

General Membership Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Thursday, January 13, 2022

Third Floor Conference Room

233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC

Minutes

Executive Committee in Attendance:

Bill Taylor, Morehead City Commissioner
Jim Kohr, City of Havelock Commissioner
Shane Turney, Treasurer
Ed Riggs, Jr., 1st Vice President
Jay Bender, President
Arthur Robinson, 2nd Vice President
Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner
Steve Wiggins, Mount Olive Commissioner (via Zoom)
Pat Prescott, Pamlico County Commissioner (via Zoom)
Bob Cavanaugh, Carteret County Commissioner (via Zoom)

General Membership Committee in Attendance:

Carolyn Kenyon, Mayor of Faison
Todd Clark, Town of Beaufort Manager
Dominic Sparado, Town of Newport Representative
Mariana Hollinshed, Town of Beaufort Commissioner (via Zoom)
John Nash, Town of Cedar Point Commissioner (via Zoom)
Patty Leonard, Town of River Bend Commissioner (via Zoom)
Diane Brown, Town of Greenevers Commissioner (via Zoom)

ECC Staff in Attendance:

Tim Ware, Interim Executive Director
Leighann Morgan, Deputy Finance Director
Heather O'Connor, AAA Director
January Brown, AAA Deputy Director
Kim Baker, Aging Program Consultant
Angelia Pridgen, Lead Regional Ombudsman
Ginger Sims, Aging Program Consultant (via Zoom)

Guest in Attendance:

Knox Proctor, ex-officio, Attorney, Ward & Smith
Micheal James, Lenoir County Manager
Kyle DeHaven, Greene County Manager
Jeff Adyette, County Compass
Franky Howard, Jones County Manager (via Zoom)
Jim Youngquist, SERDI (via Zoom)
Tommy Burns, Carteret County Manager (via Zoom)

1. Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order

Jay Bender called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Quorum was met. Jim Kohr gave the invocation. Jay Bender requested to go around the room and introduce everyone.

2. Adopt Agenda - Jay Bender, President

Bill Taylor motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Bennie Heath, motion was carried unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda – Jay Bender, President

- a. General Membership Board Minutes—June 30, 2020
- b. Financial Statement
- c. 2022 Calendar

Arthur Robinson motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Ed Riggs, Jr., motion was carried unanimously.

4. Budget & Audit Committee Report – Shane Turney, Treasurer

Shane Turney stated the Budget & Audit Committee met to discuss the check register and financial statements. They discussed the retirement of Finance Director Jenny Miller. Her retirement has left gaps and grey area for the Auditors. Jenny has showed a willingness to come back and contract till June 2022. They have asked Tim to contact and figure out the details. The group was all in favor of this decision.

**5. NC Associations of Regional Councils of Governments Forum Member –Tim Ware,
Interim Executive Director**

Tim Ware discussed the NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments Forum and asked for a volunteer to sit on the forum as well as an alternate.

6. SERDI Assessment – Tim Ware, Interim Executive Director

Jim Younquist, SERDI

Jim Younquist discussed the process of the SERDI assessment of ECCOG. Virtual interviews were setup across the region and focus groups were held with Chairs of Commissioners and Managers. Online surveys were administered to local government managers and administrators. An in-person group of county and city managers were held at the ECC office.

The results from the surveys and interviews ranged from total disengagement to desiring to have a full service working COG. A desire to have grant writing, planning, ordinance and zoning advisement, personnel searches, community economic development information and convening the region of opportunities challenges.

Discussion of the results from SERDI, the misconceptions, and the future of ECC
In four weeks there is to be a presentation and plan on how to push forward in growing and making ECC successful.

7. Member Comments

8. Closed Session - NC G.G. 143-318-11(a)(6)

Bill Taylor motioned to go into closed session, seconded by Ed Riggs, Jr. and motion was carried unanimously.

9. Adjournment

Closed session ended at 8:47 p.m. and on motion duly made and seconded meeting was adjourned.