

# GNRC MEETING MINUTES

## Regional Council Body

### INFORMATION

**DATE:** August 16, 2023

**LOCATION:** TN State Library and Archives, 1001 Rep. John Lewis Way, Nashville, TN 37201

**QUORUM:** Yes

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 10:22 a.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 10:45 a.m.

### ATTENDANCE

	<b>Members Present</b>
Cheatham Representatives	Kerry McCarver (County)
Davidson Representatives	Ginger Hausser (County)
Dickson Representatives	Bob Rial (County)
Houston Representatives	<i>None present</i>
Humphreys Representatives	<i>None present</i>
Montgomery Representatives	Lee Harrell (County)
Robertson Representatives	Billy Vogle (County), Gerald Herman (White House), Margot Fosnes (Business Rep)
Rutherford Representatives	Jim Kerr (Murfreesboro)
Stewart Representatives	<i>None present</i>
Sumner Representatives	John Isbell (County), Paige Brown (Gallatin), Jamie Clary (Hendersonville), Mike Callis (Portland), David Leath (Westmoreland)
Trousdale Representatives	<i>None present</i>
Williamson Representatives	Rogers Anderson (County), Lisa Anderson (Fairview), Ken Moore (Franklin), Ken McLawhon (Thompson's Station)
Wilson Representatives	Randall Hutto (County), Rick Bell (Lebanon), Abraham Farias (Mt. Juliet)
TN General Assembly	<i>None present</i>
Board Secretary	Michael Skipper

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Council Chair



Council Secretary

## **AGENDA ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Bob Rial called the Regional Council meeting to order at 10:22a.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 21 meeting.

Mayor Ken Moore moved to approve with Mayor Lisa Anderson seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **3a. Brownfield Redevelopment Area Grants**

Mr. Evan Spann, TDEC, presented the newly authorized Brownfield Redevelopment Area Grants (BRAG) to the members. He explained that the Rural Brownfield Investment Act that was established on July 1, 2023, created the BRAG to direct funds to investigation, assessment, and remediation to communities, expanded the Brownfield Franchise and Excise Tax credits to include both purchase and remediation costs, and removed geographic barriers to use and expanded eligibility of qualified project costs.

BRAG program highlights included:

- \$5M recurring in grant funds; individual grants are capped at \$500,000 annually per eligible entity.
- Eligible applicants include “political subdivisions of the state, including, but not limited to, a county, municipality, development district, or development board.”
- Complements existing grant offerings administered by TNECD and EPA.
- The tentative BRAG timeline is:
  - Fall 2023: Complete grant manual,
  - Mid-January 2024: Solicitation Announcement and grant period open
  - Mid-April: Applications due
  - April - June: Application review
  - June: Notice of award
  - August: Target start date for grant contracts

Contact information for the initiative:

- TDEC: VOAP/BRAG: Evan Spann, [Evan.W.Spann@tn.gov](mailto:Evan.W.Spann@tn.gov)
- TnECD: Site Development Grant: Kirby Lewis-Gill, [Kirby.lewis-gill@tn.gov](mailto:Kirby.lewis-gill@tn.gov)
- Tax Credits: Debbie Clabo, [Debbie.Clabo@tn.gov](mailto:Debbie.Clabo@tn.gov)

## **AGENDA ITEM 4. REGULAR REPORTS**

### **4a. Chair's Report**

Mayor Rial thanked Congressman John Rose for being at the meeting.

### **4b. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Skipper thanked Mr. Spann for his report and TDEC's participation in the regular Environmental Roundtable.

Mr. Skipper reminded members that GNRC was awarded the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Program to analyze strategies to reduce greenhouse emissions across our region. A four-year planning process will be kicking off soon with the Environmental Roundtable and an extended group of partners.

He said that the GNRC has applied to the EDA on behalf of a consortium of 18 individual organizations, including Vanderbilt, Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College, Fisk, TN Board of Regents, and a host of private industries to formally propose to EDA that Middle Tennessee be designated as a regional technology/innovation hub for a concept which is being called The Healthcare Information Center of Excellence. He explained the significance of this application, and should the proposal be successful, the region would be eligible for upwards of \$80M in EDA funding to develop a globally competitive technology hub in Middle Tennessee.

He said that the GNRC also applied for a related strategy development grant of \$500K with matching funds, which the consortium members would share to hire a regional innovation officer to work with the consortium to optimize the proposed hub further.

He shared an additional EDA grant application that is under development for disaster supplemental area funds to help rebuild and recover in 9 of GNRC's 13 counties. The funding will be used to create a new dedicated full-time position to help locals access funds for assistance to support recovery and mitigate future impacts.

He reminded members that letters of intent to TN ECD's site development program are due August 25. He said this money can be used to prepare certified sites for further infrastructure investment. He said Michael Mills, GNRC's economic and community development director, can assist with the letter of intent and application. For more information, go to:

[www.gnrc.org/grants](http://www.gnrc.org/grants)

Mr. Skipper briefly went over the upcoming meetings:

#### *September 20 Transportation Policy Board*

- CRP Phase 1 Award Recommendations
- Adopt TIP Amendments
- Project Delivery Task Force Recommendations
- Updates on Regional Planning Activities

#### *September 20 Annual Partnership Luncheon*

- Governors Bredesen and Haslam deliver the keynote
- Annual Awards Ceremony
- Release of GMNRC's Annual Report

*October 18 Regional Council Body*

- Update on Solid Waste Planning
- Cybersecurity Awareness Month
- Information about Available Grant Opportunities

**AGENDA ITEM 5. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**AGENDA ITEM 6. ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.