

GNRC

Greater Nashville Regional Council
501 Union Street, 6th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1705

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2015 – 10:45 a.m.
Music City Central
400 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee

MINUTES

Those in Attendance:

Rogers Anderson	Williamson County
Howard Bradley	Robertson County
Paige Brown	Gallatin
Margo Chambers	Resident
Sam Childs	Coopertown
Philip Craighead	Lebanon
Jim Durrett	Montgomery County
Evann Freeman	Senator Alexander
Wayne Hall	Fairview
Anthony Holt	Sumner County
Randall Hutto	Wilson County
Rick Johnson	Ashland City
Jerry Kirkman	Westmoreland
Denise McBride	THDA
Kim McMillan	Clarksville
Ken Moore	Franklin
Rick Sinclair	Strategic Services Company
Bill Terry	TACIR
Jessie Wallace	Humphreys County
Ken Wilber	Portland
Tauna Blaisdell	GNRC
Patty Cavanah	GNRC
Amanda Evilcizer	GNRC
Amanda Giner	GNRC-MADC
Grant Green	GNRC
Taylor Hollars	GNRC
Angie Hutchison	GNRC
Hope Jackson	GNRC
Jovia King	GNRC
Jovan Little	GNRC
Norma Powell	GNRC
Tim Roach	GNRC
Laylah Smith	GNRC
Matt Von Lunen	GNRC
Gayle Wilson	GNRC

Call to Order

President Randall Hutto called the Executive Committee Meeting to order at approximately 10:55 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at the Music City Central Station, 400 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

President Hutto welcomed any new members and guests.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

EPA – Air Rules for Tennessee

Rick Sinclair, PhD., Environmental Consultant for Strategic Services Company, stated on October 1st the EPA lowered the ozone standard for the whole country (70 parts per million). The number from natural ozone precursors is around 60 to 70 parts per million. Today, the only county in Tennessee in nonattainment with the ozone standard is Shelby County. The new standard is so low that any county with an air monitor or adjacent to a MSA which has a monitor will most likely be recommended for nonattainment. Nonattainment labels a county as “dirty air” area. Investors are unlikely to locate new industrial plants in these areas. Highway funds may be restricted, local actions such as vehicle inspection programs, lower speed limits and even grass cutting limitations may be required of the county.

On October 1st, the ozone standard was lowered. This gives Governor Haslam twelve months to make a list of the nonattainment counties that will be. Rick is proposing to work with the counties to make sure they know the status of their county.

Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD)

Norma Powell, Executive Deputy Director of AAAD, stated there is a program called Senior Brain Games sponsored by TCAD. Each year any senior center who is interested can participate in this statewide event. There are competitions from the local GNRC level, the regional level and the state level. Ashland City Senior Center won first place in the regional level and they scored second place at the state level.

The AAAD is fully staffed. Jovan Little is the new administrative assistant for GNRC AAAD.

Mid-Cumberland Area Development Corporation (MADC)

Amanda Giner, MADC Executive Director, reported there are funds available for small businesses. Loans can range from \$5,000 to \$5.5 million. With the SBA loan program, no tax dollars are used and it is one of the larger loan programs. Interest rates are currently 4.80% fixed for 20 years. Equipment loan interest rates are currently 4.24% fixed for 10 years. MADC can also assist entrepreneurs in locating a lender. To find additional information on all loan programs, Ms. Giner referred them to MADC’s website at www.madc.us.

Research, Planning and Development

Tim Roach, Deputy Executive Director of Research, Planning and Development, reported that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) results are out. The two applications that were submitted by GNRC were not funded. Not one CDBG was awarded in the region. Since the incomes and unemployment rates are better here than other areas of the state, it puts our region in less of a competitive advantage. GNRC will put in an application for any who want and GNRC will do their best to get you every point they can. Greater Nashville region is not being funded and the issue needs to be looked at differently. Every county has some disadvantage areas that need funds. This could be discussed at legislative meeting on October 30th.

GNRC is an affiliate of the state data center. This means we are an official partner of the Census Bureau for maintaining data. If you need census information, please call Tim’s department.

In the new budget which was passed in September, there was a new position for Tim’s division. The new position is on hold instead Patty Cavanah will stay on part time to do the TACIR work through at least June.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

President Randall Hutto called for corrections or additions to the minutes of the September 22, 2015 GNRC Executive Committee meeting.

Sumner County Executive Anthony Holt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Franklin Mayor Ken Moore seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Financial Report

Tauna Blaisdell, Deputy Executive Director of Administration/Operations and Chief Fiscal Officer, stated the Taylor Hollars is the new administrative assistant to take Amanda Evilcizer position. When the state went to the Edison system, we changed how our insurance program was set up. We were told that it was a tax exempt program so it was set up that way. We were not told that it was a cafeteria that could also be exempt from payroll taxes. We have hired auditors to look at the previous tax returns. We are not sure how much it will cost to pay the auditors but we do anticipate getting money back to help figure that out. We are in the process amending the issue from 2012 to 2013.

Tauna also presented the financial report for the month ending September 30, 2015. The total expenditures for the month of September were \$430,547.54 with \$5,363.02 in pass through for the THDA/ERP program. The year-to-date expenditures were \$1,704,739.81. The total revenues were \$670,216.31. The total pass through were \$659,598.23.

Project Review

Tim Roach, Deputy Executive Director of Research, Planning and Development, presented one (1) new project that was reviewed this reporting period. Staff found no conflict with existing or planned activities and recommended approval. This is a USDA project.

Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan made a motion to approve the finance report as presented and the projects as submitted. Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

Other Business

Legislative Meeting on October 30th at 11:30 at Montgomery Bell Park Inn. Lunch will be provided.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Hutchison

Recording Secretary
Administrative Support Specialist
SHE/adh