



# Triangle J Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

The Honorable Kathleen Ferguson, Presiding

Wednesday, September 22, 2021  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Triangle J Council of Governments  
Virtual Meeting

<u>Time</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Official</u>
6:00 PM	<b>Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call &amp; Declaration of Quorum</b>	Kathleen Ferguson
6:10PM <i>Approve by consent</i>	<b>Review of Agenda</b>	Kathleen Ferguson
6:12 PM <i>Receive as information</i>	<b>Recognitions and Presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NC General Assembly Overview and Impacts to Local Governments</li><li>• Legislative Session's Impact on NC COGs</li></ul>	Leo John Amber Harris Chris Wall
6:50 PM <i>Receive as information</i> <i>Provide feedback</i>	<b>Business</b> <i>Items in this section requiring Board of Delegates action have been added to the Consent Agenda.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sandbox Challenge Project Update</li><li>• 2020 Census Discussion</li></ul>	Lindsay Whitson Lee Worsley
7:15 PM <i>Motion to approve</i>	<b>Consent Agenda</b> <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"><li>• Minutes of June 23rd, 2021 meeting</li></ul>	Alana Keegan
7:17 PM <i>Discuss and consider</i>	<b>Items Removed from the Consent Agenda</b>	Kathleen Ferguson
7:20 PM <i>Receive as information</i>	<b>Closed Session</b> <i>The Executive Committee will enter a separate virtual meeting to conduct the closed session and return to the public virtual meeting for related action and adjournment.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged as Allowed by North Carolina General Statutes Section 143-318.11 (a)(3).</li></ul>	Katie Hartzog

Continued

*September 22nd, 2021 Executive Committee Agenda (continued)*

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Official</u></b>
<b>7:50 PM</b> <i>Receive as information</i>	<b><i>Executive Director's Report</i></b>	Lee Worsley
<b>7:55 PM</b> <i>Receive as information</i>	<b><i>Chair's Report</i></b>	Kathleen Ferguson
<b>7:35 PM</b>	<b><i>Around the Region</i></b> <i>The past year and a half have been challenging for many members of the community. What strategies are you employing or considering to help your employees regarding mental health and wellness?</i>	Kathleen Ferguson
<b>7:55 PM</b>	<b><i>Other Business</i></b>	Kathleen Ferguson
<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b><i>Adjourn</i></b>	Kathleen Ferguson

## **Triangle J Board of Delegates Meeting Agenda Comments – September 22, 2021**

Agenda Section: Presentations & Recognition  
North Carolina Legislative Update

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**Background:** With the North Carolina Legislative Session underway, there are a good number of proposed and adopted bills that impact local government operations, change development processes or procedures, or reduce local control over community planning. Leo John, the NC League of Municipalities' Counsel for Legislative Affairs, and Amber Harris, Government Affairs for the NC County Commissioners Association, will join the Executive Committee to discuss movement at the General Assembly and potential impacts to local governments from new legislation.

**Recommendation(s):** It is recommended that the Board receive the information, ask questions about legislative activity, and share with their respective boards.

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

## **Triangle J Board of Delegates Meeting Agenda Comments – September 22, 2021**

Agenda Section: Presentations & Recognition  
2021 Legislative Session's Impact on NC COGs

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**Background:** In addition to the impact on local government operations, the 2021 Legislative Session is likely to have several big impacts on Councils of Government across North Carolina. Several bills and proposed funding sources may be connected to COG operations and/or utilizing COG strengths to assist with COVID-19 recovery. At this time, Chris Wall, lobbyist on behalf of the NC Association of Regional Councils of Government, will discuss activities by the General Assembly and the bills that may directly impact COGs and TJCOG.

**Recommendation(s):** It is recommended that the Board receive the information and ask questions about bills impacted Councils of Government.

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

## **Triangle J Board of Delegates Meeting Agenda Comments – September 22, 2021**

Agenda Section: Business  
Sandbox Challenge Project Update

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**Background:** During this time Lindsay Whitson will provide a brief update on the Sandbox Challenge since the Board selected Construction Waste and the Circular Economy as the 2021 Challenge. Following the Board's vote, TJCOG staff have been working to assemble an advisory committee representing unique perspectives on the challenge that can guide work for the year. The committee held its first meeting in mid-September and will continue meeting regularly through December 2021. All initial work on the challenge will continue through June 2022.

**Recommendation(s):** It is recommended that the Board receive the information and provide guidance on next steps for the effort.

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

# Triangle J Board of Delegates Meeting Agenda Comments – September 22, 2021

Agenda Section: Business  
2020 Census Brainstorming Discussion

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**Background:** During this time, Lee Worsley will lead a brainstorming conversation with the Executive Committee on the role that the COG should play regarding newly released 2020 Census data. The data will be instrumental in regulatory and funding decisions, as it is not only used to determine apportionment and redistricting but also allocations for over 130 federal programs in funding to states and localities, planning decisions (new roads, hospitals, schools), emergency response in the wake of disaster, and as a base for other federal surveys. As communities begin evaluating and using the data, TJCOG wants to ensure that staff are providing assistance in an effective manner that also reduces duplications between local governments and is supplemental to resources from other state and federal agencies.

**Recommendation(s):** It is recommended that the Board receive the information and provide guidance on what 2020 Census assistance would be most helpful.

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

# ***MINUTES***

## **Triangle J Council of Governments**

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, June 22, 2021

6:00 PM

Held simultaneously via Microsoft Teams and in person

#### ***Delegates and Alternate Delegates Attending:***

Mark B. Wilson, Town of Archer Lodge  
DeDreana Freeman, City of Durham  
Kathleen Ferguson, Town of Hillsborough  
Jim Crawford, Chatham County  
Heidi Carter, Durham County  
Butch Lawter, Johnston County

Kirk Smith, Lee County  
Sally Greene, Orange County  
Kevin Drum, Village of Pinehurst  
Donald Rains, Town of Princeton  
Ronnie Currin, Town of Rolesville  
Rebecca Salmon, City of Sanford

#### ***Delegates Absent:***

Pamela Baldwin, Town of Pittsboro

Sig Hutchinson, Wake County

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

Lee Worsley, Executive Director  
Jenny Halsey, Strategy & Operations Manager

Alana Keegan, Member Engagement  
Manager  
John Hodges-Copple, Metropolitan Planning  
Director

#### ***Guests***

Elise Bielin, GoTriangle  
Scott Thomas, GoTriangle

Elisabeth Raskopf, GoTriangle  
Jay Heikes, GoTriangle

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

Chair Rains called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed all attendees. He reviewed procedures for the virtual meeting and asked Alana Keegan, Member Engagement Manager, to conduct the roll. Ms. Keegan called the roll to verify the attendance of delegates and alternates and declared there was a quorum present.

#### ***Approval of Agenda***

Chair Rains presented the agenda and asked if anyone would like to request changes to the agenda. Hearing none, he declared the agenda approved by consent.

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

- *Commuter Rail in the Region*

Chair Rains asked John Hodges-Copple to introduce the item and staff from GoTriangle for additional details on the Commuter Rail project in the region. Mr. Hodges-Copple provided an



overview on the process underway to plan for and implement a commuter rail with proposed stops between Garner and West Durham. He outlined TJCOG's role in the process to help analyze regional growth, identify station areas with strong potential for connectivity, and evaluate the intersection of housing and jobs along the proposed station and rail line.

Elisabeth Raskopf and Jay Heikes, public engagement staff from GoTriangle transit agency, discussed the extensive engagement and planning effort being led across the region. Discussion touched on the impact of the commuter rail on regional travel and the opportunities for local governments to provide input through out the process. In response to remarks from Delegate Greene on bus rapid transit investment, the team discussed interconnection between the commuter rail and other transit projects across the Triangle.

### **Consent Agenda**

- Approve Minutes of February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Executive Committee meeting
- Approval of NC Housing Finance Agency Home Repair Policies for 2021 Chatham and Wake County ESFR Programs

Chair Rains presented the Consent Agenda for approval and asked if anyone would like to remove an item. *Ms. Wyhof Salmon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Mr. Currin seconded the motion. Ms. Keegan conducted the vote via roll call; the motion was passed unanimously.*

### **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

None.

### **Enter Closed Session**

- Approval of the Executive Committee closed Session Minutes from June 20, 2020
- Consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged as Allowed by North Carolina General Statutes Section 143-318.11 (a)(3).
- Conduct the Annual Performance Review of the Executive Director as Allowed by North Carolina General Statutes Section 143-318.11 (a)(b)

Chair Rains asked for a motion to enter closed session for the stated purposes. *Mr. Smith made a motion to enter a closed session. Ms. Ferguson seconded the motion. Ms. Keegan conducted the vote via roll call; the motion was passed unanimously. The Executive Committee entered closed session at 7:25 PM.*

### **Report from Closed Session**

The Executive Committee returned to open session at 8:54 PM.

Chair Rains reported out on the Executive Director's review and said that closed session went well with a strong evaluation for Mr. Worsley. At this time, Mr. Worsley asked the Executive Committee to amend any action after closed session and grant him the authority to provide

John Hodges-Copple with 3% merit due to his tenure and high-quality work, despite personnel policy restrictions.

Chair Rains asked for a motion to approve a 3% merit increase for the Executive Director based on a good performance review and to approve the Executive Director's authority to provide a 3% merit increase to Mr. Hodges-Copple. *Ms. Ferguson made the motion. Mr. Crawford seconded the motion; the motion was passed unanimously.*

***Other Business***

Chair Rains reminded members of the Executive Committee that a Special Executive committee meeting would be held on July 15<sup>th</sup> to consider several Foreign Trade Zone items and thanked all delegates for support and engagement during his tenure as Board Chair.

Chair Rains asked if members of the Executive Committee had any other business.

Hearing none,

*Ms. Salmon made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Ferguson seconded the motion. Chairperson Rains adjourned the meeting at 9:03 PM.*

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Alana Keegan, Recording Officer

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Donald Rains, Chairperson

## **Triangle J Executive Committee Meeting Agenda Comments – September 22, 2021**

Agenda Section: Closed Session

Consult with TJCOG Attorney

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**Background:** North Carolina General Statutes Section 143-318.11 (a)(3) allows the public body to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

**Recommendation(s):** It is recommended that the Executive Committee enter closed session to consult with the TJCOG Attorney.

**Staff Responsible for Technical Support:** Jenny Halsey, Strategy and Operations Manager