

Land of Sky Regional Council
April 24, 2019
Regular Meeting



Please mute all electronic devices, including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and recorders. Delegates are requested to state their names when moving on orders of business. Thank you!

AGENDA

Special Presentation – Panel Discussion: Affordable Housing (12:45pm)

- I. Call to Order (1:15pm)
- II. Invocation
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests
- VIII. Chairman’s Comments and Roundtable
- IX. Approval of Minutes from the March Regular Meeting
- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items
- XI. Presentations/Recognition
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Executive Director’s Report
 - A. Land of Sky Annual BBQ
 - B. Workforce Development Update
 - C. Land of Sky Audio/Visual Improvements
- XV. Important Dates
- XVI. Adjournment



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** March Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes
- Item Number:** X. Approval of Minutes from the March Regular Meeting
- Responsible Party:** Zia Rifkin, Administrative Services
- Attachment(s):** Minutes from the March 2019 Meeting
- Background:** A quorum was present to conduct business at the March 2019 meeting and the minutes provide a recap of the special presentation from French Broad River MPO and Land of Sky RPO staff regarding transportation project updates for the 5-county transportation planning region. The March Board of Delegates meeting was also the Annual Meeting for the election of Council's Officers and the Executive Committee.
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend acceptance of the March 2019 meeting minutes.
- Suggested Motion(s):** Move to approve the March minutes as submitted

**Meeting of
Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates
March 27, 2019**

Minutes

Special Presentation – Staff with the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) and Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization (LOSRPO) provided a regional transportation update to the Board. Chair Harris introduced Erica Anderson, Director of Economic and community development for LOSRC. Erica Anderson introduced the Transportation Team: Lyuba Zuyeva, Vicki Eastland, Tristan Winkler, Nick Kroncke, and Ritchie Rozzelle. Erica Anderson noted that Lyuba Zuyeva is leaving LOSRC soon for a job in the private sector. Tristan Winkler will be stepping into the MPO Director role.

Lyuba Zuyeva provided a brief update on transportation projects in the FBRMPO region (which includes Haywood County). She began by reviewing the number of MPO regions in the state and the number of RPO regions. She noted that the FBRMPO has been around since 1966 and moved to LOSRC in 2009. She shared that LOSRPO covers the rural areas in the transportation region. Some functions of the MPO and RPO overlap with regards to transportation planning. She also explained the purpose of MPOs and RPOs. In addition, Lyuba Zuyeva explained the SPOT Prioritization process, which is a two-year cycle. She noted that the process has changed somewhat and now projects within the first six years of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) are considered committed. She noted once right-of-way (ROW) has occurred on a project in the first six years of the STIP, those funds could not be recommitted. Relevant websites: <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/Transportation/stip/development/Pages/default.aspx>; www.fbrmpo.org; and, <http://www.landofsky.org/rpo.html>.

Lyuba Zuyeva shared about the I-26 projects including that a new section has been added as funded to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The various I-26 projects could take as long as seven years to complete, including a new bridge (north of the current Jeff Bowen Bridge) over the French Broad River. She noted that the I-26 interchange in Henderson County would begin construction in 2025. Lyuba Zuyeva also reviewed several interchange projects that will be starting in the region in the next couple of years, including the Liberty Road Interchange in Candler and the Blue Ridge Road Interchange in the Town of Black Mountain. The Sweeten Creek Road Widening was noted and it was shared that it and the I-26 project would be built concurrently. Lyuba Zuyeva noted that NCDOT is working with the contractor to have most of the work completed during off-peak road use. She also highlighted the Amboy/Meadow Roads project, which is having a public input meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2019. NCDOT project maps may be located at <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/pages/breakdown-maps.aspx>.

Vicki Eastland shared an update for the LOSRPO. She noted that the RPO covers the rural areas outside of the MPO region, in the five-county transportation planning area. Vicki Eastland reviewed ongoing projects (committed STIP) in the LOSRPO region including the US 25/70 Modernization Project in Madison County, the upgrade to the intersection of US 64/276 and NC 280, the US 64/276 Access Management Project; and, the Wilson Road Modernization Project in Transylvania County. Additional projects reviewed included US 276 in Pisgah Forest. Projects in the draft 2020-2029 STIP were also reviewed.

John Mitchell expressed appreciation for all of Lyuba Zuyeva's hard work during her time with LOSRC/FBRMPO.

Discussion occurred about the total cost of the transportation projects that were reviewed and Lyuba Zuyeva noted that the total cost is probably close to \$2 billion. Discussion also occurred about STIPs being approved every two years. It was noted that the SPOT process feeds into the STIP and allows for local input in terms of what is important to local governments around transportation projects.

Vicki Eastland explained about the three different types of transportation projects: Statewide, Division Needs and Regional Impact. The local transportation planning boards do not have input on the Statewide projects as those are determined by NCDOT; however, for the Division Needs and Regional Impact tiers, the MPO and RPO apply points, respectively, to the projects in their regions based on input from local governments. Lyuba Zuyeva shared about Surface Transportation Block Grant-Directly Attributable (STBG-DA) funds which are allocated directly to the MPO, who issues a

call for projects and then reviews the applications submitted for approval. The STBG-DA funds are disbursed by the city of Asheville. Lyuba Zuyeva noted that projects requesting at least \$100 thousand are encouraged as there is a lot of red tape involved with these funds, which could require much staff time. A local match of 20% is required for STBG-DA funded projects.

Discussion occurred about STBG-DA call for projects that would occur in January of 2020. Projects approved from that call for projects, would be included in the 2020-2029 STIP.

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Larry Harris called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15pm.
- II. Invocation – Chairman Harris gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance – All stood as Chairman Harris led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Roll Call – Justin Hembree called the roll. The following members were present: Vijay Kapoor, George Goosmann, Jonathan Kanipe, Larry Harris, Albert Gooch, Bob Davy, Barbara Volk, Nancy McKinley, Nancy Allen, George Morosani, Patrick Fitzsimmons, George Morosani, and, Bob Tomasulo. The following guests were present: April Riddle, Nathan Bennett and Mayor Don Collins. Justin Hembree announced a quorum was present to conduct business.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda – The agenda was presented with no modification requested.
George Goosmann moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bob Davy seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.
- VI. Public Comment –No comments were received from the public.
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests – Chairman Harris recognized Mayor Don Collins, from the Town of Black Mountain.
- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Round Table – Larry Harris - Shared about impact fees for tapping into water lines and how those costs could not be passed on to water system customers. Patrick Fitzsimmons – Shared that the Town of Weaverville has hired a new Police Chief. Maggie Tuttle – Shared that the Town of Black Mountain is experiencing congestion on its local streets and is looking for solutions to mitigate the issue. Vijay Kapoor – Shared that the City of Asheville has hired a new Manager, the new City Attorney is coming onboard, and, the City is looking for a new police chief. The City is also involved in its budget process. Albert Gooch – Shared that the Village of Flat Rock is working on its budget. Nancy Allen – Shared that the Town of Marshall is very busy. Jonathan Kanipe – Shared that the Town of Biltmore Forest had a Parks open house and a seminar on wood blight. Bob Davy – Shared that the Town of Fletcher has a couple of road projects that are ongoing in the downtown and work is continuing on Howard Gap Road. Lastly, the Town has just completed replacing the playground equipment in Kate's Park. Chair Harris announced that today is Charles Dickens last meeting. He commented that for the last two years, he has served on the Executive Committee with Charles; he is a great guy to serve with and very smart. Charles Dickens shared that he has served the region for nearly 20 years. LeeAnne Tucker shared that Charles has led campaigns to secure funding for Project C.A.R.E. (Caregivers Running on Empty), which is now a statewide program. She also noted that Charles has worked significantly with the Senior Tar Heel Legislature. He will continue his service on the Regional Aging Advisory Council (RAAC). Justin Hembree shared that Charles' service on the Executive Committee is the definition of a public servant and that he could always count on Charles for a very balanced, steady approach. Chair Harris also introduced Charlotte Sullivan, the new Finance Director for LOSRC. Bob Tomasulo – Shared that he has been working with Charles for nearly ten years and his service has been invaluable to the region. He shared that the next RAAC meeting will be in Brevard on April 12. Everyone is welcome at these public meetings. He also shared appreciation to LeeAnne Tucker, for making it possible for him to attend the Conference on Aging on the grounds of the Biltmore Estate a couple of weeks ago. He noted that there are now more people in North Carolina over the age of 70 than those under 70. Lyuba Zuyeva – Shared that the

March LOSRC Impact Report has a link to the transportation survey and she encouraged everyone to take it. Charles Dickens – Shared his appreciation for all of the support he has received over the years. Barbara Volk – Shared that the City of Hendersonville has approved its general plan for a new police station and funding that would be part of the upcoming budget process. The City is no longer the owner of the Greys Hosiery Mill – the property has new owners and demolition has begun as Workforce Housing is planned for the site. Private investors are using historic tax credits and private funding to develop the property.

IX. Approval of Minutes from the February Regular Meeting – *George Morosani moved to approve the minutes as submitted. George Goosmann seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.*

X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items –

XI. Presentations/Work Session –

A. Strategic Plan Implementation Update – Justin Hembree shared an update on efforts that are underway regarding the implementation of the recently adopted Strategic Plan. He noted that staff are already at work in terms of implementing the plan, including face-to-face interviews across the region. Justin Hembree shared that he is interviewing county managers and then, city managers. Three broad questions are being asked- What is Land of Sky doing that is working? What should Land of Sky be doing? What is Land of Sky doing that does not need to be done? He noted that a survey tool would be released in a few months (after the CEDS and Transportation surveys are done). He also shared about the two committees established under the strategic plan- Legislative Relations Committee and the Programs Committee. He asked Delegates to let him know if they were interested in serving on one of these committees.

XII. Old Business –

XIII. Annual Meeting –

A. Election of Council Officers and Executive Committee Members – Justin Hembree shared that the By-laws require annual elections for Executive Committee and officers every year at the Annual Meeting held in March. He shared that the Nominating Committee is recommending the following slate of Officers and Executive Committee members for the term that would end March of 2020:

Chair- Larry B. Harris, Town of Black Mountain (Buncombe)

Vice-Chair- Barbara Volk, City of Hendersonville (Henderson)

Secretary- Patrick Fitzsimmons, Town of Weaverville (Buncombe)

Treasurer- Mike Hawkins, County of Transylvania

County Delegate- John Mitchell, Henderson County

Municipal Delegate- Albert Gooch, Village of Flat Rock (Henderson)

Past Chair Delegate- George Goosmann, Town of Biltmore Forest (Buncombe)

Minority Representative Delegate- Nancy Allen, Town of Marshall (Madison)

Aging/Volunteer Services Representative- Bob Tomasulo, Regional Aging Advisory Council

Justin Hembree communicated that the floor was open for nominations, as well. None were received.

Bob Davy moved to approve the slate of Officers and Executive Committee Members as recommended. George Morosani seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Bob Davy encouraged considering a By-laws change to have the LOSRC Annual Meeting coincide more with General Elections in the region.

XIV. Executive Director's Report –

A. Vacant Board of Delegates Positions– Justin Hembree shared that he has reached out to folks in Henderson and Buncombe Counties who may be interested in serving in the At-Large (Minority) Representative slots on the Board.

- XV. Important Dates – On May 2, LOSRC/Our Voice is hosting a School of Government workshop on Human Trafficking. More information will be forthcoming. He also noted that the Annual BBQ event on July 24 would be held at Henderson County Emergency Services facility.
- XVI. Adjournment – As there was no further business, Chair Harris adjourned the meeting.



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Subject: Executive Director's Report

Item Number: XIV. Executive Director's Report

Responsible Party: Justin Hembree, Executive Director

Attachment(s): None

Background: The following item will be presented as part of the Executive Director's Report:

- A. LOSRC Annual Summer BBQ Event (July 24)
- B. Workforce Development Update
- C. LOSRC Audio/Visual Improvements

Staff Recommendation: N/A.

Suggested Motion(s): N/A