



**Board of Directors Meeting  
Sunday, December 4 – Tuesday December 6, 2011  
Spartanburg Marriott at Renaissance Park  
Spartanburg, South Carolina**

**MINUTES**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011**

President, Steve Pelissier, welcomed board members to Spartanburg, SC and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary, Misty Casto, called the roll.

Members Present:

President/South Carolina	Steve Pelissier
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Danny Lewis
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Sherry McDavid
Secretary	Misty Casto
Treasurer	Jim Mylott
Alabama	Bob Culver
Georgia	Jim Dove
Kentucky	Mike Patrick
New York	Richard Zink
North Carolina	Rick Herndon
Ohio	John Hemmings
Tennessee	Susan Reid
Virginia	Jim Baldwin
West Virginia	Michele Craig

Members Absent:

Immediate Past President	Eric Bridges
Maryland	Leanne Mazer
Mississippi	Rudy Johnson
Pennsylvania	Ed Sylvetti

Others present during all or part of the session:

Dan Neff	ARC
Junie White	Mayor of Spartanburg
Megan Anderson	SC ARC Program Manager
Matt Chase	NADO Executive Director
Fred Abousleman	NARC Executive Director
Cameron Whitman	ARC States Representative
Earl Gohl	ARC Federal Co-Chair
Tom Hunter	ARC Executive Director

## **Approval of Agenda**

The committee was presented the proposed agenda for the DDAA Winter Board Meeting. **Danny Lewis moved approval of the agenda as presented. Jim Mylott seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.**

## **Minutes**

Misty Casto presented the minutes of the July 2011 Board Meeting to the DDAA Board. Jim Mylott moved approval of the minutes as presented. Sherry McDavid seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

## **President's Remarks**

President, Steve Pelissier, addressed the Board, beginning with discussion on the theme we've had at all of the board meetings and conferences over the past year – Times Are Changing. As we move forward, the significant issue is that we need to try to figure out what is going on at the federal level and change and/or act accordingly. The types of federal spending and programs we are using are going to continue to be reduced. We're also seeing a change in the way federal programs are operated. We are all, in response, looking at how we operate. We're asking ourselves, How do we refocus ourselves and what are our priorities? Repositioning our organizations is a priority. This is not a good time to be comfortable. We have our work cut out for us in the next couple of days and as we move forward.

There was discussion around the lack of the Super Committee to reach any sort of agreement on the budget, and board/legislator turnover. Most states have experienced board turnover. Executive Directors are turning over also – it is estimated in West Virginia that over 75% of Executive Directors will turn over within the next five (5) years. Kentucky has seen seven (7) out of fifteen (15) Executive Directors turn over in the past three years.

In North Carolina, the Executive Directors and organizations are trying very hard to work together. In Virginia, the state members are stronger than they've ever been.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Jim Mylott, addressed the DDAA Board members. Jim discussed his service as the DDAA Treasurer and explained his apprehension about the succession of the position of Treasurer. Jim has agreed to remain Treasurer until June 30, 2012. Nominating Committee chair, Eric Bridges, will be responsible for coordinating the nomination of the next Treasurer. Steve Pelissier has agreed to take over as Treasurer of the DDAA for a minimum of five (5) years, should he be nominated for the position.

Dan expressed his gratitude to Jim for his willingness to serve as Treasurer for the organization and for all of his assistance throughout the years. Jim has brought structure and continuity to the position and to the board.

The Treasurers report as of November 30, 2011 was presented (attached). The Balance as of June 30 was \$80,478.42. The dues increase has put us on a very firm financial basis.

There are currently two separate training contracts, on expiring on April 30, 2012, and another expiring on April 30, 2013. The Treasurer would like to close out the contract expiring April 30, 2012. Expenses total \$2,291.21 more than the \$45,000 contract amount. **Jim Dove moved to charge the \$2,291.21 to the General Fund and not charge that amount to the next training contract. Jim Baldwin seconded the motion. All yea. Motion carried.**

Danny questioned the \$85,000 Annual Conference budget amount. Jim stated that we have funds in the general fund to cover any overages in the annual conference. Historical practice has been to budget low for the Annual Conference. Steve encouraged Danny to ask for an increase in the Annual Conference budget if he is uncomfortable with the amount that has been budgeted.

The DDAA was originally incorporated in Georgia. It has since been reorganized in West Virginia. **Jim Mylott moved that the DDAA adopt the record retention policy that is located in the IRS regulations and the records remain at the offices of the current Treasurer. Danny Lewis seconded. All yeas. Motion carried.**

**Jim Mylott moved that the DDAA apply for a credit card in the limit of \$10,000 to be used by the DDAA Treasurer. Rick Herndon seconded the motion.** Discussion ensued about checks and balances. **All yeas. Motion carried.**

**Michele Craig moved that the officers confer about how to show our appreciation to Jim Mylott for his many years of service as Treasurer of the DDAA Board. Jim Baldwin seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.**

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011**

### **DDAA Business Meeting Resumes**

Steve Pelissier, President, called the meeting to order. The Mayor of Spartanburg welcomed the DDAA Board to Spartanburg. Steve introduced Megan Anderson, SC ARC Program Manager.

### **Positioning LDDs for the Future**

Matt Chase of NADO led the group in a discussion about strategic planning and the LDD role in Job Creation/Job Retention; the LDD role in Cost Savings; and the LDD assistance. He discussed four themes NADO is observing at the national level – 1) Regional innovation; 2) Manufacturing; 3) Export Development; 4) Repatriation. After the discussion and feedback from board members, NADO hopes to develop a report on how LDDs relate to these themes.

There was a lot of discussion from the board members present. Matt Chase thanked the board for their feedback.

### **Sustainable Communities in Appalachia**

Ed Fendley from the USEPA addressed the Board members about Potential Models for a Sustainable Communities Partnership in Appalachia. EPA's elevator speech: We take a small amount of public investment and we offer the opportunity to spur a large amount of private investment, in a way to help communities protect air, land, and water. [Fendley.ed@epa.gov](mailto:Fendley.ed@epa.gov) - <http://www.epa.gov/smarthgrowth> - 202-566-9555.

Mr. Fendley gave a description of the Smart Growth office – focuses on the built environment – how and where communities develop. The office provides direct assistance to communities that ask for their help, and provides tools for communities to take advantage of if they choose. Try to leverage investments within the federal government – work with USDA, HUD, DOT under the Partnership for Sustainable Communities

Mr. Fendley gave a PowerPoint presentation – summarized below.

### **The Potential Sustainable Communities Partnership in Appalachia -**

Partners – ARC/NADO/DDAA/USDA/EPA

Objective: help interested communities to develop smart growth approaches – with private and public investment to follow

Potential Work Plan: Technical assistance for communities that want it; regional forums; training; governor's institute on community design

### **Technical Assistance for specific challenges:**

- Affordable housing near jobs
- Transportation options
- Revitalizing traditional downtowns
- Identifying & building on economic assets

DDAA/ARC/USDA assist with selection criteria so we serve those with greatest need & interest.

#### Regional Forums:

- Forums in communities that have successfully used smart growth approaches
- Peer-to-Peer learning
- NADO as organizer

#### Training:

- Training the trainers
- State development offices, LDDs, USDA RD officials, regional planning organizations, federal grant recipients
- Complement HUD/EPA capacity-building assistance, which NADO and others are already providing

#### Governors' Institute on Community Design:

- Helps governors' offices address state-wide community design challenges
- ARC/DDAA/USDA could potentially join in forums for Appalachian States
- Governors' Institutes take place for the asking – but governors need to ask

Michelle Craig asked if this effort was best suited for some of our communities that are more transitional in nature? Ed stated they can set criteria for serving both those that are transitioning and those that are not currently up to that scale.

Dan Neff informed the board that ARC is putting federal co-chair funds into this effort. They want to work with the DDAA to identify those communities that may be in need, but need a little nudge in the right direction.

Ed will work with the Training Committee to develop criteria/etc. for use in the Appalachian Region for potential projects.

***Susan Reid moved to amend the agenda to add an update from Washington from Matt Chase. Jim Dove seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.***

#### **Washington Policy Update**

Matt Chase gave an update on the federal appropriations bills, providing updates on USDA, HUD, WIA, MPOs, ARC, and the Super Committee. There was discussion about the mandatory cuts and how those cuts will be determined in the first year and beyond.

#### **DDAA Training Committee Report**

Misty Presented the Training Committee Update for 2011 and the DRAFT CY 2012 Training Committee Program to the board members (attached). The contract that runs through April 30, 2012 has been expended. The new Training Program Balance is \$67,500. Plans for CY 2012 include sponsorship of the RPO Conference, LDD Showcase event, and Leadership/Professional Development sessions.

Susan Reid and Richard Zink volunteered to serve on the Training Committee.

***Jim Mylott moved approval of the presentation of the training committee as presented. Susan Reid seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.***

#### **2012 DDAA Conference Briefing**

Danny Lewis, Conference Chair, provided an update on the Annual Conference Planning. The theme – Working Together for a Better Region: How LDD's are Making a Difference in Appalachia. Discussion ensued. Several changes were made on the time frames for various sessions.

Dan Neff will find the speakers for the breakfast session on Monday. Jim Mylott will preside over the Plenary Session on Monday. Bob Culver and Jim Dove have agreed to moderate sessions. Molly Theobald is on the agenda to discuss an ARC Program. Rudy Johnson and Jim Baldwin are

listed as moderators of sessions Monday afternoon. There is also an ARC track in the afternoon, with Greg Faulkner moderating. Dinner will be on your own.

Misty Casto will preside over the breakfast meeting on Tuesday. There are then joint plenary sessions with NADO through 11:50 and then the conference adjourns.

Steve Pelissier offered that his board members are more interested in hearing how to make our LDDs stronger and initiatives going on at the local level. If someone has a really good idea for a panelist or a presenter, please email Danny Lewis directly.

### **2012 Whisman Award**

Susan Reid provided an update on the Whisman Award. Dan Neff is sending out the email to ask for nominations for the Whisman Award. The committee will meet via conference call.

### **2012 Humanitarian Award**

Steve Pelissier presented an update on the Humanitarian Award. Eric Bridges is the Committee Chair and will remain so through his term as Immediate Past President. Dan Neff will send out an email to ask for nominations for the Humanitarian Award. The committee will meet via conference call.

### **2012 Congressional Award**

Bob Culver provided an update on the Congressional Award. Keith Jones is the Chair of this committee, but has resigned. Steve Pelissier took over the discussion. The Senate comes back in session on Monday during the conference, and the house comes back on Tuesday. The individual must be present to win.

### **ARC Staff Update**

Dan Neff provided an update from the ARC staff. The LDD administration grant process is ongoing and most applications have been submitted. Last year, the Federal Co-Chair and the states decided to hold the LDD funding stable, even though there was a decrease in overall ARC funding. It will be several weeks into 2012 before they're able to get grant agreements and funding out in a timely fashion. End of year reports are due 30 days from the end of the grant agreement. This year, ARC is requiring that the performance element of the report be adhered to very strictly. Earl Gohl will be here tomorrow and will provide updates on the White House Rural Council.

Vicki has talked to the Marriott about the DDAA Conference in 2014 and 2015. The dates for the conferences will be March 22-25, 2014 and March 21-24, 2015. Room rate is \$250 for 2014 and \$255 in 2015. A \$10,000 wine and cheese reception will be offered in both 2014 and 2015 and the bartender fee will be waived if use exceeds \$1,000. ***Jim Mylott moved approval to enter into the contract with the Marriott for the 2014 and 2015 Conferences. Danny Lewis seconded the motion. All yea. Motion carried.***

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011**

### **DDAA Business Meeting Resumes**

Danny Lewis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, called the meeting to order at 8:44am

### **NARC Activities**

Fred Abouselman, Director of NARC, provided an update to the DDAA Board, focusing on the two-year highway bill (MAP-21), the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS), Rural Consultation, MPOs under 200,000, and the need to discuss the consolidation of some of the highway programs into one fund with your state DOTs.

### **States' Washington Office Report**

Cameron Whitman, States Washington Representative, provided an update from Washington to the DDAA board. Cameron discussed the ADHS being included in the consolidated mobility

programs as an 'eligible activity'. The states can determine how to spend those funds, and there is no guarantee they will remain dedicated to the ADHS.

Cameron also discussed the funding for the ARC, with the senate level being \$58.4 million and the house at \$68.2 million. There is support in the Senate to have adequate funding, and a lot of support in the house. The ARC Reauthorization is supposed to be completed this fiscal year. The CR will probably be extended through early January. We'll be at level funding, with a limited ability to spend. If there is something finalized, we will have a budget and be able to move forward. Cameron feels ARC has a good chance of ending up with a \$68.2 million budget.

### **Briefing from the Federal Co-Chair**

Federal Co-Chair Earl Gohl provided an update to the DDAA Board Members. Earl thanked Steve for inviting him to the region. Earl discussed his recent trip to Tuscaloosa for the 6<sup>th</sup> session on federal grants/federal agencies, a partnership with UNITE to sponsor a prescription drug conference in Orlando, FL, the US Forest Service partnership to reforest reclaimed mine land, the upcoming Foodways conference in Asheville in early April, and the upcoming release of a study completed by the University of Tennessee for the ARC focusing on 10 counties throughout the region and their challenges, assets, and experiences in the development process.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Tom Hunter provided an update to the DDAA Board members, focusing on the ARC budget and budget cuts, the leadership at the federal and state level, the ADHS and the need to finish the system, the Foodways conference in April, the US Forestry Initiative, Marcellus shale, and the \$1 million philanthropy initiative with Kentucky. Tom provided a handout on the ARC Performance Forecast for 2011 (attached).

### **Old / New Business**

Steve Pelissier asked for any old/new business. Fred Abouselman stated they've have had a great relationship with the ARC over the past, but asked what the group wanted to see from NARC moving forward. Fred would like to have a conversation with ARC and the DDAA leadership on how NARC can serve the board moving forward. Steve and Fred will have a follow-up conversation either this week/next week, and communicate with other board members prior to the March board meeting. NARC would like to know where they're weak, and where they're strong and how they can work with the board, LDDs, etc.

Jim Mylott would like to see a display or a session on reforestation at the Annual Conference. Reforestation also applies to the shale drilling and Brownfield sites. It's a much broader footprint that just mining.

### **Adjourn**

Danny Lewis thanked Steve on behalf of the board for hosting us. ***Richard Zink moved to adjourn. Misty Casto seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.***