



BOARD OF DIRECTORS WINTER MEETING
Kirkwood National Golf Club
Holly Springs, MS
January 9, 10, 2008

1. **Call to Order and Welcome** – President Bob Augenstern (NY) convened the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Development District Association of Appalachia at 10:00 AM (Central Time) at Kirkwood National Golf Club, Holly Springs, Mississippi. He welcomed the Board Members and acknowledged the reception and dinner held last evening at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center and reminded members of this evening’s dinner at Fitch Farms.

2. **Roll Call** – The secretary Sharon Gardner (MS) recorded the following persons to be present:

| OFFICE | STATE | NAME | PHONE | E-MAIL | JAN 9-10 |
|--------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------------|--|----------|
| President | NY | Robert Augenstern | 607 724-1327 | raugen@steny.org | X |
| 1 st VP | AL | Keith Jones | 256 389-0500 | kjones@nwscc.cc.al.us | E |
| 2 nd VP | GA | Barry Tarter | 706 272-2300 | ed@ngrdc.org | X |
| Treasurer | WV | Jim Mylott | 304 422-4993 | jim.mylott@movrc.org | E |
| Secretary | MS | Sharon Gardner | 662 728-6248 | sgardner@nempdd.com | X |
| Past Pres | OH | Jeff Spencer | 740 947-2853 | jspencer@ovrdc.org | X |
| B | AL | Bob Culver | 256 716-2444 | Bob.Culver@adss.alabama.gov | X |
| O | GA | Danny Lewis | 770 538-2626 | dlewis@gmrdc.org | X |
| A | KY | Sherry McDavid | 606 929-1366 | sherry@fivco.org | |
| R | MD | Leanne Mazer | 301 777-2158 | lmazer@tccwmd.org | X |
| D | MS | Rudy Johnson | 662 324-7860 | rjohnson@gtppd.com | X |
| | NY | Don Rychnowski | 716 945-5301 | drychnowski@southernierwest.org | X |
| M | NC | Rick Herndon | 828 265-5434 | rherndon@regiond.org | X |
| E | OH | Don Myers | 740 439-4471 | director@omegadistrict.org | X |
| M | PA | Eric Bridges | 814 773-3163 | ebridges@ncentral.com | X |
| B | SC | Steve Pelissier | 864 242-9733 | pelissier@scacog.org | |
| E | TN | Susan Reid | 423 929-0224 | sreid@ftdd.org | X |
| R | VA | Andrew Chafin | 276 889-1778 | andrewchafin@bvunet.net | E |
| S | WV | Ken Dyche | 304 257-2448 | kdyche@regioneight.org | X |

Guests present were Dan Neff and Harry Roesch, ARC Staff; Matt Chase, NADO Staff; and Fred Abousleman, NARC Staff. Guests present at Thursday’s meeting were Tom

Hunter, ARC staff; Ann Pope, Federal Co-Chair; Mike Armour, Mississippi Program Manager; and Sandra Perkins, Mississippi Program Manager's staff.

The secretary reported a quorum of the Board of Directors to be present.

3. **Approval of Agenda** – President Augenstern (NY) stated that the future DDAA conference discussion might be longer than the 15 minutes provided on the agenda and Dan Neff suggested that this part of the agenda be conducted with the conference call to Treasurer Jim Mylott (WV).

Motion #1 – Barry Tarter (GA) made a motion to accept the agenda as revised. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spencer (OH) and approved unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes** – President Augenstern stated that the minutes of August 27, 2007 and July 18, 2007 had been provided in the meeting package.

Motion #2 – Rudy Johnson (MS) made a motion to approve the minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by Danny Lewis (GA) and approved unanimously.

5. **Transition to Digital TV** – Harry Roesch, ARC Senior Telecommunications Advisor, presented information regarding the transition to digital TV on February 17, 2009. All transmission will switch from analog to digital at that time. This will open band width up for cellular phone use. He provided printed materials that explained what this transition means to the general public as well as the aging populations served through many Development Districts. Mr. Roesch further explained the coupon program which is funded at \$90M and how the Districts may play a vital role in informing citizens in their regions. Topics discussed included what DTV transition is, why we are switching, and what people should do to be ready for the transition. Dan Neff stated that there will be booths at the DDAA conference and a possible short presentation. Matt Chase informed the Committee that N4A has met with the FCC and information will be provided through the Area Agencies on Aging. Bob Culver (AL) offered that Alabama Area Agencies on Aging were gathering information regarding the potential of purchasing analog televisions from hotel/hospital chains to distribute to older adults along with conversion boxes and/or information regarding conversion.

6. **NARC Update** – President Augenstern (NY) introduced Fred Abousleman, Executive Director of NARC to provide an update. Executive Director Abousleman provided materials to the committee and identified the legislative priorities of NARC as the following: (1) Transportation; (2) Economic & Community Development; (3) Homeland Security; and (4) Environment. He further advocated regionalism at all levels. Additionally, he gave an overview of legislation occurring at the federal level. NARC is working to ensure that regional councils are incorporated into national economic

development initiatives that promote building sustainable, workable, livable communities. In addition, NARC supports sufficient and sustained funding for EDA, HUD, ARC, and as well, supports the creation and funding of new US Regional Commissions. NARC continues to support the existence and continued operation of COGs and MPOs in transportation planning and programming to promote regional solutions. The group also supports the expanded authority of regional councils in homeland security coordination, planning, and response efforts.

7. **ARC Staff Notes**– Dan Neff, the ARC Local Development District Program Manager, reported that both Tom Hunter and Federal Co-Chair Ann Pope will provide more information regarding FY 2008 budget increase during their presentations tomorrow. Governor Barbour will be the new States Co-Chair. The support of Senator Robert Byrd and Congressman Zach Space were critical in the FY 2008 funding of ARC. Dan reported that LDD administrative grants should include a proportionate increase when the Federal Co-Chair and the Governors approve the increased budget. Work is currently on-going regarding how to distribute the additional funds. President Bush’s 2009 budget will come out in February, but it is unknown at this time what the recommended amount for ARC will be. The 2008 increase should at this time be considered one-time monies. The reauthorization of ARC is in discussion; however, one sticking point is the addition of new counties by the House which are not distressed. The additional funding for LDD administrative grants will require matching dollars. ARC continues to be involved in transportation issues and will be promoting more inland ports. The Commission’s summer meeting is scheduled to be in Pennsylvania.

President Augenstern announced that the group would take a recess for lunch and reconvene at 12:45 pm.

8. **Treasurer’s Report** - Treasurer Jim Mylott (WV) presented the report via conference call. He reported that the Association had a balance of \$18,940.51 as of 12/31/07 with funds receivable in the amount of \$5,275 making a net funds available balance of \$24,215.51 as of the end of December, 2007. Treasurer Mylott (WV) provided handouts which detailed revenues, expenditures, and receivables for the reporting period. In addition, it was reported that the due’s collection was successful with Dan Neff committing to follow-up with Pennsylvania. Treasurer Mylott (WV) reported a training contract balance of \$28,262 at 12/31/07. After accounting for the \$40,000 FY 2009 ARC grant and NADO contract expense of \$17,500, the adjusted available balance in the training budget is \$50,762. An overview of revenue and expenses for board meetings and conference since 2002 was presented for comment.

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| <p>Motion #3 – Rudy Johnson (MS) made a motion to approve the financial report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Bob Culver (AL) and approved unanimously.</p> |
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9. **Future DDAA Conference Discussion** - With the 2011 DDAA/Marriott contract being considered, detailed discussion in regards to the conference including the topics of location, length of conference, room rates, food costs, etc. was held. NADO Executive Director Matt Chase reported that while NADO considers that their Policy Conference should remain in Washington, that a change to a 1 ½ day conference with more of a focus on the Hill activities and less entertainment is being discussed. He pointed out the direct correlation between food and room costs at the Marriott. Further discussion included the costs to the Development Districts for staff as well as Board members and the Congressional Award. Rudy Johnson (MS) noted the importance of keeping the conference in Washington so that networking could be maximized with Board members in attendance as well as the Congressional delegation. By a show of hands, no Board members supported moving the conference location from Washington. There was interest, however, in reorganizing the conference events in a manner that might cut expenses by having the Sunday banquet be the opening event and leaving Monday evening open. President Augenstern (NY) reminded the group that this discussion related to conference year 2011 and forward. There was a general consensus to cut down the number of meal functions, but retain high quality in the continuing meal events.

Motion #4 – Rudy Johnson (MS) made a motion to continue the conference on a Sunday through Tuesday format in Washington and potentially organize differently within those days to be more cost effective. The motion was seconded by Danny Lewis (GA) and approved unanimously.

10. **Training Committee Report** – Committee Chairman Don Rychnowski (NY) reported a successful year with training beginning with the annual conference and including the GIS Training Conference as well as the Rural Transportation Conference co-sponsored with NADO. Progress continues on the four working papers being written by NADO and covering the following topic areas: GIS, broadband, workforce, and multi-modal. The GIS paper will be presented at the GIS Conference in Nashville, TN. The registration fee for this conference is still a work in progress and estimated to be \$125-\$150. A personnel training session is being planned with University of North Carolina staff serving as trainers. The program will look at human resources for each state and provide a manual for each. Proposed dates are May 4-6 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Dan Neff reminded the Board that NADO staff works with the Training Committee to make training venue arrangements in addition to their contractual services work on the annual conference. A multi-modal event is being planned for September, 2008 with topics such as corridor development and updates on ARC activities related to multi-modal issues. Transportation training session will be in Duluth, Minnesota, in August 26-28, 2008.

Motion #5 - Chairman Rychnowski (NY) made a motion to designate \$12,500 to co-sponsor the Rural Transportation training program as was done last year. Bob Culver (AL) seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

In regards to the LEAP program, a survey was sent out to Districts to determine the use of the program. Dan Neff reported about 30-35 responses with two-thirds of those being positive responses. Additionally, the continued use of this product would be \$12-\$13K with ARC proposing that the next annual license fee be paid by DDAA and additional training provided. A lengthy discussion regarding the renewal of the license fee, training, use, and shared costs ensued with a final action being postponed until the February meeting.

Motion #6 – Ken Dyché (WV) made a motion to adopt transportation, personnel, multi-modal, and GIS as the training session topics. Leanne Mazer (MD) seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

11. **2008 Humanitarian Award** – President Augenstern (NY) called upon Dan Neff for a report. Dan reported that he had sent a letter to Ohio Alternate Fred Deal to hopefully make arrangements for a representative of the family of the late Bob Evans to be at the conference to accept the award. Eric Bridges (PA) was appointed by President Augenstern (NY) to chair a committee to set criteria for the award for future nominees. Keith Jones (AL) will also serve on the committee. The Board was reminded that Dolly Parton had been previously approved to receive the award in 2009.
12. **2008 Congressional Award** – President Augenstern (NY) reported that Congressman Maurice Henchy (NY) was being considered for the award; however, the presentation primarily depends on the schedule of the potential recipient. Names of any others that might be considered should Congressman Henchy not be available should be submitted soon.
13. **2008 Whisman Award** – Barry Tarter (GA) reported that the committee had not made a final decision at this time. The committee hopes to have their business conducted the following day.
14. **2008 Conference Update** – President Augenstern (NY), Dan Neff, and Keith Jones (AL) met yesterday to make final plans for the conference agenda. A draft agenda was provided and day-by-day overview was presented by President Augenstern and Dan Neff. Questions and comments were presented. Tentative plans are being made for the Summer Board Meeting on July 20-22, 2008 in Pigeon Forge, TN.

At this point, the meeting was declared to be in recess until 8:30 AM (Central Time) on Thursday.

A group dinner was held at Fitch Farms/Galena Plantation on Wednesday evening.

President Robert Augenstern (NY) reopened the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Development District Association of Appalachia at 8:30 AM (Central Time) on Thursday, January 10, 2008.

- 15. Comments from Mississippi Program Manager** – Mississippi Program Manager Mike Armour welcomed the Board to Mississippi and reported that he, along with Sandra Perkins, Federal Co-Chair Ann Pope, and ARC Executive Director Tom Hunter had met with Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour on Wednesday. Governor Barbour plans to visit at the DDAA Annual Conference in February. Governor Barbour was elected by the Governors to be the State’s Co-Chair this year.
- 16. Briefing from the Federal Co-Chair** – Federal Co-Chair Pope reported an extremely positive meeting with Governor Barbour yesterday and stated that the Governor pledged that he wants to raise the level of the Commission. Mississippi’s alternate will be Jim Perry. Additionally reported was the 11% increase for FY 2008. Out of the increase, \$600,000 will go to the LDDs. Additional funds will have to be expended by the end of the year. Federal Co-Chair Pope extended appreciation and compliments to the LDDs for a history of good quality projects. The committee was reminded of the release of the twenty-four driving tour’s map by National Geographic Traveler in March/April. Additional discussion took place regarding unemployment, underemployment, and other significant workforce issues.
- 17. ARC Executive Director’s Update** – Executive Director Tom Hunter reported that the increase is the result of hard work, good reputation, and good luck. At this time, ballots have been mailed to the Governors and State Program Managers to vote on the reallocation of funds due to the increase in funding. \$1.5M has been placed in the regional initiative fund with \$500K earmarked for regional competitive grants and a total of \$6M for the LDDs for area development and distressed counties. Executive Director Hunter advised the Board that the LDDs will be needed to identify good projects and make great use of the additional available funds. He expressed appreciation to those who encouraged our Governors and Congressional delegation in the budget process. Reauthorization seems to be within our grasp and the Commission is hopeful that it may be done fairly quickly. There continues to be some minor language issues and additional county issues between the Senate and House. Lengthy discussion took place regarding workforce and infrastructure needs as well as multi-modal issues.
- 18. NADO Update** – Executive Director Matt Chase expressed appreciation to Federal Co-Chair Pope as well as the Commission and LDDs for their support to NADO. Matt gave an overview and update regarding the survey on EDA program priorities. In addition, he provided information regarding budget issues and EDA. He reported that CDBG has sustained a cut of approximately \$117M. Delta Regional Authority retained level funding and the Denali Commission had a decrease. On the authorization side, the House passed legislation that would establish some commissions that would be modeled after ARC. NADO is working to ensure that these commissions would work through existing Economic Development Districts. Once again, the definition of “rural community” is being discussed at the federal level. Executive Director Chase reported that NADO

continues its work on the four position papers that are parts of the contractual arrangement with DDAA. NADO continues to be interested in the strengthening of Local Development Districts work as an RPO with the state DOT. ASHTO has been partnering with NADO in this regard. Handouts were provided covering the following subject matter: Alaska Conference, Green Light to Green Building, Economic Development Districts of Idaho, Clean Water for Virginia's Coal Counties, and Southeast Tennessee Transportation. Finally, he urged LDDs to nominate worthy recipients for the Congressional Partnership Award.

19. **DDAA Committee Reports** – Policy Committee Chairman Don Myers (OH) reported that the committee is working and will have something to present at the summer meeting.
20. **Old Business** – President Augenstern (NY) called for any additional old business and none was offered.
21. **New Business** – President Augenstern (NY) called for any additional new business. Bob Culver (AL) informed the group that the Delta Queen riverboat had just applied for a ten year extension that would allow the boat to travel inland waterways. He explained that the boat has a direct impact on tourism in ARC areas and that members could support the extension application by logging onto the website or by passing a resolution at the LDD board level. Training Chairman Rychnowski (NY) encouraged participation in training events. NADO Executive Director Matt Chase urged everyone to make reservations for the DDAA February conference prior to the reservation deadline.
22. **Adjournment** – Upon motion by Don Meyers (OH) the meeting was adjourned.