



**MID-CAROLINA REGIONAL COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 25, 2023**

-MINUTES-

The Mid-Carolina Regional Council Board of Directors met on Thursday, May 25, 2023. The meeting was held at the Roseboro Town Hall in Roseboro, North Carolina.

Board Members Present

Martin Jones, Vice Chair (Mayor, Town of Stedman)
Alice Butler (Mayor, Town of Roseboro)
Chris Coats (Mayor, Town of Coats) – Attended Remotely Via Zoom
Sue Lee (Commissioner, Sampson County)

Staff to the Board

Justin Hembree, Executive Director

Call to Order/Certification of a Quorum

Vice Chair Jones noted that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00noon.

Consideration and Approval of the Agenda

Upon a motion made by Ms. Lee and seconded by Ms. Butler, the agenda was approved as presented with four members in favor and none opposed.

Public Comment

Vice Chair Jones asked for comments from the public. No comments were made.

Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Jones presented the following consent agenda items:

- January 19, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made by Ms. Lee and seconded by Ms. Butler, the consent agenda was approved with four members in favor and none opposed. This action approved the January 19, 2023 meeting minutes.

Items of Business/Discussion/Updates

The following items were discussed and considered:

American Flood Coalition Presentation & Resolution

Tony McEwen, American Flood Coalition's Carolinas Director, make a presentation to the Board concerning the Coalition and its work. The American Flood Coalition is a nonpartisan group of political, military, business, and local leaders that have come together to drive adaptation to the reality of higher seas, stronger storms, and more frequent flooding. The Coalition seeks to advance solutions that support flood-affected communities and protect our nation's residents, economy, and military installations.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Coats and seconded by Ms. Lee, a resolution providing for Mid-Carolina Regional Council to become a member of the American Flood Coalition was adopted with four members in favor and none opposed.

City of Fayetteville Membership Resolution

Mr. Hembree presented information regarding a request from the City of Fayetteville to have the City's membership with Mid-Carolina Regional Council reinstated. Hembree noted that based on conversations between members of the City of Fayetteville's leadership team and Council staff, the City Fayetteville has requested that their member government status be reinstated with the Council. The Fayetteville City Council took formal action in March concerning this request.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Coats and seconded by Ms. Lee, a resolution providing for reinstatement of the City of Fayetteville as a member government of Mid-Carolina Regional Council was adopted with four members in favor and none opposed.

FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendment #2

Mr. Hembree presented FY 2022/2023 Budget Amendment #2 for consideration. The proposed amendment increased the Area Agency on Aging's budget by \$134,165 and Workforce Development's budget by \$265,744. Budget adjustments recommended included:

- Movement of ARPA funds to a new account in the AAA budget.
- Establishment of a new ARPA in the AAA budget.
- Spenddown of US Aging grant in the AAA budget.
- End-of-year adjustment in the Workforce budget.
- Receipt of new grants in the Workforce budget.
- Additional allocation in the Workforce budget.

- Movement of ARPA funds in the Workforce budget.
- Establishment of new ARPA accounts in the Workforce budget.
Receipt of funding for the My Future So Bright program in the Workforce budget.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Lee and seconded by Mr. Coats, FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendment #2 was approved with four members in favor and none opposed.

Presentation & Discussion Concerning FY 2023/2024 Annual Budget

Mr. Hembree presented the recommended Mid-Carolina Regional Council budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Hembree noted that the recommended budget was balanced and prepared in accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, local guidelines, and other applicable regulations. He also noted that over the past year, the Council has experienced unprecedented growth, established new partnerships to better serve the region, and proactively responded to the needs of our member governments.

The recommended budget reflects the “new normal” for the Council and funds initiatives that are a result of the support of and direction from our Board of Directors, member governments, and regional partners. Some highlighted council priorities noted for the upcoming fiscal year included:

- Funding of required local matches for state and federally funded programs (Aging, RPO, SCSEP, etc.).
- Continuation of direct assistance to member governments with the administration and implementation of ARPA funding.
- Direct technical support for member governments to include planning, zoning, code enforcement, finance/budgeting, and general administrative services.
- Expansion of the local workforce development area to include Montgomery and Moore Counties.
- Continuation of the local implementation of a state-wide recovery and resiliency program to assist member governments with disaster preparedness.
- Development of a digital access/broadband plan for the three-county region.
- Continuation of goals outlined in the AAA Regional Services Plan.
- Commitment to increase regional collaboration through networking opportunities.

The recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 totaled \$15,658,060. Hembree expressed that the budget reflected Mid-Carolina’s continued program expansions and is intended to align the organization’s financial resources with the region’s strategic priorities. Member investments (dues) were recommended to remain unchanged at \$0.24 per capita for municipal members and \$0.27 per capita for county members. However, specific investment amounts for individual jurisdictions were recommended for adjustment based on the most recent state population estimates.

Hembree summarized that the recommended budget builds on the Council's momentum of the past several years and ensures that the organization and its employees have the necessary support to deliver a diverse set of services to the region. It was noted that final allocation amounts for the Workforce & Talent Development Services and Local Government Services portions of the budget are still outstanding. Adjustments will be made to the recommended budget during the next month for the Board of Directors to review during the June 22 meeting.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Coats and seconded by Ms. Lee, the public hearing for the FY 2023/2024 budget was set for 12noon on June 22, 2023 at the Mid-Carolina Regional Council office in Fayetteville, North Carolina with four members in favor and none opposed.

Appointments

Mr. Hembree noted that the bylaws of the Mid-Carolina RPO require that a member of the Mid-Carolina Regional Council Board of Directors serve on the RPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and that this position is currently vacant. He also noted that the bylaws of the Mid-Carolina Aging Advisory Council require that a member of the Mid-Carolina Regional Council Board of Directors serve on the Advisory Council and that this position is also vacant.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Lee and seconded by Ms. Butler, Mayor Chris Coats was appointed to the RPO Transportation Advisory Committee with four members in favor and none opposed..

Reports

The following reports were provided:

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director provided updates on the following items:

- Workforce Development Local Area Expansion
- Regional Networking Events
- NCARCOG Legislative Day
- June Meeting Officer Elections and Appointment to The Forum
- Digital Access/Broadband Plan

Other Reports

Updates concerning the Council's operational areas were also provided by Leadership Team members Glenda Dye, Finance Officer, Tracey Honeycutt, Aging, Samantha Wullenwaber, Local Government Services, and Verna Jones, Workforce & Talent Development.

Adjournment

Being no other business, Vice Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:15pm.