

Executive Committee November 30, 2022 Hybrid Meeting In-Person at LOSRC office and Remotely via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Call to Order (11:00am)

2. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda items are considered routine and noncontroversial in nature, and are considered and approved by a single motion and vote. If any member of the Executive Committee requests an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration and action that item will be placed under the Business, Updates and Discussion section of the agenda.

A. October 26, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

3. New Business

- A. LOSRC Staff Holiday Bonus
- **B.** FY21-22 Audit Update
- C. Minority Interest Representatives LOSRC Board of Delegates
- NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments Forum Representative

4. Other Items

A. Executive Director Report

6. Adjournment

Land of Sky Regional Council Executive Committee Regular Meeting October 26, 2022

Minutes

Land of Sky Regional Council's Executive Committee held a meeting at the offices of Council that included access through the Zoom platform on Wednesday, October 26, 2022. Executive Committee members participating in the meeting included Vice Chair Norris Gentry, Maureen Copelof, Jason Chappell, Sandra Kilgore, Barbara Volk, and Matt Wechtel constituting a quorum.

Land of Sky staff participating in the meeting included Nathan Ramsey, Patricia Rosenburg, Christina Giles (Zoom Host), Vicki Jennings, LeeAnne Tucker, Erica Anderson, and Glenda Brown, and Zia Rifkin (Minutes). Land of Sky's Legal Counsel, Susan Russo-Klein was present, too. Additionally, another associate, Sam Jenkins, from Roberts and Stevens accompanied Susan Russo-Klein.

Call to Order -Vice Chair Norris Gentry called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 am.

Approval of Consent Agenda – The consent agenda composed of items A. September 2022, Executive Committee Minutes; and B. Budget Amendment #3 was presented for approval with no modification requested.

Maureen Copelof moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Jason Chappell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

New Business

Workforce Equity Advocate

Nathan Ramsey shared that Land of Sky is proposing to create a new position for a Workforce Equity Advocate. Buncombe County Government has allocated ARPA funds to the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce to support *Accelerate Buncombe*. Accelerate Buncombe will be focused on helping under-represented populations and communities connect to career pathways including paid training. Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce plans to contract with LOSRC to administer these ARPA funds and to provide staffing to support Accelerate Buncombe. The Workforce Equity Advocate is proposed to be a Grade 24 in the LOSRC Pay and Classification Schedule. The funding provided to the Council will pay the entire cost of this position.

Discussion occurred regarding whether this was a time-limited position, which was affirmed by Nathan Ramsey, noting that this is a one-year position.

Sandra Kilgore moved to approve the time-limited Workforce Equity Advocate position within the Land of Sky Regional Council Pay and Classification Schedule at a Grade 24. The motion received a second, and carried upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Approval

Erica Anderson shared that one of Land of Sky's responsibilities is to serve as the Economic Development District (EDD) for the region and to develop the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is revised every 5 years and reported on annually. Implementation of the CEDS is the primary function of the EDD; as well as assistance developing priority projects, providing technical assistance, and identifying opportunities in regional resilience. The annual report of the CEDS includes 2020 County and Regional data:

https://losrc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=3db8474da7e24f36b59ea25af4b6916e.

Vice Chair Gentry moved to resolve to authorize and support the update for the Land of Sky Regional Council Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Jason Chappell seconded, and the motion carried upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

Strategic Plan Update

Land of Sky Regional Council adopted a Strategic Plan 2019-2021 in 2019. Currently, preparations are being made to update the Strategic Plan. LOSRC staff held an all-staff strategic planning meeting on September 23, 2022. An anonymous survey has been

sent to LOSRC staff, LOSRC Board of Delegates members, local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders. The purpose of this update is to request direction from the Executive Committee for this Strategic Planning process.

Nathan Ramsey shared that the external survey has received a total of 147 responses to date, and staff are vey pleased with the results of the survey. He noted that this process is also being conducted internally to improve staff processes, and provide improvement to other areas, and there is a second all-staff meeting planned for November 16. The goal is to gather from the Board the direction that the organization should take as the strategic plan is developed. A draft plan may be available by early 2023. While there is no hard deadline for completing the external survey, jurisdictions and stakeholders are encouraged to take the survey soon.

Information item.

Affordable and Workforce Housing

Land of Sky Regional Council is working to increase Council's capacity to support local government needs for affordable and workforce housing technical assistance. Discussions are underway with Southwestern Commission to share a full-time position that would focus on affordable and workforce housing. Nathan Ramsey shared that Sarah Grymes with DHT, and Will Parry Hill with the NC Housing Trust Fund are presenting at today's Board meeting. Additionally, LOS has just hired a planner whose focus will be affordable housing. This is a planner position dedicated to housing in the region. He noted that State funding and DHT funding will support this position. Affordable housing is a top priority and need for the region.

Discussion occurred regarding the responsiveness of the organization to get staff in place to begin working on the affordable and workforce housing issue. Nathan Ramsey noted that this is one item that is at the top of the list to pursue solutions towards. He noted that LOSRC is also working with SWCOG on this position, and they will provide some level of funding for the position and the work of this staff will encompass both the LOSRC and SWCOG regions.

Information item.

Other Items

Executive Director Report

Nathan Ramsey shared that his current report is included in the agenda packet, and he encouraged Executive Committee members to reach out with any questions or comments regarding the report.

Nathan Ramsey shared that the ECD department is working to bring additional funding to the region and an impact report was just completed for Buncombe County. Additionally, LOSRC is working on producing its annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 that should provide a good picture of what the organization is doing to improve and support the region. Nathan Ramsey noted, too, that Buncombe County provides a lot of support for the organization through local dues and the County is interested in seeing the results of that investment.

Nathan Ramsey shared that he and Erica Anderson attended the NADO conference in Pittsburgh lasts week. He reminded the Executive Committee that the organization was awarded three Impact Awards by NADO for Livable Appalachia (Area Agency on Aging), Tunnel Road Corridor Study (FBRMPO) and the Digital Inclusion Plan (ECD).

Susan Russo-Klein shared that this is the first time that LOSRC has held a candidates' forum. The goal is to keep this very controlled, and she encouraged the Executive Committee to provide questions or make comments. She shared that Senator Edwards does not plan to attend, which would allow additional time for the other two candidates. Sam Jenkins is joining Susan Russo-Klein to assist with moderation of the forum. The goal is to keep the forum respectful and productive. The candidates plan to attend the forum in-person.

Nathan Ramsey announced that the next meeting cycle is planned for November 30 rather than the first Wednesday in December as staff have scheduling conflicts. He shared that this is the annual awards presentation, and he encouraged the Executive Committee to submit nominations for the Charles H. Campbell Regional Leadership Award, the Robert G. Parrish Intergovernmental Relations Award, and the Robert E. Shepherd Excellence in Local Government Award. The hope is to have several nominations for each award.

<u>Adjournment</u>

Vice Chair Gentry adjourned the meeting upon unanimous consent, as there was no further business.



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Item Number: 3A – Land of Sky Regional Council Holiday Bonus

Nature of Item: Board action requested.

Attachment(s): Holiday Bonus Memorandum

Background: Council annually awards a holiday bonus of staff based on longevity based

on the schedule as listed in the attached memorandum.

Responsible Staff: Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve the staff holiday bonus as presented.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: Nathan Ramsey. Executive Director

DATE: November 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Holiday Bonus

The Council has paid holiday bonuses given out near Christmas for many years. In 1991, a progressive system was established to determine the amount of bonus for each employee based on his or her years of service. Last year, the Executive Committee voted to raise the amounts of bonus for each employee as follows:

Less than 3 years	\$100.00
3 years but less than 5	\$150.00
5 years +	\$200.00

The Council pays both the employer's and the employee's share of FICA taxes so that the net amount of the check is equal to the amount listed above.

Based on the above system, bonuses for 2022 would cost the Council approximately \$13,929.48 (\$11,950.00 plus employee FICA of \$989.74 and employer FICA of \$989.74).

For others who serve the Council directly, monetary gifts (checks paid through accounts payable) will be given to express appreciation of their contributions to LOSRC. The following are recommended for this form of recognition at the amount shown:

Terry Albrecht	WRP Program Mgr.	\$ 100.00
Tracy Wahl	Brownfields Program	\$ 100.00
Leslie Clay	Maintenance	\$ 100.00
Dr. Joseph Fox	Workforce	\$ 100.00
Jim Meyer	All LOSRC	\$ 100.00
Angela Frady	Inspire Intern	\$ 100.00
Owen McDonald	UNC McCullough Fellow	\$ 100.00
Felix Soto	Inspire Intern	\$ 100.00
Kennedy Young	DOE Program	\$ 100.00

Additional TOTAL \$ 900.00

Recommendation: Approval

Staff Responsible: Nathan Ramsey



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Item Number:

3B - Land of Sky Regional Council FY 21-22 Audit Update

Nature of Item:

Informational.

Attachment(s):

N/A

Background:

Anderson Smith & Wike PA will present the Council's audit for FY21-22 at

the January board meeting..

Responsible Staff:

Patricia Rosenberg, Finance Director and Nathan Ramsey, Executive

Director

Suggested Motion:

N/A



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Item Number: 3C – Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates appointments

Nature of Item: Action.

Attachment(s): LOSRC Bylaws and Board of Delegates membership list

Background: The LOSRC bylaws provide that the Executive Committee shall make the

minority interests/at-large appoinments for the Board of Delegates. There

are vacancies for Buncombe and Transylvania Counties.

Responsible Staff: Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director

N/A

Suggested Motion:

2022 Land-of-Sky Council Members

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Aging Advisory Council (Aging Services Delegate)	Tomasulo	Bob	Aging Program	×								Anomer Race	o delinera	TOTAL DE	Disability	neteron
Economic Development Representative	Morosani	George	Buncombe County	×		-					1			1)		
Commissioner	Wells	Terri	Buncombe County	×			1				-					
Council Member (Municipal Delegate)	Kilgore	Sandra	City of Asheville	×							1					
Mayor (Ex. Com. Secretary)	Copelof	Maureen	City of Brevard	*						,						
Mayor (Past Chair)	Volk	Barbara	City of Hendersonville	×												
Economic Day Rep	Brady	Brittany	Henderson County								-					
Commission Chair	Lapsley	William (Bill)	Henderson County	×		-					,					
Henderson Co. At-Large Member	Mitchell	nhol	Henderson County	×							,					
Ecnomic Development Representative	Guth	Brad	Madison County	×							,					
Commissioner (County Delegate)	Wechtel	Matt	Madison County	*							,					
Mayor	Gootmann III	George	Town of Biltmore Forest	,							1					
Mayor (Et. Com, Past Chair)	Harris	- Pare	Town of Black Mountain								-					
Mayor (Treasurer)	Blakely	Bracton	Town of Eletcher	,			Ī	I			1					
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Mayor	Olcain.	Carre	Town of the Dark	×	no atternate		10				1					
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Although	Allen	Nan	lown of Marshall	×			1				1					
Alderman.	Haynie	Billie Jean	Town of Marshall	×			-									
Council Member	Young	Jeff	Town of Mills River	×		1					1					-
Commissioner	Biakely	Mason	Town of Montreat	×		1		THE ST			- 1					
Mayor	Shelton	Grian	Town of Rosman	×												
Mayor (LOSRC Chair)	Fitzimmont	Patrick	Town of Weaverville	×		1					- 15	1000		+		-
Town Commissioner	Ervin	Elisabeth	Town of Woodfin	×			1				-					
Commission Chair (Minority Delegate)	Chappell	Jason	Transylvania County	×		1										
Ecnomic Development Representative	Hodges	Burton	Transylvania County	×		1										
Commissioner	Jeter	Barbara	VIIIage of Flat Rock	×							1.8					
Director Intergovenmental Relations	Love	Tim	Buncombe County		*	1										
Council Member	Mostey	Antanette	City of Asheville		300											
Council Member	Morrow	Mac	City of Brevard		×	1					-					
Manager	Connet	Jahn	City of Hendersonville			1					140					
Council Member	Simpson	Lyndsey	City of Hendersonville		×		H				-					
Manager (Henderson Co. Partners for Econ. Progress)	Rogers	Larry	Henderson County		*	1					1					
Commissioner	Garrison	Michael	Madison County		×	-										
Commissioner (Vice Chair)	Gentry	Norris	Madison County			-10										
Commission Vice Chair	Goforth	Creig	Madison County		×	н										-
Commission Chair	Spelson	Mark	Madison County			1										
Town Manager	Kanipe	Jonathan	Town of Biltmore Forest		×	1					-					
Vice Mayor	Stone	Ryan	Town of Black Mountain		×						14.0					
Town Manager	Biberdorf	Mark	Town of Fletcher		×	-										
Mayor Pro-Tem	Davy	Bob	Town of Fletcher			1					-					
Commissioner	Bridges	Deb	Town of Laurel Park		*								1	ı		
Mayor Pro Tem	Hansen	Paul	Town of Laurel Park		*			l			1					1
director interpovenmental Relations	Bennett	Nathan	Town of Mars Hill		×	1										
Town Administrator	Gilliam	Forrest	Town of Marshall			+										
Mayor Pro-Tem	Peyne	Alleen	Town of Marshall		*						1					
Town Manager	Cods	Daniel	Town of Mills River			1										
Commissioner	Fouchs	Kitty	Town of Montreat		,		,									7
Council Member	Jackson	Done	Town of Weaverville								1					
Council Member	McKenna	Jeff	Town of Weaverville		,		l									
Finance and Budget Director	Powers	Sherl	Town of Woodflo			-					-					
Town Manager	Tuch	Shannon	Town of Woodfin			ı		ı								
Commissioner	Снаршар	Linn	Transulvania County						I	Ī						
Village Administrator	Christie	Pat	Villago of Elat Dark				ŀ									
Commissioner	Dethero	David	Village of Flat Rock			,				Ī						
Madison Co. At-Large Member	Dolan	Terrence	Madison County													
Buncombe Co. At-Large Member	VACANT					-					1					
Transylvania Co. At-Large Member	VACANT			×												
Sr. Vol. Services Advisory Council	VACANT			*												
Manney						7										



CHARTER & BYLAWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHARTER	R	ŧ
1	Name	
I	Powers	ŧ
i	Delegates	6
- 1	Financial Support	6
ı	Bylaws	7
(Dissolution	7
,	Amendment	7
,	Adoption	8
BYLAWS.		9
	Preamble	9
	Organization	9
	Objectives & Purposes	9
	Definitions	10
	Council	10
	Member	10
	Affiliate Member	10
	Delegate	11
	Alternate or Alternate Delegates.	11
N	Membership	11
	Members	11
	Admission of New Members	11
	Affiliate Membership	12
	Withdrawal of a Member	12
Е	Board of Delegates	12
	Membership	12
	Certification of Delegates and Alternates	13
	Voting	13
	Regular Meetings	13

Approved December 9, 2015

	Annual Meeting	13
	Special Meetings	13
	Procedure	14
	Expenses	14
	Attendance	14
	Current Board of Delegates	15
Office	rs	15
	Designation and Terms	15
	Nominating Committee and Election	15
	Duties of the Chair	15
	Duties of the Vice-Chair	16
	Duties of the Secretary	16
	Duties of the Treasurer	16
	Current Officers	16
Execu	tive Committee	16
	Membership	16
	Representation	17
	Voting	17
	Term of Membership	17
	Meetings	18
	Duties, Powers and Responsibilities	18
	Attendance	19
	Current Executive Committee	19
Comm	ittees	19
	Standing Advisory Committees	19
	Ad Hoc Committees	20
	Procedure	20
Execut	tive Director	20
	Duties	20
	Compensation	21
Conor	al Einanga & Cantrast Braviaiana	24

Page 3 of 23

Approved December 9, 2015

Fiscal Controls	21
Budget Preparation and Adoption	21
Banking	21
Fiscal Year	21
Bonds	21
Finance Officer	21
Annual Audit	21
Contracts	22
Amendment of Bylaws	22
Indemnification	22
Notices	22

LAND OF SKY REGIONAL COUNCIL CHARTER

Land of Sky Regional Council (the "Council"), organized and existing as a Regional Council of Governments under and pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, does hereby reconfirm this Land of Sky Regional Council Charter as a matter of administrative process.

Article I. Name

The Council shall be called Land of Sky Regional Council

Article II. Powers

Land of Sky Regional Council shall have the following powers as specified in North Carolina General Statute 160A-475:

- A. To apply for, accept, receive and dispense funds and grants made available to it by the State of North Carolina or any agency thereof, the United States of America or any agency thereof, any unit of local government (whether or not a member of the Council) and any private or civic agency.
- B. To employ personnel.
- C. To contract with consultants.
- **D.** To contract with the State of North Carolina, any other state, the United States of America, or any agency thereof, for services.
- E. To study regional government problems, including matters affecting health, safety, welfare, education, recreation, economic conditions, regional planning and regional development.
- F. To promote cooperative arrangements and coordinated action among its member governments.
- **G.** To make recommendations for review and action to its member governments and other public agencies which perform functions within the region in which its member governments are located.
- H. For the purpose of meeting the Council's office space and program needs, to acquire real property by purchase, gift or otherwise, and improve that property. The Council may pledge real property as security for indebtedness used to finance acquisition of that property or for improvements to that real property, subject to approval by the Local Government Commission as required under North Carolina General Statute 159-153. The Council may not exercise the power of eminent domain.

Page 5 of 23

I. Any other powers that are exercised or capable of exercise by its member governments and desirable for dealing with problems of mutual concern to the extent such powers are specifically delegated to it from time to time by resolution of the governing board of each of its member governments which are affected thereby, provided, that the Council shall not have the authority to construct or purchase buildings, or acquire title to real property, except for the purposes permitted under Subsection H of this Article or in order to exercise the authority granted by North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 260 of the Session Laws of 1979.

Article III. Delegates

- A. Each member government shall appoint a primary representative of such member government to serve as the official delegate to the Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates. The appointment method for members of the Board of Delegates shall be set forth in the Council Bylaws.
- B. An alternate representative shall also be appointed by each member government to serve when the official delegate is unable to attend meetings of the Board of Delegates. The appointment method for alternate members of the Board of Delegates shall be set forth in the Council Bylaws.
- C. A majority of the members of the Board of Delegates shall be elected officials.
- All primary representatives appointed by member governments to serve on the Board of Delegates must be elected officials.
- E. Each member county government shall appoint one person to serve on the Board of Delegates to ensure representation of local and regional economic development interests. The appointment method for such members shall be set forth in the Council Bylaws.
- F. The Board of Delegates may appoint additional delegates to ensure the representation of collective regional interests. Such additional delegates shall be established in the Council Bylaws.
- G. The term of office, method for filling vacancies, and method of compensation and allowances shall be set forth in the Council Bylaws.

Article IV. Financial Support

Land of Sky Regional Council shall receive financial support for its operations and programs as follows:

A. Regular Assessments – The member governments of Land of Sky Regional Council shall fund the Council operations by means of assessments on a per capita basis as determined by the Board of Delegates. The per capita share of a member government shall be based on the latest North Carolina Office of State Budget.

Page 6 of 23

- B. Special Assessments The member governments shall fund certain Council operations and programs by means of special assessments as prescribed by law and determined by the Board of Delegates.
- C. State and Federal Grants The Council shall apply for and receive state and federal funds.
- D. Private and Charitable Contributions The Council shall apply for and receive and be entitled to receive funds for its operations and programs from charitable and private sources.
- E. Fees for Services The Council shall receive and be entitled to receive funds for services provided to other public and private organizations.
- F. Other Funds The Council shall receive and be entitled to receive other types of funds, not contrary to an applicable law or regulation.

Article V. Bylaws

The Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates shall adopt and from time-to-time amend as needed Bylaws for the Council to ensure the efficient and effective governance of the Council.

Article VI. Dissolution

- A. Land of Sky Regional Council shall be dissolved upon the unanimous vote of all member governments comprising the Council and the adoption of concurrent resolutions of all members of the Council setting forth the dissolution and the reason therefore.
- B. Any member government may withdraw from Land of Sky Regional Council at the end of any fiscal year by giving at least 60 days written notice to each of the other members. Withdrawal of a member government shall not dissolve the Council if at least two members remain.
- C. Following adoption of concurrent resolutions dissolving Land of Sky Regional Council or following withdrawal of all member governments from the Council, the Council shall proceed to liquidate its assets and pay all liabilities within a 12-month period beginning with the date of the adoption of such resolutions or withdrawal of such members. Any assets remaining following the payment of liabilities shall be distributed in cash or in-kind to the member governments in such proportions as the Board of Delegates may decide. Such distribution shall be made only after a unanimous vote of the members authorizing the distribution.

VI. Amendment

The Charter of Land of Sky Regional Council may be amended upon the adoption of concurrent resolutions by three-fourths of the existing members of the Council approving such amendment. A three-fourths majority shall be required to approve amendments to the Charter.

Page 7 of 23

VII. Adoption

Having been previously adopted by all member governments of Land of Sky Regional Council, this Charter is hereby reconfirmed as a matter of administrative process for the purposes of revising and updating the Council Bylaws by action of the Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates on December 9, 2015.

George S. Goosmann, III, Chair of the Council

ATTEST:

Justin B. Hembree, Executive Director

LAND OF SKY REGIONAL COUNCIL BYLAWS

Land of Sky Regional Council (the "Council"), organized and existing as a Regional Council of Governments under and pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, does hereby ratify, confirm, and adopt the following Preamble and Articles as and for the Bylaws of Land of Sky Regional Council, replacing all Bylaws previously adopted by the Council.

Preamble

We, the representatives of counties and municipalities in the Land of Sky Region, as authorized under North Carolina General Statutes, hereby join together in a voluntary organization to be known as Land of Sky Regional Council for the purpose of meeting at regular intervals to discuss and study opportunities and challenges of mutual interest and concern, and to develop plans, policies and action recommendations for ratification and implementation by the Council, member local governments and other appropriate organizations.

We realize that our individual and common destinies rest with the interdependent actions of local governments which comprise our region.

This voluntary association which we have formed is a vehicle for closer cooperation by which members seek, by mutual agreement, solutions to mutual problems for mutual benefit.

Article I. Organization

There is hereby organized a Regional Council of Governments which shall be known as Land of Sky Regional Council and which shall be a voluntary association of the units of local governments located within Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania Counties of the State of North Carolina, also known as Region B of the State of North Carolina. The Council is organized under the authority of North Carolina General Statutes, and may exercise any powers heretofore or hereafter conferred upon it by North Carolina Law.

Article II. Objectives & Purposes

The objectives of the Council shall be to encourage and permit local governmental units to join and cooperate with one another, other governmental units, the private sector and public service organizations to improve the health, safety, economic conditions and general welfare of the Region's citizens and to plan for the future of the Land of Sky Region.

The Council shall have the following general purposes:

Page 9 of 23

- A. To make studies and plans to guide the unified, far-reaching development of the Region and to assist any participating governmental unit in the preparation of plans or implementation of plans with the objectives and purposes of the Council.
- **B.** To eliminate duplication of services and to promote economy and efficiency in the coordinated growth and development of the Region.
- C. To serve as a mutual forum to identify, discuss, study and bring into focus regional challenges and opportunities.
- **D.** To serve as a vehicle for the collection and exchange of regional information and to provide for effective communication and coordination among governments and agencies.
- **E.** To foster, develop, and review policies, plans and priorities for regional economic growth and development.
- F. To furnish general and technical assistance to member governments.
- G. To facilitate agreements and develop cooperative action proposals among member governments for specific projects or other interrelated needs.
- H. To maintain contact with members, governmental units and groups or organizations and to serve as a regional forum for local government interests.
- I. To review, coordinate and expedite federal, state and local programs that are of a regional nature and best administered at a regional level.
- J. To develop plans or programs to carry out such activities as may be agreed upon by the Region's local governments.

Article III. Definitions

- A. Council Land of Sky Regional Council (the "Council").
- **B. Member** Any municipality or county governmental unit which has adopted a resolution to join the Council and shall have received the approval of the Board of Delegates.
- C. Affiliate Member Any quasi-governmental agency, private agency or public agency which has requested affiliate membership and has received the approval of the Board of Delegates.

Page 10 of 23

- D. Delegate A duly appointed member of the Council's Board of Delegates. Except where a contrary intent appears, "delegate" as used herein shall be deemed to include "alternate delegate."
- E. Alternate or Alternate Delegates Persons that have been designated to represent their member government on the Council's Board of Delegates in the absence of the member government's delegate. Alternate delegates are not eligible to serve as Council officers or as members of the Executive Committee.

IV. Membership

A. **Members** – Based on previous action taken by their respective governing bodies, the following units of local government are members of the Council:

Buncombe County

Henderson County

Madison County

Transylvania County

City of Asheville

Town of Biltmore Forest

Town of Black Mountain

City of Brevard

Village of Flat Rock

Town of Fletcher

City of Hendersonville

Town of Hot Springs

Town of Laurel Park

Town of Mars Hill

Town of Marshall

Town of Mills River

Town of Montreat

Town of Rosman

Town of Weaverville

Town of Woodfin

Members shall be charged membership dues as approved by the Board of Delegates.

B. Admission of New Members – Any municipal or county government in North Carolina shall be eligible for full voting membership in this Council. Any governmental unit desiring membership shall so notify the Executive Director of the Council in writing and shall state by resolution that it wishes to join the Council. Thereafter, the Executive Director shall cause such application to be placed on the agenda for a Board of Delegates' meeting. Membership of the applicant shall be

Page 11 of 23

effective on the date of acceptance of its application by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Delegates. All members shall be bound by these Bylaws and all actions of the Council consistent therewith, including the payment of dues.

- C. Affiliate Membership An affiliate membership may be granted to any municipal or county governmental unit outside of Buncombe County, Henderson County, Madison County, Transylvania County or the State of North Carolina not desiring full membership, or any quasi-governmental, public or private agency involved in matters affecting the health, safety, welfare or education of the citizens of North Carolina or any adjoining state. Such affiliate memberships shall continue at the will of the Board of Delegates. Affiliate members shall not be eligible to vote on matters before the Board of Delegates. Affiliate members shall be charged membership dues as approved by the Board of Delegates.
- D. Withdrawal of a Member Any member of the Council may withdraw or terminate its membership with the Council effective at the end of any fiscal year (June 30) by timely notifying all members of the Council of its intent to terminate membership. Notice shall consist of mailing a certified copy of a resolution of withdrawal from the member's governing body to each member of the Board of Delegates. The notice shall be sent by United States Mail no later than January 1 preceding the end of the fiscal year for which the withdrawal is to be effective. A member withdrawing shall not be entitled to any rebate of dues or assessments for the current fiscal year. Timely and proper notice of withdrawal shall not be waived by action of the Board of Delegates. Upon failure of a member to give the prescribed notice in compliance with these Bylaws, such member shall continue to be a member until the end of the fiscal year in which timely and proper notice is given. Such member shall also be responsible for the payment of all dues and assessments until the end of the fiscal year for which timely and proper withdrawal notice is given. Any jurisdiction which has withdrawn from the Council and reapplies for membership in the Council shall pay any and all delinquent dues and assessments before being permitted to rejoin the Council.

Article V. Board of Delegates

- A. Membership The Board of Delegates is the governing body of the Council. The Board of Delegates shall consist of:
 - 1. All duly appointed delegates.
 - 2. A person appointed by each member county government to represent regional economic development interests.
 - A person appointed by the Executive Committee to ensure representation of the Advisory Council on Aging.

Page 12 of 23

- A person appointed by the Executive Committee to ensure representation of the Senior Volunteer Services Advisory Council.
- Four persons appointed by the Executive Committee to ensure representation of regional minority interests.
- B. Certification of Delegates and Alternates All members, prior to the March meeting of the Board of Delegates in each year, shall certify to the Council the names, mailing addresses and email addresses of one member of their governing board to serve as their delegate and members of their governing board, staff or advisory committees to serve as their alternate delegates for a term of one year. The certified delegate and alternates shall continue to serve until the first meeting of the following March or until a successor(s) is certified.
- C. Voting In relation to voting, the following provisions shall apply:
 - Each member of the Board of Delegates shall be entitled to one vote on all matters before the Board of Delegates and any committee to which such member may be appointed. The vote of each member shall be personally cast by its delegate or alternate.
 - Voting by delegates shall be by voice or by show of hands at the discretion of the presiding officer of the Board of Delegates. Upon the request of any five delegates, made before or immediately after a voice or show of hands vote, the vote shall be by a poll of the delegates.
 - Members of the Board of Delegates may participate and vote during meetings of the Board of Delegates and any committees through electronic methods as allowed by North Carolina Law.
- D. Regular Meetings The Council's Board of Delegates shall meet on a regular basis at a time and place fixed by the Executive Committee from time to time. Notice of Board of Delegates meetings shall be given as required by North Carolina Law. Board of Delegates and Executive Committee meetings are open to the public.
- E. Annual Meeting The Board of Delegates' Annual Meeting shall be held in March of each year. During the Annual Meeting, the Board of Delegates shall elect Council officers and appoint the Executive Committee.
- F. Special Meetings A special meeting of the Board of Delegates may be called by the Chair of the Council or any six members of the Board of Delegates by causing such notice thereof to be given to each member as required by North Carolina Law. The notice of a special meeting shall contain

Page 13 of 23

a listing of matters upon which action by the Board of Delegates may be taken. No action may be taken by the Board of Delegates at such special meetings on matters not listed on the meeting notice.

- G. Procedure All meetings of the Board of Delegates shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order except as otherwise provided for in these Bylaws. Robert's Rules of Order may be suspended by majority vote. In this case, meetings must be conducted in accordance with generally accepted procedures for public meetings except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.
- H. Expenses Members of the Board of Delegates may be reimbursed for expenses when traveling out of the region on official Council business in accordance with the Council's travel reimbursement policies. Requests for reimbursements shall be submitted to the Executive Director for approval before payment. In addition to out of region travel expense reimbursements, the Chair of the Council may be compensated on a monthly basis for his/her service to the Council in an amount determined and approved by the Executive Committee.
- I. Attendance The Council supports the full contribution of all members of the Board of Delegates. For the purposes of this section, in the case of local governments, "member" refers to the unit of local government and refers to primary delegates, alternate delegates and other persons appointed directly by governing bodies to serve on the Board of Delegates. In the case of members of the Board of Delegates not appointed by units of local government, "member" means the appointed individual.

The following provisions shall apply to meeting attendance of members of the Board of Delegates:

- An attendance problem occurs if any of the following conditions exist in regard to a Board of Delegates member's attendance:
 - The member has two un-notified absences in a row. "Un-notified" means a member does not notify Council staff prior to a Board of Delegates meeting to indicate they will be absent from an upcoming meeting.
 - The member has three notified absences in a row. "Notified" means a member does notify Council staff prior to a Board of Delegates meeting to indicate they will be absent from an upcoming meeting.
 - The member misses five out of the total number of Board of Delegates meetings in a consecutive 12 month period.

Page 14 of 23

- If an attendance problem is identified, the member's appointing authority shall be notified.
- The appointing authority and the Council will work to develop a suitable solution to the attendance problem so that a satisfactory resolution for both the appointing authority and the Council is reached.
- 4. After an attendance problem is identified, the Board of Delegates position for the member in question shall be declared inactive and the position shall not be used in the calculation of a quorum.
- J. Current Board of Delegates Members of the Board of Delegates serving at the time of the adoption of these Bylaws shall continue to serve until the next Annual Meeting or until their successors are appointed.

Article VI. Officers

- A. Designation and Terms The Council officers shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall have served on the Board of Delegates for at least one full year and shall be elected and installed at the Board of Delegates' Annual Meeting. Officers shall be elected for a term of one year or until their successors are elected. There is are no a two-year term limits for Council officers unless no other individuals are nominated to serve. There shall be a rotation of the Executive Committee members, unless the Board of Delegates determines the rotation schedule is not in the best interest of the Council. The Treasurer will serve as the Secretary following their term. The Secretary will serve as the Vice Chair following their term. The Vice Chair will serve as Chair following their term. The Chair will serve as the Past Chair following their term. The Past Chair will no longer serve as a member of the Executive Committee following their term. The County Delegate, Municipal Delegate or Minority Delegate, in the discretion of the Board of Delegates, will serve as the Treasurer following their term. Executive Committee members may continue to serve in their role if no other members of the Board of Delegates are able to serve as an Executive Committee member. Officers of the Council shall be elected officials.
- B. Nominating Committee and Election The Board of Delegates, at or prior to its January meeting each year, shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three delegates not currently serving on the Executive Committee who shall work with the Executive Director to submit to the Board of Delegates the names of proposed officers and Executive Committee members at the Annual Meeting, at which meeting the election shall be held. Nominations from the floor may be made. The person receiving the highest number of votes cast for each office and Executive Committee slot shall be deemed elected.
- C. Duties of the Chair The Chair of the Council will:

Page 15 of 23

- Preside over all meetings of the Board of Delegates and the Executive Committee
 and exercise such other duties and authority as otherwise set out in these Bylaws
 or in resolutions of the Board of Delegates or Executive Committee.
- Execute such instruments, contracts or other documents in the name of the Council as herein set out or as otherwise authorized.
- Supervise the Executive Director of the Council in the performance of his/her duties
- Perform such other tasks as required herein or as directed by the Board of Delegates or Executive Committee.
- D. Duties of the Vice-Chair The Vice-Chair of the Council will:
 - Perform the duties of the Chair when the Chair is absent or unavailable for performance of his/her duties.
 - 2. Serve as a member of all standing committees, except for the Nominating Committee, with voice and vote.
 - 3. Perform other such duties required herein or as shall be delegated by the Chair.
- E. Duties of the Secretary The Secretary of the Council will:
 - 1. Work with the Executive Director to oversee the keeping of records of meetings.
 - 2. Work with the Executive Director to supervise the taking of minutes of meetings.
 - 3. Perform other such duties required herein or as shall be delegated by the Chair.
- F. Duties of the Treasurer The Treasurer of the Council will:
 - 1. Work with the Executive Director to supervise financial matters of the Council.
 - 2. Work with the Executive Director to ensure a yearly audit is conducted and presented as required by North Carolina Law and other applicable regulations.
 - 3. Perform other such duties required herein or as shall be delegated by the Chair.

Page 16 of 23

G. Current Officers - Council officers serving at the time of the adoption of these Bylaws shall continue to serve until the next Annual Meeting or until their successors are elected.

Article VII. Executive Committee

- A. Membership The Executive Committee shall be comprised of:
 - 1. The Chair of the Council,
 - 2. The Vice-Chair of the Council,
 - 3. The Secretary of the Council,
 - The Treasurer of the Council.
 - A delegate from a county member government that has served on the Board of Delegates for at least one full year,
 - 6. A delegate from a municipal member government that has served on the Board of Delegates for at least one full year,
 - 7. A Past Chair of the Council,
 - **8.** One of the persons appointed to the Board of Delegates to ensure representation of regional minority interests and
 - One of the persons appointed to the Board of Delegates to ensure representation
 of the Aging Advisory Council. or the Senior Volunteer Services Advisory Council.
- B. Representation No one member government may have more than one delegate on the Executive Committee. Only delegates, not alternate delegates, may serve on the Executive Committee.
- C. Voting Each member of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to one vote on any matter coming before the Executive Committee. A quorum shall consist of one-half of the current members of the Executive Committee, and all issues shall be determined by a simple majority vote of those present and voting. Members will be considered present for purposes of quorum and voting either by being physically present or present by electronic means as allowed by North Carolina Law.

Page 17 of 23

- D. Term of Membership The Board of Delegates shall elect the Executive Committee each year during the Board of Delegates' March meeting. The term of membership for all delegates on the Executive Committee shall commence on July 1 at the beginning of the next fiscal year fellowing the Board of Delegates' March meeting, and delegates shall serve on the Executive Committee until their successors are selected. Should any delegate on the Executive Committee cease to be a public official with his/her appointing jurisdiction, that person shall no longer be eligible to be a delegate or to serve on the Executive Committee. Vacancies created by death, resignation or otherwise shall be appointed by the current Executive Committee for a term ending at the next Executive Committee election.
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- E. Meetings In relation to meetings of the Executive Committee, the following terms shall apply:
 - Procedure All meetings of the Executive Committee shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Robert's Rules of Order except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws. Robert's Rules of Order may be suspended by majority vote. In this case, meetings must be conducted in accordance with generally accepted procedures for public meetings except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.
 - Time and Place The Executive Committee shall meet on a regular basis at a time and place fixed by the Executive Committee from time to time. Notice of Executive Committee meetings shall be given as required by North Carolina Law. Executive Committee meetings are open to the public.
 - 3. Special Meetings A special meeting of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chair of the Council, the Executive Director or any two members of the Executive Committee by causing such notice thereof to be given to each member as required by North Carolina Law. The notice of a special meeting shall contain a listing of matters upon which action by Executive Committee may be taken. No action may be taken by the Executive Committee at such special meetings on matters not listed on the meeting notice.
 - **4. Minutes** General minutes of each meeting of the Executive Committee shall be taken to record actions taken by the Executive Committee.
- **F. Duties, Powers and Responsibilities** In addition to those specifically delegated to the Executive Committee by resolution of the Council, the Executive Committee shall have the following duties, powers and responsibilities:
 - The Executive Committee shall review, and may revise, amend, increase or decrease the Executive Director's proposed annual operating budget. After

Page 18 of 23

- adoption of the budget by the Board of Delegates, the Executive Committee shall exercise oversight of all expenditures in accordance with the budget ordinance.
- The Executive Committee shall have the authority to transfer or reallocate funds within the operating budget and amend the operating budget in order to meet unanticipated needs or changed conditions.
- 3. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to employ, fix the salary of and discharge the Executive Director, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee. Employment, promotion, demotion and discharge of all other employees of the Council shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director.
- 4. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to enact policies and procedures to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Council, such policies and procedures being consistent with these Bylaws.
- The Executive Committee may act on behalf of the Council on all matters affecting the Council, except for (a) the adoption of the annual budget and (b) the fixing of member dues and assessments.
- G. Attendance The Council supports the full contribution of all members of the Executive Committee. The following provisions shall apply to meeting attendance for Executive Committee members:
 - An attendance problem occurs if any of the following conditions exist in regard to a member's attendance at Executive Committee meetings:
 - The member has two un-notified absences in a row. "Un-notified" means a member does not notify Council staff prior to an Executive Committee meeting to indicate they will be absent from an upcoming meeting.
 - The member misses three of the total number of Executive Committee meetings in a consecutive 12 month period.
 - If an attendance problem is identified, the Chair will contact the member in
 question and work to develop a suitable solution for both the member and the
 Executive Committee. If this does not correct the attendance problem, the position
 of the member in question shall be declared vacant and a replacement will be
 sought in accordance with these Bylaws.

Page 19 of 23

H. Current Executive Committee – The current Executive Committee serving at the time of the adoption of these Bylaws shall continue to serve until the next Annual Meeting or until their successors are elected.

Article VIII. Committees

- A. Standing Advisory Committees The Executive Committee may establish standing committees of delegates and other persons who shall serve as advisory committees to the Executive Committee and may set forth the general duties and responsibilities of such committees, membership, term thereof and such special responsibilities as the Executive Committee may wish to assign. Any delegate may attend any meeting of any standing committee, but only the duly designated members thereof shall be entitled to vote. Nothing herein shall be construed to require any particular matter to be referred to any standing advisory committee prior to action by the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee shall not be bound by any recommendation of any advisory committee. With the exception of the Nominating Committee, the Vice-Chair of the Council shall be a member of all standing committees with voice and vote.
- B. Ad Hoc Committees The Chair of the Council may establish such advisory committees as he/she may deem appropriate which shall advise the Executive Committee, Executive Director, staff, standing committees and the Council as to particular matters. The members of such committees shall be appointed by and shall serve at the will of the Chair, and the membership of such committees shall not be limited to members of the Board of Delegates.
- C. Procedure All meetings of committees shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Robert's Rules of Order except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws. Robert's Rules of Order may be suspended by majority vote. In this case, meetings must be conducted in accordance with generally accepted procedures for public meetings except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

Article IX. Executive Director

- A. Duties The Executive Director is the chief executive of the Council, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Executive Committee. He/she is responsible to the Executive Committee for the administration of all departments and Council operations, and has the following powers and duties:
 - He/she shall appoint and suspend or remove all Council employees and agents. Such
 appointments, suspensions and removals shall be in accordance with any general
 personnel rules, regulations, policies or ordinances as the Executive Committee or Board
 of Delegates may adopt.
 - He/she shall direct and supervise the administration of all Council offices, departments, boards, committees and agencies under the general control of the Executive Committee, subject to the general direction and control of the Chair of the Council.

Page 20 of 23

- He/she shall attend all meetings of the Board of Delegates and Executive Committee and recommend any measure that he/she considers expedient.
- He/she shall see that the orders, resolutions and regulations of the Board of Delegates and/or Executive Committee are faithfully executed within the Council.
- He/she shall prepare and submit the annual budget to the Executive Committee and Board of Delegates and act as the Council's Budget Officer.
- 6. He/she shall make any reports that the Board of Delegates and/or Executive Committee may require concerning the operations of Council offices, departments, committees and agencies.
- He/she shall perform other duties that may be required or authorized by the Board of Delegates and/or Executive Committee.
- **B.** Compensation Compensation for the Executive Director shall be determined by the Executive Committee at the time of appointment and may be changed from time to time by the Executive Committee.

Article X. General Finance & Contract Provisions

- A. Fiscal Controls The accounting and fiscal control procedures of the Council shall be in accordance with North Carolina Law and other applicable regulations as amended from time to time.
- B. Budget Preparation and Adoption The process for preparing-and-adopting-the-Council's budget shall be in accordance with North Carolina Law and other applicable regulations as amended from time to time.
- C. Banking The process for selecting and using banking institutions shall be in accordance with North Carolina Law and other applicable regulations as amended from time to time. The Executive Committee shall designate bank signatories in a manner allowed by North Carolina Law and other applicable regulations.
- D. Fiscal Year The fiscal year of the Council shall begin on July 1 of each year and shall end on June 30 of the following year.
- E. Bonds Employees and officers of the Council shall be bonded as required by North Carolina Law, resolutions of the Executive Committee and other applicable regulations as amended from time to time.

Page 21 of 23

- F. Finance Officer The Council shall employ a person to serve as the organization's Chief Financial Officer to perform duties as required by North Carolina Law, resolutions of the Executive Committee and other applicable regulations. The person serving as Finance Officer shall serve as a regular Council employee, be selected by, be supervised by and report to the Executive Director.
- G. Annual Audit The finances of the Council shall be audited following the close of each fiscal year as required and outlined by North Carolina Law, resolutions of the Executive Committee and other applicable regulations as amended from time to time. An auditor will be selected by the Executive Committee and shall submit its report to the Board of Delegates.
- H. Contracts Any and all contracts and other instruments to which the Council is a party shall be executed in the name of the Council by the Executive Director or the Chair of the Council, or upon designation by the Executive Director, other Council staff reporting to the Executive Director. Except as specifically set forth in these Bylaws to the contrary, no member, officer or employee of the Council shall have the authority to bind or obligate the Council with respect to any manner whatsoever to expend any funding of the Council without the specific approval and authority of the Council.

Article XI. Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be altered or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by the affirmative vote of twothirds of the delegates present and voting at any duly called meeting of the Board of Delegates at which a quorum is present. The notice of the Board of Delegate's meeting at which said proposed amendment shall be considered shall contain either the proposed amendment or a summary thereof and shall state such amendment is to be considered at that meeting.

XII. Indemnification

Any person who at any time serves or has served as a delegate, primary delegate, alternate delegate, member, officer, employee or authorized volunteer or any other agent of the Council shall have the right to be indemnified by the Council against (a) reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and necessarily incurred by said person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding seeking to hold such person liable for his/her actions on behalf of the Council in such capacity, and (b) reasonable payments made by such person in satisfaction of any judgment or settlement approved by the Council for which such person may become liable in any such acts of any delegate, primary delegate, alternate delegate, member, officer, employee or authorized volunteer or other agent of the Council when engaged in the good faith performance of duties on behalf of the Council. Such right of indemnification shall inure to the benefit of the personal representatives of any such person.

Article XIII. Notices

Page 22 of 23

When these Bylaws, a resolution of the Board of Delegates or the laws of North Carolina require (a) the giving of notice to the delegates of any meeting of the Council or any other matter requiring notice to a member government or its delegate or (b) require the dissemination of agendas, budgets or other materials to a member government or its delegate, such notice shall be written and may be disseminated by mail or electronically as authorized by North Carolina's Electronic Commerce Act (NCGS 66-58.1) and Uniform Electronic Transaction Act (NCGS 66-33-311). Such dissemination of notice shall be deemed to have been given when the same has been either (a) addressed to the delegate at the mailing address certified to the Council as the mailing address of such delegate and deposited, postage prepaid, in the United States mail or (b) transmitted electronically to the email address of such delegate theretofore certified to the Council.

The foregoing Bylaws were duly adopted by the Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates at a properly called meeting held on December 9, 2015, and shall be effective upon adoption.

George S. Goosmann, III, Chair of the Council

Lenz Sassmann

ATTEST:

Justin B. Hembree, Executive Director



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Item Number: 3D – NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments Forum

representative

Nature of Item: Action

Attachment(s): N/A

Background:

Mayor Larry Harris has served as the Forum representative. He was not reelected so the Executive Committee needs to appoint a board member to serve in this role. The Forum generally meets bi-monthly and there is option for in-person or remote participation. "The Forum is a unique venue where municipal and county elected officials and community leaders convene to research and discuss issues and policies and seek regional solutions for local units of government and the State of North Carolina. This body focuses on issues that can best be addressed on a regional or statewide basis and then champions regional solutions to challenges facing its member governments through collaboration, partnership and consensus building. The Forum consists of elected officials and community leaders from the 16

regional councils across North Carolina and serve as an advocacy and

advisory group to the Association."

Responsible Staff: Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director

Suggested Motion: Motion to appoint a board member to serve as the Forum representative

Land of Sky Regional Council Executive Director's Report Respectfully submitted by Nathan Ramsey November 30, 2022

1. Finance

- We are hiring an Accounts Receivable Clerk to increase our finance capacity.
- FY21-22 audit process is underway. Audit is due December 1.
- Final numbers on unrestricted fund balance appropriation should be available soon. This number is key for the Council as the larger the amount, the more flexibility available to the organization.

2. Economic & Community Development & Transportation Planning

Welcome!

We welcome Traci Thompson as our new Housing Planner. Welcome, Traci!

Kudos!

- Congratulations to Rosman and Mars Hill for completing the RC2 (Rural Community Capacity Building) Program through NC Commerce.
- Congratulations to Brevard for receiving a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant for engineering and design for Ecusta Trail in Transylvania County.
- Congratulations to Madison County for Building Reuse for Highland Metalworks.
- Congratulations to French Broad Electric Co-Operative for their GREAT grant in Madison County
- Congratulations to Zitel Broadband for their GREAT grant in Transylvania County
- Congratulations to City of Asheville for their \$4.2M Low-No grant to support clean transportation fleet technologies.
- Congratulations to VW Grant Awardees in the region:
 - o Transylvania Economic Alliance
 - o Transylvania Habitat for Humanity
 - o Town of Waynesville
 - o Town of Hayesville

Upcoming Events

- Drive Electric EV car show Sept. 25
- Creative Manufacturing Event Sept. 26
- NCEDA Conference Oct 3-4
- NC Fall Floodplain Institute Oct 12-14
- NADO Training Conference Oct 15-18
- Buncombe County Careers on Wheels Oct. 17
- Clean Cities Emergency Response Training Oct 21
- National Adaption Forum Oct 24-27
- Clean Cities/Transpo VMT panel Oct. 31
- Propane in the Park Nov. 2
- Transportation Summit January 17-19

Transportation

1. MPO & RPO staff continue to work with local partners and NCDOT on project design and development.

- 2. Staff is assisting in TAB, STIP and CTP development and Board meetings.
- 3. RPO staff serving as NCARPO Association President, the NCARPO is the statewide organization representing Rural Transportation Planning Organizations in NC.
- 4. RPO staff is also serving on the new NCDOT EV/Clean Energy Committee.
- 5. RPO, MPO and ECD staff are assisting several communities write grants for transportation projects, including RAISE, FLAP, and the IIJA Discretionary Funds.
- 6. MPO and RPO staff are serving on the state's Prioritization Workgroup with other representatives from MPOs, RPOs, and NCDOT.
- 7. The MPO is providing funding to several special studies in the region getting ready to begin in FY 2023: Fonta Flora Trail Feasibility Study, Reed Creek Greenway Extension Feasibility Study (City of Asheville), Patton Avenue Corridor Study, and the Buncombe County Multimodal Master Plan.
- 8. The MPO is managing the Haywood County Greenway Master Plan; expected to wrap-up by January
- 9. The MPO is providing funding for on-going studies at the City of Asheville, including the purchase of bicycle and pedestrian counters and the Biltmore/McDowell study.
- 10. MPO staff is serving on a Locally Administered Projects Program committee with NCDOT to provide policy recommendations to achieve better success rates and more on-time delivery of LAPP projects.
- 11. MPO & RPO staff continue to update local governments on NCDOT's financial situation and the Draft 2024-2033 STIP. A public survey is planned to be distributed by the MPO in November.

Broadband

- 1. LOS partnered with NC DIT and the Division of Rural Health to distribute hotspots with 12 months service and digital literacy training for telehealth programs in WNC. To date 146 hotspots have been distributed to programs in three counties.
- 2. LOS is partnering with the Institute of Emerging Issues and Dogwood Health Trust to assist development and implement Digital Inclusion Plans in WNC with COGS across the region.
- 3. LOS received funding from Buncombe County to provide Wi-Fi in several Housing Authority of the City of Asheville (HACA) residential buildings. Staff received an update from the subconsultant, Elawuit, that installation is proceeding as scheduled.
- 4. LOS is working with NEMAC to develop a broadband planning tool. The tool is aimed to consolidate many of the various data sources into a project planning catalyst for future broadband projects in the region.
- 5. LOS staff worked to set up public WIFI in the Broad River area of Buncombe County. Staff partnered with fire department and Skyrunner to implement this project.
- 6. LOS staff supported providers in the region with GREAT grant assistance leading to 21 applications across the region. To date award announcements in Madison, Transylvania, Buncombe, and Henderson have been made. We are hopeful to gain additional awards in the coming weeks. If your community wants to start working on CAB please get in touch with Sara Nichols.
- 7. LOS is supporting hot spot access to 325 individuals across WNC through Student Connect program thanks to the support of Dogwood Health Trust.

Community Development/Water, Sewer, Stormwater Infrastructure

- 1. Staff is attending the RC2 training with Mars Hill and Rosman sponsored by NC Commerce's Rural Transformation Fund. The training is being held in Boone and remotely by Appalachian State. The towns will be identifying a vision and priorities for economic and community development.
- 2. Staff is developing RTFG applications for Rosman, Mars Hill and potentially other communities for parks and recreation, trails, parking and community revitalization.
- 3. Staff submitted an ARC application for sewer extension on behalf of Marshall.

- 4. LOSRC will be submitting a full application NCLWF (Land and Water Fund) Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program on behalf of COH, and is continuing to support project development, including an associated DEQ LASII stormwater construction grant.
- 5. LOSRC is submitting a 205j grant for Weaverville to map the stormwater system as well as address a few different stormwater management issues.
- 6. Staff is continuing to support Fletcher, Weaverville, Montreat and Woodfin with their MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) permit compliance.

Housing

- 1. LOSRC was awarded a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, matched with a grant to Southwestern Commission from the Dogwood Health Trust, to create a WNC Housing Asset Inventory for the western 18 counties. This project will be completed through a multi-COG effort.
- 2. LOSRC was awarded a grant from Cares at the UNC-CH School of Social Work in partnership with North Carolina Money Follows the Person (MFP), for the initiative titled Building Capacity for Home and Community Based Services through Collective Impact. The project is called Remain at Home Accessibility Assessment Program, in partnership with the Institute for Preventative Care and Advocacy, Mountain Area Health Education Center, RL Mace Universal Design Institute.
- 3. LOSRC has completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for COH and is working on one for Buncombe County in the context of their CDBG grants.

Economic Development/Workforce

- 1. Staff submitted the I26 Interchange/Access Road application to EDA to request \$2 million in funding on behalf of NCDOT. Staff assisted NCDOT receive \$2.5 million from ARC's Access Road fund.
- 2. Draft report for the Creative Manufacturing Sector Development plan are currently being reviewed by the core steering committee.
- 3. The Draft report for the Regional Economic Collaboration and Analysis led by the Region's Chambers of Commerce and business sector is under review by the Advisory Committee. Ernst and Young was selected as the Consultant for this effort and is being funded by the EDA and Dogwood Health Trust. Full results will be shared broadly.
- 4. Staff and partners have completed the analysis and final products with Outdoor/Recreation Sector manufacturers to determine opportunities in supply chains, workforce and economic diversity in cooperation with High Country Council, Southwestern Commission and Riverbird Research. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/291e98f0291643c49a6462395ec3e6e5
- 5. We continue to partner with the Chambers of Commerce, Small Business Support Agencies, nonprofits, and economic developers to assist small businesses through COVID-19 impacts.
- 6. The TDM Coordinator is working with Workforce, Inspire, and employers to develop a vanpool for under-resourced individuals to access job sites.
- 7. LOSRC's Waste Reduction Partners program is providing free water-use management assessments for large customers of the City of Asheville's Water Resources Department. These onsite assessments help identify utility costs savings for the City.

Resilience/Hazard Mitigation

- 1. Staff is serving as a Steering Committee member for the statewide RISE project and for the NC Resilience Clearinghouse, both for NC Department of Public Safety, NC Office of Recovery and Resilience.
- 2. NCDPS is seeking letters of interest for the FEMA BRIC and Flood Mitigation Assistance 2022 funding round, these are due on 10/3/2022. Please contact Mary Roderick to discuss project ideas.
- 3. LOSRC has developed a work plan for the COG Disaster Recovery Grant, and will be reaching out to communities to provide a range of hazard recovery and resilience services over the next two years.

Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles

- 1. Clean Cities Program is assisting local governments prepare for VW Settlement projects. During the first round of settlement funding released in 2020, the Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition helped the region bring in more than \$4.1 million in grant funding to support purchases of new clean vehicles and EV infrastructure. During the second round of funding, all of the applications that LOS staff assisted with under the Level 2 Public Access Program were funded. Staff also assisted with applications for the DC Fast Chargers and Level 2 Multi-Unit Dwelling programs. Please contact Sara Nichols with questions on how to apply for more than \$68 million in state funding available for clean fleets: sara@landofsky.org
- 2. LOS received CMAQ funding to continue support of air quality outreach initiatives in WNC.
- 3. Staff supported applications for the EPA school bus rebate for Buncombe and Madison County Schools.
- 4. Cherokee Clean Vehicles participated in the first electric school bus in North Carolina ribbon cutting, including a visit from Governor Cooper and Administrator Reagan. Staff recently helped with a training for school leadership including a school bus drag race.
- 5. Staff are partnering with the Blue Ridge Electric Vehicle Club to host an electric vehicle car show for National Drive Electric Week.
- 6. CVC staff, Paul Moon, applied for and was accepted into the DOE national equity program to deep dive into equity in alternative fuel conversations with leading experts. Paul has been attending national level training over the last few months to gain perspective on how our work can incorporate DEI priorities in our region.
- 7. Staff supported the French Broad Electric Membership Corportion is submitting a Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Application for DC Fast Charging to North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center.

Waste Reduction Partners

- 1. Staff conducted an environmental assessment with the American Red Cross to perform ESG sustainability assessments at pilot sites in North Carolina, beginning with the Asheville, WNC—Chapter.
- 2. WRP engineers are working with Eaton's Avery Creek manufacturing site to identify energy projects to address corporate carbon emission reduction goals.
- 3. WRP staff completed an energy efficiency assessment for the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Marshall on September 7.

Planning Services

1. Staff continue to work with area communities providing land use planning and zoning assistance. Towns include Hot Springs, Mars Hill, Marshall, Montreat, Woodfin, Flat Rock, Maggie Valley, Montreat, Clyde, Canton, and Andrews. Note that we are partnering with Southwestern Commission, Region A staff to assist with communities in their region as well.

Grants & Project Development

- 1. Staff are working with several jurisdictions to support ARPA projects and administration. Please connect with Erica if you would like to learn more: erica@landofsky.org ARPA information can be found here: https://www.nc.gov/agencies/pandemic-recovery-office/american-rescue-plan-act-information-and-resources
- 2. Staff have been working with Sister Councils of Government on ARPA, Resilience and Multiregional projects. Partnerships include sharing ARP policies, ordinances, and guidance; grant development; developing scopes of work and project delivery for ARPA State funds; budgeting and project development for housing, transportation and broadband tech assistance.
- 3. Staff continues working with several local governments and partners on applications for economic development, community development, transportation, and infrastructure implementation

with BRIC/FEMA, EDA, and foundations. These projects will support transportation connections, resilience, job growth, industry expansion, and place-based development.

4. The NCGS 160D requires all Comprehensive Plans be updated to meet the new guidelines by July 1, 2022. (i.e. Municipalities and Counties must have a "reasonably-maintained" [updated within last 5-10 years] Comprehensive Plan in effect in order to legally continue having local zoning/development regulations. At minimum, a reasonably updated Land Use Plan must be in place by July 1, 2022 as a rational nexus to zoning/development regulations. (see Town of Canton's phased-approach, Phase 1: Land Use Plan by July 1, 2022; Phase 2: Other Comprehensive Plan elements to be included after July 1, 2022)

Please contact erica@landofsky.org if you have questions or would like assistance updating your plans.

3. Aging

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – The Area Agency on Aging is in the process of completing contracts for our Supportive Services and Family Caregiver Support Program providers. We are currently still waiting on approval from the Division of Aging and Adult Services for our direct services waivers.

Family Caregiver Support Program

- Staff was interviewed along with staff from Council on Aging of Buncombe County by WRES radio station and discussed helpful tips and awareness for family caregivers.
- Staff awarded American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) contracts to providers totaling \$213,364.
- Staff helped facilitate in-person caregiver and care receiver support groups in Hendersonville. There were 9 caregivers and 4 care receivers who participated 2 meetings.
- Staff started offering \$500 Respite Vouchers to family caregivers in Transylvania County. So far there are 4 caregivers who have received vouchers.
- Staff did a presentation on respite vouchers at a dementia support group in Transylvania County.

Foster Grandparent Program

- Number of active volunteers: 29 volunteers are working one-on-one with children ages infant to 13 years old.
- Number of volunteers waiting on paperwork, placement, etc.: 5 volunteers wait for their schools to reopen to volunteers so that they can return to service. Two potential volunteers are in the process of enrolling in the program.
- Number of active stations (schools, day cares, etc.): 10
- Number of stations waiting to sign MOU, volunteer placement, etc.: 3 of the schools, Head Start Centers, and childcare centers have not yet allowed volunteers to return to service.
- Recruitment efforts (press releases, presentations, etc.): Volunteer recruitment efforts are currently on pause until we have schools open to be able to place them. We are hoping to be able to resume recruitment in the new year.
- In-service/training update: On November 15, Foster Grandparent volunteers attended in-person inservice training at Land of Sky Regional Council. Volunteers learned more about the Healthy Opportunities Pilot from Vicki Jennings and the WISH collaborative from Paul Moon. In December volunteers will celebrate the Holiday Season at our December 13 in-service meeting.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

- Staff has worked closely with NC Center for Health and Wellness and Area AAA to develop the Rx referral tool and Rack cards to provide to clinicians, community program managers, AAAs, and patients to help increase and improve the handling of fall program referrals.
- Staff has partnered with Healthy Aging NC to provide Statewide Virtual Training for Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention that will be hosted at Land of Sky Regional Council on December 15th.
- AAA congratulates two new leaders that completed training in November for Chronic Disease Self-Management and Walk with Ease.
- Monthly Tai Chi for arthritis and Falls continues monthly at senior centers and has seen an increase in attendance.
- Staff held the first Health Fair post-COVID at Asheville Terrace Apartments helping to distribute resources from almost 20 community partners and providing COVID boosters and/or flu shots to 27 individuals.
- Staff and Asheville Terrace Community Health Workers continue to partner with MANNA, Trader Joe, and OLLI volunteers to bring nutrition to residents. In October, 94 bags of groceries were distributed to residents, and 258 "Neighbor Knock" visits were conducted.

Home and Community Care Block Grant: October 2022 Report of Services Provided

- Adult Day Care/Health Days = 1,015
- Meals delivered/congregate = 70,656
- In-home Aide hours = 5,316
- Legal Services hours = 494
- Transportation trips = 16,951
- Home Improvement Projects = 12

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Community Inclusion (serves 37 Western Counties):

- Staff completed in-person Skilled Nursing Facility Visits for 7 Counties (Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, Yancy.) Provided applications packets, training, and materials.
- Staff provided Webinars to Facility and County social workers and staff regarding program updates
- Staff attended and presented comment at the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services Listening Sessions for the 2023-2027 State Aging Services Plan.
- Staff attended Mountain Area Health Education Center's Annual Geriatric Summit as an exhibitor providing information regarding all Area on Aging Services for Region B.

Money Follows the Person – Western counties: Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania, Polk, Madison, McDowell, Rutherford, Mitchell, Madison

- The current caseload for the Western counties is seven.
- All seven clients on the Western caseload are waiting for housing.
- One client will transition in November 2022.

Money Follows the Person - Central counties being served: Forsyth, Davidson, Surry, Davie, Stokes, Yadkin

- The current caseload for the Central counties is eight.
- Six of the eight clients on the Central caseload are waiting for housing.

FY 23:

- Money Follows the Person added a total of six new clients in October 2022.
- Six clients withdrew in October 2022.
- One client transitioned in October 2022.

Ombudsman Program

- Ombudsmen attended the North Carolina Long Term Care Ombudsman Association Meeting.
- Ombudsmen working with Community Advisory Committees to increase opportunities for volunteer recruitment.
- Ombudsman participated in outreach to provide information on the Ombudsman Program as well as the Community Advisory Committee.
- Ombudsmen working on updating in-service opportunities to provide long term care facility staff.

Outreach and Assistance

- November is National Family Caregiver Month and working with our two caregiver programs we are highlighting Family Caregivers all month long via our Facebook page and out WNC Aging Update Newsletter.
- Staff are working on having more regular and constant Facebook presents.
- Staff are working on updating the AAA PowerPoint to reflect the new and updated programs we offer.
 This will allow any AAA staff member to be able to present a uniform PowerPoint presentation to other groups and organizations.
- Staff are working on updating program outreach materials. Currently working with Foster Grandparent
 Program and Senior Companion Program to create a new rack card for outreach to get new volunteers
 apart of the programs. Along create something for the Regional Advisory Aging Council to help get new
 members involved.
- Continued education on programs and resources within the region to help older adults age with choice.
 One way of doing this is getting certified as an option counselor through the state to better assist older adults.

Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty)

- Staff distributed 74% of the State respite funds (\$43,000) allotted to the western region.
- 45% of the distributed funds have been utilized by caregivers.
- Staff applied for and received \$52,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds for caregiver respite in the Land of Sky region to be utilized by the end of September 2024.
- Staff provided information and referral/assistance services to 278+ callers since July 1.

Senior Companion Program

- Number of active volunteers: 58
- Number of volunteers waiting for placement: 0
- Number of active stations:9
- Recruitment efforts: Three in process. Working on a power point, new rack cards and scheduling recruitment opportunities for Madison and Transylvania

In-service/training update: No in service in November. Celebration of volunteers in December with lunch, gift

4. Administration

- Hosted a regional health forum with each of the counties, MAHEC, Vaya Health, NC Association of County Commissioners, Dogwood Health Trust and more to discuss plans for the opioid settlement funding.
- Hosted a broadband forum for the region's local government managers with the NC Department of Information Technology (NCDIT).
- We held an all-staff strategic planning meeting on November 16. Thanks to Erica for facilitating the meeting!
- Nathan will be attending the COG Directors meeting on December 1 and 2.
- Nathan attended the Asheville Chamber GROWTH breakfast with the featured speaker Chris Chung, CEO with EDPNC.
- Nathan attended the John M Belk Endowment's 10-year anniversary celebration in Charlotte. JMBE is providing funding to support the Land of Sky P-20 Council.
- Nathan attended the YMI Cultural Center groundbreaking event.
- Nathan attended the Asheville Chamber's Policy on Tap which featured a discussion about the French Broad River.
- Nathan participated in the EDPNC Western Prosperity Zone road tour in Brevard.
- Nathan presented the regional workforce survey to the Brevard Rotary Club.
- Nathan attended the Early Childhood Education forum in Flat Rock hosted by the Children & Family Resource Center.
- Nathan attended the Veteran's Day ceremony at the Charles A George VA Medical Center. The ceremony is hosted in partnership with the City of Asheville.
- Nathan was a panelist at the ARC Appalachian Leadership Institute meeting in Asheville.
- Christina is designing the LOSRC FY21-22 Annual Report.

5. Workforce

- Region's unemployment rate of 2.7% for September 2022, metro has the #1 lowest unemployment rate in NC. Our region now has more people working, more jobs and more people in our labor force than at any time pre-pandemic. There are 7,983 more people working in the region compared to September 2021 and 2,734 more people working compared to August 2022.
- Annual recognition event will be held on Tuesday, December 13 at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher.
- Pratt & Whitney groundbreaking held on Wednesday, November 16. MAWDB has supported this
 economic development project in various ways including providing virtual training software to AB
 Tech.*+
- Board has received \$1,304,000 in ARPA funding to support re-entry, substance use disorders and small businesses. Our board received the #2 highest amount of funding compared to other workforce boards in NC. The small business grant application was submitted in partnership with NC IDEA and NC Community College System.
- We are awaiting word on application for a \$4 million USDOL grant to serve youth in 11-counties in NC and 10-counties in TN.
- We are working with the Asheville Chamber to implement Accelerate Buncombe which will provide paid training for high-demand career fields.
- We hosted the WNC Career Expo on October 11 in partnership with the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher. Over 100 employers participated and around 350 job seekers attended.
- Several workforce staff supported MFG Day event at Borg Warner hosted by the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce. Over 300 middle school students attended the event.

• Nathan met with GE staff in Greenville SC as well as other sites around the nation on best practices for workforce development.

5. Strategic Initiatives

- Mountain Mobility Passenger trips in October were down slightly about 3.5% from September, which is typical when the weather begins to turn colder. Our Trailblazer services in Black Mountain, Enka-Candler and North Buncombe were also slightly down 159 (almost 8%) from October. Mountain Mobility continues to feel the effects of a sluggish workforce as we continue to recruit vehicle operators for approximately 8 full and part-time positions.
- Healthy Opportunities The Healthy Opportunities Pilot Program has approved Land of Sky to offer housing services in addition to transportation. Our contract states we can provide assistance with housing inspections, move-in support, utility set-up and deposits and healthy home goods. We are still working n the process of how these services will be delivered, but we may be able to start receiving referrals as early as January. For Transportation, we received 12 referrals in October.
- ARC INspire The team continues to serve individuals recovering from Substance Use Disorder and/or those returning from prison to find successful, long-term employment and supports in the community. In September, two individuals were placed in OJT contracts with local employers, while others were assisted with wraparound supports such as work shoes/clothing, assistance with obtaining employment documents (ID, driver's license, etc.) and transportation to job interviews and other appointments. Amanda Layton, our newest FT team member, recently completed her Peer Support Specialist certification and is now helping others in the community.
- **NEMT** Buncombe County anticipates budgeting the same funding for FY23-24. Transfer of additional clients has been delayed. NEMT provided 5317 trips for 539 clients in the month of October 2022.

THE CHARLES H. CAMPBELL REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dedicated in 1983 to Annually Honor an Outstanding Contributor to the Betterment of Western North Carolina and the Land of Sky Region

Presented to Barbara Volk

For his dedication and leadership on behalf of Land of Sky Regional Council and Western North Carolina. Mayor Barbara Volk has served the City of Hendersonville and Land of Sky Regional Council with distinction. Her distinguished record of public service has left a positive impact on our region.

Presented this 30th of November, 2022 by Land of Sky Regional Council

THE ROBERT E. SHEPHERD EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD

Dedicated in 2016 to Annually Honor a Local Government Professional

Presented to Josh Harrold

For his dedication in serving as Town of Black Mountain Manager and for his exemplary support for Land of Sky Regional Council.. Josh Harrold is a dedicated and faithful local government professional. His leadership and work ethic serves as a shining example for all that choose to serve the public.

Presented this 30th day of November, 2022 by Land of Sky Regional Council

THE ROBERT C. PARRISH, SR. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AWARD

Dedicated in 2000 to Annually Honor a Leader who has Improved Intergovernmental Cooperation in the Land of Sky Region

Presented to George Morosani

For his contributions to Land of Sky Regional Council and the State of North Carolina. George Morosani has served the Council for three decades and he has been the longest serving board member in the Council's history. His leadership on behalf of the region has been critical during the past 30 years..

Presented this 30th day of November, 2022 by Land of Sky Regional Council

EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Al Whitesides

In appreciation for your devotion, commitment and exemplary service as a Buncombe County Commissioner and for your numerous public service roles over the years. You have been a trailblazer for equality and opportunity in our region and North Carolina. Land of Sky Regional Council is grateful for your leadership and dedication to public service.

Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates November 30, 2022

Presented to Norris Gentry

In appreciation for your devotion, commitment and exemplary service as a Madison County Commissioner, Interim Madison County Manager and as Vice Chair of the Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates. Land of Sky Regional Council is grateful for your leadership and dedication to public service.

EXTRAORDINARY LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Representative Chuck Edwards

In appreciation for your devotion, commitment and exemplary service as a member of the North Carolina General Assembly representing Senate District 48 from 2012 - 2022. Your unwavering dedication to the citizens of Western North Carolina and our state has earned the respect of both the community and your colleagues. Land of Sky Regional Council is grateful for your exemplary leadership and dedication to public service.

Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates November 30, 2022

EXTRAORDINARY LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Representative John Ager

In appreciation for your devotion, commitment and exemplary service as a member of the North Carolina General Assembly representing House District 115 from 2014 - 2022. Your unwavering dedication to the citizens of Western North Carolina and our state has earned the respect of both the community and your colleagues. Land of Sky Regional Council is grateful for your exemplary leadership and dedication to public service.

Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates November 30, 2022

EXTRAORDINARY LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Representative Susan Fisher

In appreciation for your devotion, commitment and exemplary service as a member of the North Carolina General Assembly representing House District 114 from 2004 - 2022. Your unwavering dedication to the citizens of Western North Carolina and our state has earned the respect of both the community and your colleagues. Land of Sky Regional Council is grateful for your exemplary leadership and dedication to public service.

EXTRAORDINARY LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Representative Brian Turner

In appreciation for your devotion, commitment and exemplary service as a member of the North Carolina General Assembly representing House District 116 from 2015 - 2022. Your unwavering dedication to the citizens of Western North Carolina and our state has earned the respect of both the community and your colleagues. Land of Sky Regional Council is grateful for your exemplary leadership and dedication to public service.

Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates November 30, 2022

EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Van Taylor Jones

In appreciation for your devotion, commitment and exemplary service as Buncombe County Emergency Management Director. Your unwavering dedication to Buncombe County and the region has helped our region respond to the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Land of Sky Regional Council is grateful for your exemplary leadership and dedication to public service.

Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates November 30, 2022

EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Jimmy Brissie

In appreciation for your devotion, commitment and exemplary service as Henderson County Emergency Management Director. Your unwavering dedication to Henderson County and the region has helped our region respond to the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Land of Sky Regional Council is grateful for your exemplary leadership and dedication to public service.

EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Caleb Dispenza

In appreciation for your devotion, commitment and exemplary service as Madison County Emergency Management Director. Your unwavering dedication to Madison County and the region has helped our region respond to the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Land of Sky Regional Council is grateful for your exemplary leadership and dedication to public service.

Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates November 30, 2022

EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Kevin Shook

In appreciation for your devotion, commitment and exemplary service as Transylvania County Emergency Management Director. Your unwavering dedication to Transylvania County and the region has helped our region respond to the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Land of Sky Regional Council is grateful for your exemplary leadership and dedication to public service.