

Land of Sky Regional Council
October 28, 2020
Virtual Regular Meeting
Via the Zoom Platform



Under S.L. 2020-3, SB 704, Delegates are required to state their names when moving on orders of business. Thank you!

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order (12:30pm)**
- II. Invocation**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Roll Call**
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda**
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests**
- VIII. Chair's Comments and Roundtable for Updates from Around the Region**
- IX. Approval of Minutes from the September Virtual Regular Meeting via the Zoom Platform**
- X. Presentations/Recognition**
 - A. Dr. Anita Brown-Graham, UNC School of Government and ncIMPACT, Regarding How Local Governments can help Their Communities Respond to the Challenges of COVID19
 - B. WNC Energy Update, featuring Buncombe County Government, Duke Energy and Dominion Energy
 - C. Clean Vehicles Coalition Update – Sara Nichols, Planner for LOSRC
- XI. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items**
- XII. Old Business**
- XIII. New Business**
- XIV. Executive Director's Report**
- XV. Important Dates**
 - A. Next Virtual Regional Board Meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2020 via the Zoom Platform. Just a reminder, this is the annual Awards Presentation Meeting!
- XVI. Adjournment**



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** September 2020 Board of Delegates Virtual Meeting Minutes
- Item Number:** X. Approval of Minutes from the September 2020 Virtual Regular Meeting
- Responsible Party:** Zia Rifkin, Administrative Services
- Attachment(s):** Minutes from the September 2020 Virtual Regular Meeting
- Background:** A quorum was present to conduct business at the September 2020 virtual meeting and the minutes provide a recap of the of the Chair's comments and Delegate updates from around the region. There was also presentations from Dr. Kelli Brown, Chancellor of Western Carolina University and Dr. Nancy Cable, Chancellor of UNC-Asheville.
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend acceptance of the minutes from the September 2020 virtual meeting
- Suggested Motion(s):** Move to approve the minutes of the September 2020 virtual meeting as submitted

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates**

September 23, 2020

Minutes

- I. Call to Order – Chair Volk called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30pm.
- II. Invocation – Chair Volk requested a moment of silence for Henderson County Sheriff Deputy, Ryan Hendrix, who recently passed. Chair Volk also recognized the local elected officials, who have passed in the last several months. Mayor Larry Harris gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Volk led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Roll Call – Nathan Ramsey called the roll. The following members were present: Tim Love, Larry Rogers, Mike Hawkins, Larry Harris, Maureen Copelof, Albert Gooch, Pat Christie, Preston Blakely, Barbara Volk, John Connet, Daniel Cobb, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Eric Hardy, George Morosani, and Bob Tomasulo

Guests Present – Chancellor Dr. Nancy Cable, Chancellor Dr. Kelli Brown, Angie Chandler, Stacy Peek, Margie Bukowski, Terry Houck, Jr., Patrick Williams, Emily Thomas, Jeff Ray, Dr. Brian Weaver, Sophie Ungert, Lisa Mann, Dr. Kevan Frazier, Melissa Wargo, Matthew Martin, Graham Fields, Rebecca Loli, and Dr. Laura Leatherwood

A quorum was present to conduct business.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda – The agenda was presented for approval with no modification requested.

Larry Harris moved to approve the agenda as presented. George Morosani seconded and the motion carried unanimously, and without further discussion.
- VI. Public Comment – No public comments received.
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests –
Nathan Ramsey shared appreciation for members of the community who joined today’s meeting.
- VIII. Chair’s Comments and Delegates Roundtable
Chair Volk requested that Delegates share updates and news of interest in their jurisdictions.

Delegates Roundtable

Tim Love – Shared for Buncombe County that the Maui Basketball Tournament would be relocating from Maui to Asheville/Buncombe County. This is great for the branding of the area as a recreational destination. The County is adhering to the governor’s guidelines for masking/social distancing, so no fans will be in attendance at the tournament.

Mike Hawkins – Shared that Transylvania County is battling to get response rates up on the Census. Good news, the level of self-response from 2010 has been passed for the 2020 Census in Transylvania County.

Larry Harris – Shared that the Town of Black Mountain is starting solid waste pickup next week.

Maureen Copelof – Shared that the City of Brevard has reopened all of its playgrounds. Also, a new skate park should open in the next couple of weeks, to provide safe, outdoor activities for youth. There is also going to be a new dog park on donated land. Construction begins on that later this year. Big budget re-evaluation coming up next week. Sales tax data is in for the past several months.

Albert Gooch – Shared that the Village of Flat Rock has a very popular Park, the playground is open and the children are very happy.

Preston Blakely – Shared that the Town of Fletcher has opened its playgrounds. The Town is also awaiting proposals for a new Town Center.

Barbara Volk – Shared that the City of Hendersonville has been busy. The atypical Apple Festival was a very well received event- the apple growers were happy and so were the visitors to the events. Even the downtown was reasonably busy, too. The City will not be holding Trick or Treat Street this year due to the large crowds that are drawn. However, holiday celebrations and the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot are planned in modified form. Main Street closes down the first weekend of each month to allow for special events.

Nathan Ramsey - Recognized Mayor Volk for her nomination for the Athena Award by the Henderson County Chamber.

Daniel Cobb – Shared that the park and walking trails are very, very busy every day. The biggest news in Town is that the baseball field is finishing up and should be open by spring. Very busy, lots of permit activity going on.

George Morosani – Shared that Buncombe County and other places are enjoying a great apartment-building boom! It is the biggest economic growth he is seeing.

Eric Hardy – Shared that the Town of Woodfin is in the process of hiring a planning director. This will help the Town chart its future path. The Town has also begun construction of SilverLine Park along the river. It is the first piece in a multi-park system. In addition, parks and playgrounds are reopening this weekend.

IX. Approval of Minutes from the August Regular Meeting –

A motion was made and seconded and the minutes of the August 26, 2020 virtual meeting via the Zoom platform were approved as submitted.

Presentations/Recognition –

A. Dr. Nancy Cable, Chancellor, UNC-Asheville & Dr. Kelli Brown, Chancellor, Western Carolina University

Dr. Kelli Brown shared that Western Carolina University looks at the doors that have opened due to the lockdowns and pandemic. This pandemic has taught us that we are resilient. At WCU, amazing things are happening at the Cullowhee Campus and the Asheville campus. The goal is to have everyone on campus be safe during the pandemic. Face to face courses have moved online and many campus support services have adjusted to meet the needs of the students. WCU is prepared to adapt as necessary to the current environment. The dining halls have been reconfigured to allow social distancing. She gave a shout-out to other local campuses and MAHEC for the weekly meetings on how best to address the challenges of the current situation. Response has gone beyond the campuses- money has been raised to get facemasks to frontline workers across WNC. In addition, 3D printers have been used to create face shields for campus staff and others in the community. There has also been record-breaking enrollment this year- 12, 240! While there has been a dip in freshmen and undergraduate transfer students that is to be expected due to the pandemic. Some students have decided to sit out the semester due to the pandemic, while others have chosen to be on campus safely. This is a testament to the total student experience. WCU is working to meet the aspirational goals of students.

Dr. Kelli Brown noted the ambitious target set by myFutureNC, which could be met by the transformational work being done by the university and other institutions in the region. WCU is showcasing the talents of the region. The University is also an active partner in the region for the outdoor recreation industry. Regarding the Asheville Campus, four doctoral programs and many other degree programs are offered at the Biltmore Instructional Site. The Biltmore Park site offers many professional development programs. WCU has also been recognized as a top ten institution in the Southeast. WCU has received a new ranking for social mobility- Best in Regional Universities. WCU gives students the tools needed to change the trajectory of their lives and the University is starting a small business incubator in collaboration with Mountain BizWorks. Dr. Kelli Brown also shared about many of the other rankings and accomplishments of WCU. The pandemic has shown the many inequities in the region and WCU is working to tackle these issues. Dr. Kelli Brown recognized the contributions of Dr. Arthur Salido, as he moves on to the next phase of his career, beyond WCU. She invited everyone, post-COVID, to visit the Cullowhee Campus and the Biltmore Park Instructional

Site. New dorms are being constructed on the main campus, set to open in 2023. WCU is vibrant, thriving, and ready to meet the needs of students for their success.

Dr. Nancy Cable shared about five particular moments that have brought UNC-A to where it is today. Enrollment, COVID, racial justice, serious concerns/needs about broadband and looking forward a little bit regarding COVID and the flu season, which is on the horizon. WCU and UNC-A are major economic drivers in the region. The six institutions and private colleges, add to the intellectual capital in the region. She shared that our language should reflect that the University never really closed, even though the school did have to send its students home in the spring. All work moved online. The conundrum was that many faculty had never taught online. Almost no one was used to doing hybrid-teaching. Nomenclature and use of technology changed almost overnight. It was an eye opening moment for those in higher education. There was a lot to learn. Faculty stood to the occasion, learned the technology, became more innovative and responsive and championed the needs of students. In addition, the University adopted nearly hospital level protocols, resulting in a very low prevalence of COVID. She gave credit to MAHEC for guidance given and for a grant that helped to pay students to be health ambassadors, leading to peer-to-peer influence and a very low prevalence of the virus. The grant also allowed students to participate in service work in the community. Additionally, the grant allows a review of death rates of COVID among those with comorbidities. Very proud to be that kind of research unit. This also provides an undergraduate, capstone research experience for students that allows them to work alongside public/private health research facilities. Dr. Nancy Cable noted that higher education, post COVID, would regenerate as more thriving places, tremendous intellectual talent, quick problem solving, etc. She also shared about the time to degree and cost to degree, noting that three-year bachelor degrees (three semesters per year) are available. UNC-A is innovating student life by creating ways for students to order online and pick up their healthy food to go. About 40% of current classes are in-person, 30% hybrid and 30% are online courses. Impact on enrollment – many students have been looking for ways to leave the urban core behind and UNC-A fits the bill. Overall increase in enrollment; however, there is some softness in on-campus living in the residence halls.

Dr. Nancy Cable reviewed the financial picture- the University is in good shape, even considering the \$1.5 million spent on Plexiglas and PPE. Going forward for the spring, doing a J-Term, which is a three week course that is 3-hours per day and entirely online. The University plans on adjourning before Thanksgiving, taking a longer winter break, offering no spring break and finishing up by mid-May. She mentioned that the campus has been working on a racial justice roadmap and doubling down on how to accomplish parity. Alerting students, parents and others about racial justice, what is expected, more inclusivity, etc. careful and deliberate to be a more diverse place over time. Regarding broadband access in the region- UNC-A is a convener to bring together partners to create more Wi-Fi access points in the region; with a variety of campus groups working to create a social justice project to provide broadband to students who learn from home. Lack of broadband access is a serious inequity in the region. Students are involved in setting up some of the broadband connections and are working with the public school systems for increased access. Dr. Nancy Cable concluded that UNC-A is on a trajectory of growth, through public/private partnerships, growing 24/7 programs, and working with myFutureNC, among other things. The University is looking for a closer, more robust and vibrant relationship with the region.

X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items

XI. New Business

XII. Executive Director's Report

Nathan Ramsey shared that his report was in the agenda packet. He encouraged Delegates and guests to reach out with any questions or comments regarding the report.

XIII. Important Dates

A. Wednesday, October 28, 2020 is the next regularly scheduled Board of Delegates meeting, which is planned to be held virtually.

XIV. Old Business

XV. Adjournment – Chair Volk adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.

Respectfully submitted by Zia Rifkin



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** Executive Director's Report
- Item Number:** XIV. Executive Director's Report
- Responsible Party:** Nathan Ramsey, Interim Executive Director
- Attachment(s):** Executive Director's Report for September 23, 2020
- Background:** The Executive Director's Report provides updates and relevant information from LOSRC Departments/Agencies.
- Staff Recommendation:** N/A.
- Suggested Motion(s):** N/A

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Announcement: October 28, 2020

Nominations are now being accepted for three awards to be presented at Land of Sky Regional Council's Board Meeting on December 2, 2020.

THE CHARLES H. CAMPBELL REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award may be given **only** by the Council's Executive Committee. The award was established in 1983 in the name of the four-time Council Chairman and long-time Brevard Mayor, who received a national award for regional leadership in 1977. It may be given annually to one Council member who has made a major long-term contribution to the Council and its governance.

THE ROBERT G. PARRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AWARD

This award, also presented at the discretion of the Council's Executive Committee, is to an elected or appointed official who has made significant contributions to improve intergovernmental cooperation within the region. This award honors the memory of the late Council Chairman and long-time Fletcher Mayor Robert Parrish, who received the 2000 NC Intergovernmental Relations Award.

THE ROBERT E. SHEPHERD EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD

This award is presented at the Council's discretion to a local government professional who has shown great leadership in improving governance and service delivery, especially in the areas of regional cooperation and collaboration. This awards honors Land of Sky Regional Council's first Executive Director of 30 years.

Q: When is the deadline?

A: Nominations must be received by Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

Q: Where do I send my nomination?

A: Please email nominations forms to christina@landofsky.org or fax to 828.251.6353.

You may also mail nomination packets to:

Regional Award Nominations

Land of Sky Regional Council

339 New Leicester Hwy, Suite 140, Asheville, NC 28806

NOMINATION FORM
LAND OF SKY REGIONAL COUNCIL AWARDS

Deadline for submission is **Wednesday, November 18, 2020**. Awards will be presented at Land of Sky Regional Council's Board Meeting on December 2, 2020.

Please check the award for which you are submitting a nomination:

Robert Parrish Award

Charles Campbell Award

Robert Shepherd Award

Note: Before completing, please refer to the attached document for award criteria.

Name of Nominee (individual or organization):

Address:

Phone Number(s):

Describe major area(s) of accomplishment for person or organization:

List of leadership/responsibilities for the nominee as they relate to their accomplishments:

Describe traits of leadership exhibited by the nominee which were instrumental in his/her regional accomplishments:

Describe obstacles (if any) which nominee faced in this accomplishment and how these were overcome:

Describe importance or impact of the above to the Region (Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties) or the multiple jurisdictions involved (for Parrish award):

Additional Comments:

Note: You may enclose no more than two newspaper articles, supportive letters or other documentation to support the nominee's credentials for this award.

Name of person making nomination:

Signature:

Address:

Phone Number:

THE CHARLES H. CAMPBELL REGIONAL AWARDS

1984	Roy M. Trantham, Asheville
1985	William M. Ives, Transylvania County
1986	James T. Ledford, Madison County
1987	John J. Carter, Laurel Park
1988	Norma T. Price, Asheville
1990	Cornelius Hunt, Brevard
1992	Fran Waser, Transylvania County
1993	Gene Rainey, Buncombe County
1995	Vollie G. Good, Henderson County
2000	Robert F. Parrish, Sr.
2001	Fred H. Niehoff, Jr.
2003	Jerry Plemmons
2004	David Gantt
10/2004	Eliza Graue
2005	Raymond D. Miller, Transylvania County
2007	Charles "Pal" Grimes – Biltmore Forest Rodney
2008	Locks, Councilman for City of Brevard
2009	Eddie Fox
2010	Chuck McGrady
2012	Joe McKinney
2015	Phil Monk
2016	George Goosmann
2017	Dr. Charles Dickens
2018	Jack Cecil
2019	Larry Harris

ROBERT G. PARRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AWARD

2001	Fred H. Niehoff, Jr.
2002	C. Thomas Sobol, Jr.
2003	James Westbrook
2004	Arthur "Artie" Wilson
2005	NC Representative Raymond Rapp, Madison County
2006	NC Representative Wilma Sherrill, Buncombe County
2007	Chris Carter
2008	David Young
2009	Trudi Walend
2010	Mark Burrows
2012	Letta Jean Taylor
2015	Bob Davy
2018	Mike Hawkins
2019	Jerry VeHaun

ROBERT E. SHEPHERD EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD

2016	Robert E. Shepherd
2017	Susan Frady
2018	John Connet
2019	Forrest Gilliam
2019	Jonathan Kanipe