



# Development District Association of Appalachia

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016 – TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016  
UGA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER  
ATHENS, GEORGIA

## MINUTES

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016

President Dove welcomed Board members and others to Athens, GA and called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Secretary Jim Baldwin called the roll.

#### Members Present:

President/Georgia	Jim Dove
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President/New York	Richard Zink
Secretary/Virginia	Jim Baldwin
Treasurer/South Carolina	Steve Pelissier
Georgia	Danny Lewis
Kentucky	Mike Patrick
Mississippi	Rudy Johnson
New York	Erik Miller
Pennsylvania	Jill Foy
Tennessee	Mark Farley
Virginia	Dave Hoback

#### Members Absent:

Alabama	Keith Jones
Maryland	Leanne Mazer
North Carolina	Anthony Starr
Immediate Past President/Ohio	Misty Casto
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President/Ohio	John Hemmings
West Virginia	Shane Whitehair

**Others Present During all or Part of the Session:**

Dan Neff  
Scott Hamilton

ARC Local Development District Director  
ARC Executive Director

**Approval of Agenda**

A proposed agenda for the DDAA 2016 Winter Board Meeting was presented. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Ms. Foys. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes of the August 9 Board of Directors Meeting held in Erie, PA.**

Minutes of the DDAA 2016 Summer Board Meeting held in Erie, Pennsylvania were distributed at the meeting. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Patrick. The motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report**

President Dove welcomed everyone to the Athens, Georgia, the home of his district offices, and the UGA Hotel and Conference Center. He then provided an overview of the next few day's activities and meeting schedule. Mr. Dove noted that the huge East Coast snow storm was keeping some people from attending, including John Hemmings, Earl Gohl and Susan Howard, among others. Mr. Dove thanked Mr. Neff for all the assistance he provides the DDAA. Mr. Dove also thanked his own staff for their assistance in setting up the meeting and making arrangements for the UGA campus tour on Monday afternoon and dinner Monday night at the Porterhouse Grill.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Pelissier addressed the Board and presented the General Fund Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2015. It was noted that the Annual Conference receivables were hefty. He also noted that Lenowisco PDC in Virginia had not paid their 2015 dues. Jim Baldwin offered to follow up on it. Steve then walked the board through the rest of the report.

After all points were clarified a motion was made to accept the financials as presented by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Lewis, passing unanimously. The Treasurer's Report is attached.

Mr. Pelissier also presented a budget report on behalf of Misty Casto on the DDAA 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference. He noted that the conference would be held April 24-26,

2016, at the Renaissance Asheville in Asheville, NC. He noted that there was an increase this year largely due to covering the GIS Users group meeting expenses.

Mr. Pellissier made a motion to approve the conference budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Foys and passed unanimously.

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

### **Monday Morning Board Meeting**

Mr. Dove reopened the meeting and introduced Susan Howard who was to be conferenced in.

### **NADO Report**

Susan Howard called in to give the NADO Report. She began by noting the change in House leadership with Paul Ryan, the new Speaker, facing the challenges of putting a budget deal together and getting a debt-ceiling raise through the house. She also talked a little about the Surface Transportation bill and the Omnibus bill approved in December. She noted that EDA and ARC did very well as the two primary agencies overseeing the POWER Plus program. She also reported that rural programs including DOL, RD, CDBG and workforce programs received level and/or increased funding. She also emphasized that the Farm Bill included a set-aside for projects included in EDD CEDS documents, and that Map 21 had a 10% rural project set-aside.

### **ARC Information and Activities**

Scott Hamilton, ARC Executive Director, provided a brief update on several topics centering on ARC appropriations.

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

Earl Gohl, Federal Co-Chair, was conference in by phone and gave an update on the Federal budget process for FY 17. He noted that The ARC budget was increased to approximately \$114 million. This amount included a set aside of fifty million for the POWER Plus program in FY 17 and another \$50 million in FY 18. Each project will go through the same application process as any other project. He noted that the POWER grants would be focused on larger regional projects and noted that interstate projects were encouraged. Mr. Gohl further noted the 2017 Coal Show would be in Las Vegas.

### **DDAA Training Committee Report**

Mist Casto was conferenced in to report on the upcoming Training Conference in Asheville, North Carolina, April 24-26, 2016. She went over the proposed topics which focused on GIS and

Technology on Sunday and Monday morning. After a luncheon presentation by Land-of-Sky on craft breweries, the remainder of Monday and Tuesday morning would focus on finance. Topics would include dealing with Pass-Through Agencies and Audit Readiness relating to new Single Audit requirements. She noted that they were estimating about 60 people to attend. She also said that the closing lunch on Tuesday would include time to talk about the POWER Plus program.

### **POWER+: What it is and What it Means for Appalachia**

Earl Gohl and Scott Hamilton gave an overview of the POWER Plus program and its significance. It was noted that the President had included \$25 million per year in both the FY17 and 18 budgets, but in the end, with the support of Congress, that amount was increased to \$50 million per year for ARC. POWER Plus includes grants for activities that address the challenges facing Appalachia's coal-impacted communities, as well as technical assistance to help develop coalitions and strategic investment plans. It was emphasized that large, regional and multi-state projects were encouraged. Other agencies will be participating, including EDA which will have about \$18.5 million nationwide. Preference would be given to projects in one or more of four areas: Workforce, broadband, entrepreneurship and industry customers.

### **POWER+: The Important Role of LDDs and the DDAA**

The discussion continued with Mr. Gohl and MR. Hamilton emphasizing the important role that the LDDs and the DDAA will plan in deployment of this major Administration effort. It was noted that the POWER grants would be awarded through a competitive application process beginning in late February or early March. LDDs would be in a key position to bring localities together to form the partnerships required for larger, regional projects. It was noted that the pre-application would be short (5 pages) and that the application process would be open and continue on a rolling basis. It was also noted that there would be a major emphasis placed on Power Plus at the upcoming DDAA Conference.

### **DDAA Strategic Plan: Review, Discussion and Approval**

Jim Dove and Dan Neff led a discussion on the Strategic Plan and the great work done at the 2015 Summer DDAA Conference in Erie, Pennsylvania. Items emphasized included critical challenges related to high turnover in LDD leadership and the limited visibility of the DDAA. One solution to the visibility issue was to establish a DDAA committee to provide content input to NADO for its Annual Training Conference. Another recommendation was development of an email newsletter highlighting best practices.

After further discussion, President Dove entertained a motion to approve the DDAA Strategic Plan: 2016-2020. Jim Baldwin made motion to approve the Plan, seconded by Erik Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

### **DDAA Strategic Plan: Prioritizing and Implementing Action Steps**

Jim Dove and Dan Neff led a discussion about prioritizing and implementing steps to keep the Strategic Plan relevant and effective going forward. It was suggested that the Plan be on our agenda each meeting and that we engage all of the LDDs in this focus. It was noted that Wendy Wasserman, ARC's Communications Director, would make sure that it was on the website and could use social media and videos to highlight the Plan.

A discussion also took place regarding the resources necessary to support the DDAA, specifically what might be required when Dan Neff leaves. Would a contractual arrangement for a full-time or part-time Executive Director be an option? Would a raise in dues for LDDs be required? Were there options for shared leadership with ARC? President Dove asked that the Board begin seriously thinking of these challenges.

The board meeting was then adjourned until Tuesday morning, and Jim Dove informed everyone who wanted to take the Walking Tour of the University of Georgia to meet in the lobby at 3:00 p.m.

### **Tuesday Morning Board Meeting**

Mr. Dove reopened the meeting.

### **2016 DDAA Conference Briefing**

Mr. Hemmings gave an overview of ongoing efforts related to the 2016 DDAA Annual Conference. Mr. Hemmings thanked Dan Neff for all the assistance that has been provided since planning started in June. Mr. Hemmings stated that there would be a focus on financing and the POWER Plus program. He said the theme of the conference was Appalachia: Why It's America's Next Best Investment Opportunity. He noted that Sunday would include, as usual, the Executive Board meeting, the Annual Business Meeting and Dinner with Earl as the Keynote. Monday's Plenary Session would focus on POWER Plus, with concurrent sessions on financing opportunities to follow. After the Awards Luncheon, sessions on financing and POWER would continue. After the closing breakfast on Tuesday morning, joint sessions with NADO would occur.

### **2016 DDAA Awards**

Mr. Dove announced the 2016 Awards recommendations:

- The Whisman Award – Several candidates being considered
- The Congressional Award – Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi and possible Congressman
- The Myers Humanitarian Award – No decision had yet been made.

### **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 announced several key personnel changes at ARC. He noted that Jeff Schwartz would be the point person for the POWER initiative with Joe Cullen providing assistance on applications. He also announced that Tom Smith would be replacing Ken Wester. Mr. Neff thanked Mr. Dove and everyone that assisted with the board meeting. He also thanked the members of the board for 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**

Mr. Dove thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged all to promote the 2016 Annual Conference in Washington.

Meeting Adjourned.