnell, Town of Carrboro  
Jennifer Robinson, Town of Cary  
Lori Bush, Town of Cary (A)  
Jim Crawford, Chatham County  
Ken Marshburn, Town of Garner  
Kathleen Ferguson, Town of Hillsborough  
Shaun McGrath, Town of Holly Springs  
Jessica Day, Town of Knightdale  
Heidi Carter, Durham County

Kirk Smith, Lee County  
Steve Rao, Town of Morrisville (A)  
Sally Greene, Orange County  
Pamela Baldwin, Town of Pittsboro  
Donald Rains, Town of Princeton  
Ronnie Currin, Town of Rolesville  
Michelle Medley, Town of Rolesville (A)  
Rebecca Salmon, City of Sanford  
Byron McAllister, Town of Selma  
Bill Haiges, Town of Siler City  
Sig Hutchinson, Wake County  
Chad Sary, Town of Wake Forest  
David McGowan, Town of Wilson's Mills

### *Delegates Absent:*

Joe Dannelley Town of Aberdeen (A)  
Audra Killingsworth, Town of Apex(A)  
Mark Jackson, Town of Archer Lodge (A) Jerry  
Medlin, Town of Benson  
Cassandra Stack, Town of Benson (A) Thomas  
Beal, Town of Broadway  
VACANT, Town of Cameron  
Dan Bonillo, Town of Carthage  
Christopher Nance, Town of Carthage (A)  
Michael Parker, Town of Chapel Hill  
Diana Hales, Chatham County (A)  
Jason Thompson Town of Clayton  
DeDreana Freeman, City of Durham  
Javiera Caballero, City of Durham (A)  
Nida Allam, Durham County (A)  
Larry Smith, Town of Fuquay-Varina  
Jason Wunsch, Town of Fuquay-Varina (A)  
Tim Cunnup, Town of Goldston  
Matt Hughes, Town of Hillsborough (A) Aaron  
Wolff, Town of Holly Springs (A) Trinity  
Henderson, Town of Kenly  
Latitious Morris, Town of Knightdale (A)

Arianna Lavalley, Lee County (A)  
Jay Langston, Town of Micro  
Russell Creech, Town of Micro (A) Frank  
Quis, Moore County  
Satish Garimella, Town of Morrisville  
Renée Price, Orange County (A)  
Jeff Holt, Town of Pine Level  
Greg Baker, Town of Pine Level (A)  
Kevin Drum, Village of Pinehurst  
Jane Hogeman, Village of Pinehurst (A)  
Michael Fiocco, Town of Pittsboro (A)  
Corey Branch, City of Raleigh  
Vacant, Town of Robbins  
Nikki Bradshaw, Tow of Robbins (A)  
Chet Mann, City of Sanford (A)  
Cheryl Oliver, Town of Selma (A)  
Lewis Fadely, Town of Siler City (A)  
Andy Moore, Town of Smithfield  
John Dunn, Town of Smithfield (A) Carol  
Haney, Town of Southern Pines Bill  
Pate, Town of Southern Pines (A) Al  
Mosley, Town of Vass  
Jim Uzzle, Town of Wilson's Mills (A)  
Larry Loucks, Town of Zebulon

Susan Evans, Wake County (A)  
Vivian Jones, Town of Wake Forest (A)  
Phil Tarnaski, Town of Wendell

Joe DeLoach, Town of Wendell (A)  
Glenn York, Town of Zebulon(A)

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

***TJCOG staff attending:***

Renée Boyette, Administration Officer  
Lindsay Whitson, Community & Economic  
Development Manager

Alana Keegan, Member Engagement Manager  
Lee Worsley, Executive Director

***Also Attending:***

Tom White, Chairman, FTZ #93 Board

Jeni Corn, MyFutureNC

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

Chairman Donald Rains called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and welcomed all attendees. He then reviewed the requirements for virtual public meetings. 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***

Chairman Rains presented the agenda for the March 24, 2021 Board of Delegates meeting and asked for any edits to the agenda. Hearing no changes, Chairman Rains declared the agenda approved by consent.

Chairman Rains thanked First Vice Chair Kathleen Ferguson for chairing the January Board of Delegates meeting.

***Special Orders of Business***

- **Consideration of Moore County’s Request for TJCOG Membership and Consideration of Town of Vass’s Request for TJCOG Membership**

Chairman Rains introduced the item as a great opportunity for the organization and asked Mr. Worsley to provide information about Moore County and Town of Vass requests for TJCOG membership. Mr. Worsley explained that staff have worked diligently for several years to bring members back into the organization. He thanked the Board for their leadership and staff for their hard work to show what can be done through regional efforts and collaboration.

Chairman Rains asked Mr. Worsley to share some of the work underway in Moore County that has strengthened the relationship. Mr. Worsley highlighted work currently in progress for Moore County and the municipalities within including ongoing facilitation of the Tri-Cities Work Group with Aberdeen, Pinehurst, and Southern Pines; direct planning assistance for Moore County to address staff vacancies; land use planning for Carthage; hurricane recovery for Robbins; administrative support for Cameron; and ongoing conversations with Vass on code enforcement and human resources assistance.

Mr. Worsley recommended the Board of Delegates approve TJCOG membership of Moore County and the Town of Vass.

Chairman Rains asked for a motion to approve the requests for TJCOG membership from both Moore County and the Town of Vass and seat their delegates.

*Ms. Ferguson made a motion to approve the requests for TJCOG membership from Moore County and the Town of Vass and seat their delegates as presented; Mr. Currin seconded the motion. Ms. Boyette conducted the vote via roll call; the motion was unanimously approved.*

Chairman Rains welcomed Moore County delegate Frank Quis and Town of Vass delegate Al Mosley to the Board of Delegates.

### ***Recognitions and Presentations***

- **Presentation from MyFutureNC: Closing the Educational Gap in North Carolina**

Chairman Rains asked Lindsay Whitson, TJCOG Community and Economic Development Program Manager, to introduce the item and presenter Jeni Corn from MyFutureNC. The nonprofit organization is focused on closing the educational attainment gap in the state. Ms. Whitson explained that the organization's goals align well with TJCOG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, before asking Ms. Corn to present MyFutureNC's work and noteworthy resources.

Ms. Corn shared background information on the organization, including its origins as the MyFutureNC Statewide Commission and aim to strengthen educational attainment work across NC to meet the following goal: 2 million 24- to 44-year-olds will have completed a high-quality credential or post-secondary degree by 2030. The organization also aims to address two large challenges to educational attainment: 1) a skills gap that is growing across the state representing a disconnect between needed job skills and the workforce and 2) a "leaky" workforce pipeline with only 69% of North Carolina high schoolers do not earn a degree or credential within six years of graduation. Ms. Corn outlined MyFutureNC's focus on amplifying local efforts and opportunities to improve attainment work that are tangible and achievable for any community. This includes resources to understand county-level attainment levels, key statistics, and information on the most promising practices to improve college enrollment such as FAFSA completion.

Ms. Corn outlined MyFutureNC's work in the coming year, including a listening tour with HBCU's, sharing policy briefs of best practices, and supporting non-degree workforce credentials in the state.

Delegate Rao asked about apprenticeship programs and ways the initiative is working to help the State keep up with changing skillsets. Ms. Corn mentioned ApprenticeshipNC as a resource for this challenge.

Delegate Crawford shared the work in Chatham County through Chatham County Promise to cover community college tuition for residents. Delegate Greene encouraged the organization to focus efforts on FAFSA applications. Delegate McGrath asked about work to encourage realistic and tailored career opportunities for students with different needs and skillsets.

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

Chairman Rains introduced the next item, recognition of Board member Jennifer Robinson for her new appointment to the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Board as Senior Vice-President, and asked Ms. Keegan to provide additional information. Ms. Keegan explained that NARC is the national organization for TJCOG and is a key resource for federal and regional lobbying activities. She also acknowledged the outstanding work of Ms. Robinson on behalf of TJCOG and the recognition of her leadership through the appointment.

Mr. Worsley added that elected officials and directors from regional councils across the country have immense respect for Ms. Robinson and her involvement on behalf of the TJCOG region. The appointment also provides a great opportunity for TJCOG to be involved in NARC through a leadership role.

Ms. Robinson expressed her thanks and excitement about working more directly with NARC. She encouraged the Board to use NARC as a resource and advocate.

- **Recognition of Renée Boyette upon her upcoming retirement from Triangle J**

Chairman Rains asked Mr. Worsley to introduce the item. Mr. Worsley thanked Ms. Boyette for her unwavering dedication to the organization and enthusiasm for supporting Board members and local governments in the region. He remarked on the obvious impact she had on the region, which was immediately evident when he became Executive Director in 2016. Ms. Boyette's passion for serving members was unrivaled. Mr. Worsley congratulated Ms. Boyette on her well-deserved retirement and the opportunity to enjoy new personal and professional efforts outside of TJCOG. Mr. Worsley read a resolution in recognition of Ms. Boyette to be considered for adoption under the Consent Agenda. Delegates reflected on Ms. Boyette's support and engagement over the years and thanked her immensely for her service. Ms. Boyette thanked the Board for their kind words and acknowledged the ways her role at TJCOG has given her the opportunity to learn and support local governments across the region.

### ***Business***

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

Chairman Rains asked Ms. Boyette to present this report. Ms. Boyette introduced the item, explaining the purpose of the Annual Report which is a required document for the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) program that outlines zone users, import statistics, changes in activity, and new sites. She provided background on the FTZ program and its goal to encourage foreign commerce and increase competitiveness of U.S businesses. Ms. Boyette asked Mr. White, the FTZ Board Chairman, to recognize the program's board members and eleven active sites in the zone. After, she presented key operator statistics including the amount of duties collected,

value of shipments in the zone, and categories of merchandise, and highlighted work that will begin in Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

**Consent Agenda**

- **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**

Chairman Rains presented the Consent Agenda for approval and asked if anyone wished to pull an item for individual consideration. Hearing none, *Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Ms. Robinson 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 provided a few operational updates including an update to office operations to allow staff to begin working in the office one day a week and piloting meetings in the TJCOG Large Conference Room in early April. Mr. Worsley also highlighted several projects underway on behalf of member governments including the facilitation of Princeton and Angier town retreats, the recruitment of Rolesville's Planning Director, assistance to Cameron through an operational assessment, and a Pay and Classification study for Wilson's Mills.

Mr. Worsley closed his report with a reminder for the Board that he would present TJCOG's Recommended Budget at the April 28<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Rains reminded the Nominating Committee that nominations for 2021-2022 officers were required to be presented by the May 2021 Board Meeting.

**Around the Region**

Chairman Rains noted that due to the lack of time, the Around the Region will not be held.

**Other Business**

Chairman Rains asked if there was any other business.

Hearing no further business,

*Ms. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Baldwin seconded the motion. Chairman Rains adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM.*

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*Alana Keegan*  
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Alana Keegan, Recording Officer

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*Don Rains*  
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Donald Rains, Chairman