



Development District Association of Appalachia

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2015 – TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2015 ERIE SHERATON BAYFRONT HOTEL ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

MINUTES

SUNDAY AUGUST 9, 2015

President Dove welcomed Board members and others to Erie, PA and called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Second Vice President Zink called the roll.

Members Present:

President/Georgia	Jim Dove
1 st Vice President/Ohio	John Hemmings
2 nd Vice President/New York	Richard Zink
Treasurer/South Carolina	Steve Pelissier
Maryland	Leanne Mazer
New York	Erik Miller
North Carolina	Anthony Starr
Ohio	Misty Casto, Immediate Past President
Pennsylvania	Jill Foys
Tennessee	Mark Farley
West Virginia	Shane Whitehair

Members Absent:

Alabama	Keith Jones
Georgia	Danny Lewis
Kentucky	Mike Patrick
Mississippi	Rudy Johnson
Secretary/ Virginia	Jim Baldwin

Others Present During All or Part of the Session:

Dan Neff	ARC Local Development District Director
Earl Gohl	ARC Federal Co-Chair
Scott Hamilton	ARC Executive Director
Susan Howard	NADO Director of Government Relations and Legislative Affairs
Ken Poole	Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness
Ron Kelly	Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

Approval of Agenda

A proposed agenda for the DDAA 2015 Winter Board Meeting was presented. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Hemmings and seconded by Ms. Mazer. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the March 22nd Annual Meeting and March 22nd Board of Directors Meeting held in Washington DC.

Minutes of the DDAA 2015 Spring Board Meeting held in Washington DC and the 2015 Annual Business Meeting held in Washington DC. were distributed at the meeting. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Pelissier and seconded by Mr. Miller. It was noted that the minutes are to be distributed electronically two weeks prior to the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Dove welcomed everyone to the Erie, Pa and the Sheraton Bayfront Hotel. He then provided an overview of the next few day's activities and meeting schedule. Mr. Dove also noted that this meeting would have a different as Monday schedule as that day would be dedicated to a strategic planning session moderated by the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness. Mr. Dove thanked Mr. Neff for all the assistance he provides the DDAA. Mr. Dove also thanked Ms. Foy's for her assistance in setting up the meeting and making arrangements for the boat excursion and dinner Monday night.

Mr. Dove discussed the strategic planning session that will occur on Monday. He noted that ARC is also finishing up their new strategic plan and the timeliness of the DDAA also taking part in this effort. It was noted that the ARC plan would be finalized soon and presented at their Fall conference in October.

Mr. Dove then addressed the issue of meeting locations. Typically there are several factors that go into picking a spot for either the board meeting or training session. It is important that the location is easy to get too and not too expensive, also important is that there is a point of interest that the group can enjoy. Visiting different parts of the Appalachian region is also important in order to provide the board and other staff a full perspective of the region. It was noted that some states only have adequate venues outside of the ARC region and that staying inside the region could be much more expensive. Mr. Pelissier suggested that if a meeting is outside the region, the state capital should be considered as a meeting location.

A motion was made by Ms. Foy's to not exclude venues outside the ARC region for future board meetings and training activities. Mr. Hemmings second the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pelissier addressed the Board and presented the August 7, 2015 Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 30, 2015. It was noted that the negative balance showed as of June 30 was due to accounting methodology and that two large deposits were made July 1st that resolved this issue. It was also noted that the Annual Conference amount keeps escalating – mostly as a result of making a better and better conference. Steve then walked the board through the rest of the report.

Mr. Pelissier then presented an alternative budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016. There were additional revenue lines of Training Program Registrations and Carryover. The total revenues of the new budget is \$286,227. Concerning the expense side of the budget it was noted that the conference budget was lower than this past year because of the special events that would not be repeated related to ARC. The training budget was also increased to show the increased training that is occurring through the DDAA. The new proposed budget shows an unallocated amount of \$50,397. During this report Ms. Casto presented her training report.

After all points were clarified a motion was made to accept the financials as presented and the new budget by Mr. Pelissier and seconded by Ms. Casto passing unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Pelissier to provide a stipend of \$200 to Don Zimmer for all the work that he has done in relation to the financial bookkeeping of the DDAA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and passed unanimously.

Training Program Report

After Ms. Casto presented the FY 2016 DDAA Training Program, Mr. Hemmings made a motion to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and passed unanimously.

The following budgeted were included in the 2016 Training Program:

NADO RPO Conference Sponsorship & Travel Stipends – not to exceed \$10,000 – If the conference is located in a state that sits within the Appalachian region, the DDAA approved to use funds for a conference sponsorship and for travel reimbursements for DDAA members to attend.

EDFS Travel Stipends - \$6,000 –if the EDFs holds a conference, the DDAA will provide travel reimbursement for DDAA members to attend. Up to 15 members.

DDAA will sponsor the NADO Annual Training Conference breakfast in New Orleans- \$5,000

DDAA will look to enter into an agreement with NADO for a Training Logistics Contract in the amount of \$5,000 – this would include support for meeting and planning services for calendar year 2016 (January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016)

Renewal of the Constant Contact marketing tool was approved.

The 2016 Professional Development Conference committee is looking at Ashville for the location.

Current DDAA Training Program Members are:

Misty Casto, Chair
Richard Zink – NY
John Hemmings – OH
Jill Foys – PA (new)
Erik Miller – NY (new)

Conference Coordination with NADO

Mr. Hemmings as the 1st Vice President had discussions with NADO concerning the DDAA Annual Conference and the NADO policy conference in regards to working closer together in the planning of both to provide the best experience possible for the attendees, particularly those that attend both conferences. Mr. Hemmings has been working closely with Susan Howard.

One area that will be focused on is the scheduling of the workshops and meals of the two conferences, this has been the biggest complaint to date. There was a brief discussion on the history of the two conferences and the schedules that used to be in place and why they have slowly merged closer. For NADO their breakfast caucuses are a primary time that attendees gather together and share ideas and discuss policy.

There was discussion as to the potential of having more sessions on Sunday for DDAA or if making Sunday a primary day for DDAA and Monday afternoon more of a day for NADO. There was some concern as to the ability to get speaker on Sunday.

It was noted about 25% of the DDAA attendees also look to attend the NADO conference. Discussion also centered on "Hill Visits" and whether there is a way to better coordinate these with both conferences or making them more of an emphasis for the DDAA would have any impact.

It was ultimately decided to continue the discussions and work toward an effort that might take a few years to fully complete. It is obvious that both DDAA and NADO want to make their conferences better and by working together this can be accomplished.

Mr. Dove then went over the logistics for the rest of the board meeting and the Sunday portion of the meeting was adjourned at 5:10. The board will reconvene at 8:30 Monday morning.

Monday Morning Board meeting

Mr. Dove reopened the meeting and introduced Scott Hamilton, ARC Executive Director.

Scott Hamilton, ARC Executive Director, provided an update on several topics centering on ARC appropriations. Mr. Hamilton discussed the FY2016 Budget put forth by the President of the United States. The ARC budget was increased to approx. \$90 million. This amount included two set asides of ten million each. One for broadband in central Appalachia, and one set aside of ten million for workforce training, primarily in the automotive industry, in southern Appalachia. The broadband funding will be for counties in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee that have been adversely affected by the decline of the coal industry. Each project will go through the same application process as any other project. The workforce funding is targeted for Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina. This funding will focus on the auto industry workforce and will also be required to go through the full application process. Final terms are still being determined for the workforce dollars and still needs congressional approval. The proposed budget would hold level funding for the LDD's.

ARC is working on finishing their strategic planning process and will release the report at their October meeting in Somerset, KY. Mr. Hamilton introduced Kostas Skordas, who discussed the process that has occurred relative to developing the strategic plan.

Mr. Hamilton noted that Wendy Wasserman would be the new Director of Communications and Media Relations. This is a new position that will assist ARC in communicating the achievements that occur throughout the region in the best way possible.

ARC Federal Co-Chairman's report

Mr. Gohl note the growth in the national economy and the lowering of the unemployment numbers and stated that this is the time to get things done. The Appalachian region needs to capitalize on this time of growth to bring it more in line with the rest of the nation. ARC is striving to strengthen their process and work closer than ever with their partners to create programs that are moving the needle.

Mr. Gohl then recapped the President's proposed budget. Making special note of the Impacted Coal Communities Initiative Mr. Gohl encouraged every district to think about how they can take advantage of these monies. It is not just for coal producing areas but any area impacted by the change in the use of coal as a resource. This could include a manufacturing sector that has been affected, supply chain or an energy generation plant in a community.

ARC is working with the Southern Alleghenies Commission to reach out to the 73 districts to make sure they understand the impact of the coal program and the opportunity that exists.

Mr. Gohl stated that the Appalachian Regional Capital Loan fund is funded at \$15 million and it is expected to have that mostly, 90%, committed by October 1st.

Concluding his remarks Mr. Gohl emphasized with the election posturing the FY 2016 budget timing is extremely difficult to estimate.

DDAA Strategic Planning Session

The rest of Monday was spent with the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness assisting with the DDAA Strategic Planning Process. The report will be provided to the board over the next few months.

The board meeting was adjourned until Tuesday morning.

Tuesday Morning Board meeting

Mr. Dove reopened the meeting.

NADO REPORT

Ms. Howard presented an overall federal funding picture which encompassed several programs of the federal government including: USDA, CDBG, TIGER, WIA, and Aging.

In terms of the appropriations process Ms. Howard noted that:

- Senate has moved 11 of 12 bills through committee; no movement on Senate floor
- House has approved 6 of 12 appropriations bills
 - Successful getting Labor-Health and Human Services- Education and Interior-Environment bills through committee for first time in several years
- Continuing Resolution an inevitability

It was highlighted that the transportation bill will expire on October 29, 2015 unless action is taken to extend or pass a new bill before that time.

Ms. Howard also pointed out that sequestration is set to return as part of the budget process for FY2016. Sequestration has been removed during the past two budget negotiations. Both the House and Senate are hoping to return to a more normal process, with budgets being proposed, amended and passed instead of relying on a late all-inclusive omnibus bill.

In Summary Ms. Howard noted that:

- Hot button issues challenge endgame and the possibility of a clean Continuing Resolution
- Three items converging at end of fiscal year: annual funding, debt ceiling, surface transportation
- How can Republican leaders avoid a shutdown?
- Budget battle for FY2017

2014 DDAA CONFERENCE BRIEFING

Mr. Hemmings gave an overview of ongoing efforts related to the 2016 DDAA Annual Conference. Mr. Hemmings thanks Dan Neff for all the assistance that has been provided since planning started in June. Mr. Hemmings wants to make every effort to integrate the DDAA Strategic Planning Report with the agenda and sessions at the conference. Also there is going to be an emphasis on tying this conference with the PDC in late April 2016.

There are still efforts being made to finalize a main speaker and entertainment, there are several options being followed up on at this time. Mr. Hemmings reminded the board that nominations for various awards needed to be provided as soon as possible. In conclusion, Mr. Hemmings remarked that he would work closely with ARC to make sure there was a role for the ARC staff.

ARC Staff Report

Mr. Neff discussed the value that ARC sees in DDAA and the relationship that has continued to remain strong over the past several decades. He emphasized that we are all working toward the same goal.

Dan also noted that Mr. Hamilton's first year has gone by very fast. He will invite Wendy Wasserman to the January DDAA Board meeting. Mr. Neff thanked Ms. Foys and everyone that assisted with the board meeting. He also thanked the new members of the board and their participation in the strategic planning efforts.

DDAA Committee Assignments

Mr. Dove noted that there are several committee seats that are vacant and that he will work to fill these vacancies over the next few months.

Final Thoughts

It was noted that the winter board meeting will be in Athens, Ga.

Mr. Dove made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Hemmings.

Meeting Adjourned.