

MEMPHIS AREA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Executive Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes

MAAG Virtual Boardroom (Zoom Meeting)
Cordova, Tennessee

September 24, 2020
10:00 A.M. CST

Board Members Present:

Hon. Hugh Davis Jr., *Chairman and Commissioner of Piperton*
Rep. Barbara Cooper, *Tennessee General Assembly, Distract 86*
Hon. Terry Jones, *Mayor of Millington*
Hon. Eugene Pugh, *Mayor of Halls*
Hon. Rhea “Skip” Taylor, *Mayor of Fayette County*

Board Members Absent:

Hon. Baris Douglas, *Mayor of Henning*
Hon. Frank Fogelman, *Mayor of Marion, AR*
Hon. Maurice Gaines, Jr., *Mayor of Lauderdale County*
Chief Roy Hill, *Representing Mayor Ida Shumpest of Jericho, AR*
Hon. Lee Harris, *Mayor Shelby County*
Hon. Jon Pavletic, *Mayor of Ripley*
Hon. Ken Sutton, *Vice-Mayor of Oakland*
Hon. Jim Strickland, *Mayor of Memphis*
Mr. Robert Turner, *City Administrator, Representing Mayor Ronnie Neill of Somerville, TN*
Hon. Judy Watters, *Mayor of Rossville*

Also Present:

Mr. Jacob Blythe, *MAAG*
Ms. Linda Coffman, *Linda’s Accounting, CPA*
Ms. Kamillah Kelly, *MAAG*
Ms. Kelsey Lamkin, *MAAG*
Mr. Ralph Moore, *Executive Director MAAG*
Mr. Paul Morris, *MAAG*
Ms. Seemi Qureshi, *MAAG*
Ms. Lisa Trexler, *MAAG*
Mr. Kelvin Willis, *MAAG*

- I. Welcome and Call to Order**
Chairman Davis called the meeting to order and welcome attending Board Members and staff.
- II. Invocation**
Chairman Davis gave the invocation.
- III. Declaration of Quorum**
Chairman Davis has recognized a quorum of the Executive Committee present to vote.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for May 28, 2020** MOTION by Representative Cooper, to approve minutes as presented. **SECONDED** by Mayor Pugh. Unanimously **APPROVED**.

V. Financial Report

- August 2020 Financial Report– Ms. Coffman reported on the packet emailed to Board Members

Approval for MAAG’s Financial Report, August 2020 - MOTION by Mayor Taylor, to approve members listed. **SECONDED** by Mayor Jones. Unanimously **APPROVED**

VI. Staff Reports

a. Tennessee Housing Department Authority (THDA) – Mr. Morris

- Emergency Repair Program

MAAG, Delta HRA and USDA Rural Development are continuing to provide home repairs for eligible clients. The three agencies will provide home repairs for at least 20 households this fiscal year. In 2021 THDA increased the amount per households to \$15,000 for ERP program. This will assist with the cost increase for materials and supplies.

- Homebuyer Education

As requested by THDA, MAAG has suspended its in-person homebuyer education activities due to the COVID-19 situation. All homebuyer education activities are done online. Since May 1st 40 have clients taken the online class.

MAAG and THDA had its annual visit Friday, September 18th via WebEx.

BancorpSouth Community Development Grant

The Memphis Area Association of Governments (MAAG) received a \$2,000.00 community development grant from BancorpSouth. MAAG plans to use these funds for First Time Homebuyer education and financial literacy activities throughout the MAAG region.

Delta Regional Authority

- *State Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) Grant*

MAAG worked with the AgriCenter, the LeMoyne-Owen CDC and Virtuous Beacon in submitting SEDAP grant applications to DRA. DRA awarded \$360,000 to the LeMoyne-Owen CDC's Innovation Center project and awarded \$100,000 to the AgriCenter's Innovation District project.

b. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (Historic Preservation)-Ms. Lamkin

- Ms. Lamkin has been in communication with the Hein Park Neighborhood Association to update their National Register Nomination and apply for local landmarks designation.
- The National Register Nomination for the 1970 Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation was added to the National Register of Historic Places in July 2020. Assisted with a National Register Info Packet for Lauderdale County Training School in Ripley.
- Completed survey report on post-World War 2 neighborhoods in MAAG area for the Tennessee Historical Commission.
- Continued working with Lynching Sites Project of Memphis on commemorative projects and research of lynchings in Memphis and Shelby County and was nominated to serve as a board member for the Lynching Sites Project of Memphis. Also, continued working with the Rural Heritage Trust in finalizing the Rosemark-Kerrville heritage loop and preparations for a second heritage trail.
- Ms. Lamkin presented for the Certified Local Government virtual meeting in September and attended NAPC Forum 2020.

Tennessee Department of Tourist Development (TDTD) – Ms. Lamkin

- Ms. Lamkin has participated in numerous CARES Act meetings aimed at tourism recovery for the region.
- Has worked closely with *Memphis Travel representatives on social media strategy (local celebrity with a large following on Instagram/84,000 followers)* and new marketing options for West Tennessee Day Trippin'. Also, creating new content for rural day trippers, including brochures and itineraries.
- TAB meetings are well attended online with members from the region. Meetings have been held twice a week in the last month.

c. West Tennessee Rural Planning Organization (WTRPO) – Ms. Kelly

- Atoka, Covington, Halls, Henning, Mason, Munford, and Somerville submitted a Notice of Intent to apply for the Multimodal Access Grant.
- Fayette, Lauderdale, and Tipton County were notified of TDOT resurfacing list.
- The WTRPO FY20 Progress Report submitted to TDOT with an overall completion rate of 31 %, which is on track for the 39-month contract, some of the individual tasks in the Work Plan needed adjusting.
- Halls, TN awarded the Rural Planning Initiative (RuPI) grant. The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) deadline is October 2, 2020.
- The next WTRPO virtual meeting is September 29th, 2020 at 10am.

Ratification of the WTRPO Ad Hoc Member, Ms. Gwyn Fisher, TNECD to replace April Foxx, TNECD, *needs a Motion*.

Approval for Ratification of the WTRPO Ad Hoc Member, Ms. Gwyn Fisher - MOTION by Mayor Taylor, to approve members listed. **SECONDED** by Mayor Pugh. Unanimously **APPROVED**

d. CARE Act Grant - Economic Recovery/Resilience Grant - Mr. Blythe and Mr. Willis

- Memphis Area Association of Governments (MAAG) has been awarded a CARES grant from the Commerce Department (EDA) to develop, implement, and review a strategic plan for recovery and resiliency of the local economy from the effects of COVID-19.
- The presentation delves into the seven upcoming tasks over three phases in the two-year project span.
- Analysis, recommendations, and coalition building are to take place throughout Shelby, Fayette, Tipton, and Lauderdale counties.
- MAAG's administration of the grant aims to: 1) Develop strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of the virus on the MAAG region. 2) Build and support a coalition of stakeholders to implement these strategies.
- Presentation – **PowerPoint** was given by Mr. Blythe.
- Chairman Davis stated, we need to have a commitment from all the county mayors or a staff member, in the Tennessee MAAG region on their input as we move forward on the grant.

e. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (Solid Waste – TDEC)– Mr. Willis

- Since the last Board Meeting, the Solid Waste Management Grant with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) was completed for fiscal year 2019-20. MAAG assisted with the state mandated reporting requirements for Lauderdale and Fayette Counties. Tipton and Shelby Counties filed their reports independently. As of June 30th' due to budgetary restraints, funding for this program was not renewed.

- f. Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) – *Ms. Trexler*
- Completed scanning and emailing IC project sheets for the counties in MAAG region.
 - Shelby County Schools Project sheets sent via email.
 - The bridges in the four counties (local) emailed to the Respondents.

VII. Director's Report – *Mr. Moore*

- Opportunity Zone Report
Mr. Moore stated, the President has discussed this on national news. Mr. Blythe and Mr. Willis will address with the counties to take advantage of this with their census tracks.
- Consumer/Retail Report
The report detailed where each city/county stands with the retail/consumer. A hard copy was sent to each Mayor, the five largest cities and a CD to the other cities.
- Lauderdale County/Marketing Brochure
Mr. Moore produced a marketing brochure with all information regarding Lauderdale County to be given to prospective/potential companies to have incentive to bring their companies to Lauderdale County. Mr. Moore is looking forward to producing brochures for all the counties in the MAAG region.

VIII. Other Items

Chairman Davis stated we need to update the MAAG Board Members.
Chairman Davis stated that we are saddened to hear of Alderman Alonzo Beard's passing.

IX. Adjournment

MOTION - to adjourn meeting by Mayor Taylor. **SECONDED** - by Mayor Pugh.
Unanimously **APPROVED**.