

MEMPHIS AREA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Executive Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes

MAAG Boardroom
Cordova, Tennessee

June 17, 2021
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. Maurice Gaines, Jr., *Mayor of Lauderdale County*
Chief Roy Hill, *Representing Mayor Ida Shumpest of Jericho, AR*
Ms. Sherry Holliman, *Council Member, Representing Mayor Frank Fogelman of Marion, AR*
Hon. Eugene Pugh, *Mayor of Halls*
Hon. Rhea “Skip” Taylor, *Mayor of Fayette County*

Board Members Absent:

Sen. Raumesh Akbari, *Tennessee General Assembly, Distract 29*
Ms. Norma Davis, *Representing Mayor Emmitt Gooden, Town of Mason*
Mr. John DeBerry, *Senior Advisor, Representing Governor Bill Lee, State of Tennessee*
Hon. Baris Douglas, *Mayor of Henning*
Hon. Lee Harris, *Mayor Shelby County*
Hon. Ken Sutton, *Vice-Mayor of Oakland*
Hon. Jim Strickland, *Mayor of Memphis*
Hon. Terry Jones, *Mayor of Millington*
Mr. Robert Turner, *City Administrator, Representing Mayor Ronnie Neill of Somerville, TN*
Hon. Judy Watters, *Mayor of Rossville*

Also Present:

Ms. Linda Coffman, *Linda’s Accounting, CPA*
Mr. Odell Horton, *Attorney, Wyatt, Tarrant, & Combs, LLP*
Ms. Kamillah Kelly, *MAAG*
Ms. Kelsey Lamkin, *MAAG*
Mr. Paul Morris, *MAAG*
Mr. David Paige, *Graduate, UT Knoxville*
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 March 18, 2021 MOTION by Representative Cooper, to approve minutes as presented. **SECONDED** by Mayor Taylor. Unanimously **APPROVED**.

V. Financial Report

- Review MAAG's Financial Report

Approval for MAAG's Financial Report – MOTION by Mayor Pugh, to approve Financial Report. **SECONDED** by Representative Cooper. Unanimously **APPROVED**

- The financials for Fiscal 2022

Approval for MAAG's Financial for Fiscal 2022 – MOTION by Mayor Gaines, to approve Financial Report. **SECONDED** by Mayor Taylor. Unanimously **APPROVED**

VI. Staff Reports

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

- Homebuyer Education

MAAG is continuing its online homebuyer education activities due to the COVID-19 situation. All homebuyer education activities are being done online – 50 persons have participated online during the 2021 calendar year, and 120 persons have completed the online class over the since March 2020.

- Emergency Repair Program

MAAG and USDA Rural Development are moving forward with its list of THDA ERP projects. Delta HRA has completed three projects in 2021.

Delta Regional Authority

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

March 1, 2021, DRA opened its 2021 funding cycle for the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP). This program provides direct investments into community-based and regional projects that will support basic public infrastructure projects, transportation infrastructure projects, and workforce development initiatives. MAAG will submit its four applications to DRA by EOB Friday, June 18, 2021.

The four projects are:

Binghamton Development Corporation Business Hub, a \$300,000 application to renovate the Power and Tel Warehouse into a job training facility in the Binghamton community.

Main Street Movement Project, sponsored by Start Co, a \$300,000 application that will combine smart infrastructure, packaged data insights, and entrepreneurial programming for supporting local businesses in downtown Memphis.

Mid-South Law Enforcement Training, sponsored by Virtuous Beacon, a \$125,000 workforce development application to provide high-skilled pre-training for persons interested in careers in law enforcement and public safety.

Rossville Water Storage, a \$300,000 application to build a 500,000-gallon water storage tank to meet TDEC and ISO storage recommendations

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

- Completed the Lauderdale County Training School National Register nomination and is planning to present the nomination to the State Review Board meeting in September.

- Continues to work on the National Register nomination form for the Ernest Withers Home in Memphis and nomination for 3023 Spottswood Ave. Ms. Lamkin fielded inquiries on National Register nominations for Orange Mound, Boxtown, and St. Stephen Baptist Church
 - Also begun a Post-World War II Neighborhood Survey Report for the Tennessee Historical Commission.
 - Continues to work with Lynching Sites Project of Memphis on commemorative projects and research of lynchings in Memphis and Shelby County.
- c. Tennessee Department of Tourist Development (TDTD) – Ms. Lamkin
- Ms. Lamkin has published a guest post for *I Love Memphis* and *Tennessee Vacation* that highlight the tourism opportunities in our region.
 - Continuing collaborating with the Executive Director of Davies Manor to create an African American Agricultural Heritage Trail, beginning with a committee.
 - Curate Day Trip itineraries to better market our communities for visitors, focusing on outdoor recreation, local eateries, and unique shopping spaces.
 - Continued working with Rural Heritage Trust to develop heritage trails in Southwest Tennessee. Here are some on the list; Greater Shelby Forest Area, Big Creek-Lucy-Woodstock, and Arlington – Bolton – Brunswick – Lakeland.
- d. West Tennessee Rural Planning Organization (WTRPO) – Mr. Moore
- Attended and coordinated Mason, TN, Community Transportation Planning Grant (CTPG) meetings: February 25, 2021, April 22, 2021, and June 9, 2021.
 - Attended and coordinated Tipton County/Brighton TN, Community Transportation Planning Grant (CTPG) meetings: March 2, 2021, April 7, 2021, and May 13, 2021.
 - Attended and coordinated Munford, TN, Community Transportation Planning Grant (CTPG) meetings: March 23, 2021 and June 8, 2021.
 - Attended TDOT Statewide Active Transportation Plan and attended TDOT Road Safety Audit for State Route 179 in Tipton County on April 29, 2021
 - The released Halls Rural Planning Initiative RFP, on Monday, May 17, 2021 and opening date of the Halls Rural Planning Initiative Proposals is Wednesday, June 23, 2021.
 - The next WTRPO meeting **virtual** is Tuesday, June 22, 2021.
- e. CARES Act Grant– Recovery and Resilience Grant – Mr. Willis
- Planning and implemented the in-person CARES Grant meeting at the Halloran Center on April 29th. Featured speakers were Dr. Bruce Randolph, Medical Officer of the Shelby County Health Department; Mark Yates, Regional Vice President of TVA; Parker Harris, CEO of Baptist Hospital-Tipton County; and President of the Memphis Office of the St. Louis Branch of the Federal Reserve. The event was moderated by the Honorable Justin Hansen, Mayor of Covington, Tennessee. It was attended by over 20 persons including CARES Steering Committee Members, MAAG Board Members & Staff, and the general public. Media representatives from several news outlets covered the event.
 - Research was undertaken to explore what role MAAG could play in assisting member Counties and Municipalities in applying for and receiving funding under the Federal “American Rescue Plan”. Contacts have been established with the Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration and the state Office of the Comptroller to ascertain guidance as to how and when these funds will become available. Staff has created a document

entitled “U.S. Treasury Department American Rescue Plan-Impact on MAAG Region” for future distribution to members. It is anticipated that once the State Agencies have formulated their regulations, MAAG will host a District-wide seminar on this matter.

- Numerous articles and other research data have been compiled with a view of publishing a periodic newsletter detailing ‘best practices’ for recovery, resiliency and renewal from the COVID-19 Pandemic. In addition, staff attended various webinars hosted by the Federal Reserve, The Atlanta Regional Commission, and others on these topics.
- Regretfully, Jacob Blythe has resigned, effective June 14, 2021.

f. Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) – Ms. Trexler

- MAAG completed all TACIR objectives. MAAG submitted all invoices and was paid in full from TACIR.
- MAAG has received the new TACIR contract for Fiscal 2021.
- TACIR will have an introduction meeting in August 2021.

VII. Director’s Report – Mr. Moore

- A new contract for the CEDS in the MAAG region. Randall Gross, Development Economics is a main participant with the CEDS study. This will be an update to the CEDS for the MAAG region, there has not been much movement in our area at this time.
- We are looking/working on additional CARES funds.

VIII. Other Business

- Educational seminars regarding ‘best practices’ CARES
- Chairman Davis discussed a stipend for in person attendees to the board meetings.
- Secretary/ Treasurer - Mayor Terry Jones
- Vice Chair – Council Woman Sherry Holliman
- Please utilize the Planning Consortium within MAAG to assist your communities.

IX. Adjournment

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