

MEMPHIS AREA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Executive Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes

University of Tennessee, Martin – Community Room
Somerville, Tennessee

September 16, 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*
Chief Roy Hill, *Representing Mayor Ida Shumpest of Jericho, AR*
Ms. Sherry Holliman, *Council Member, Representing Mayor Frank Fogelman of Marion, AR*
Hon. Rhea “Skip” Taylor, *Mayor of Fayette County*

Board Members Absent:

Sen. Raumesh Akbari, *Tennessee General Assembly, Distract 29*
Mr. John DeBerry, *Senior Advisor, Representing Governor Bill Lee, State of Tennessee*
Hon. Baris Douglas, *Mayor of Henning*
Hon. Maurice Gaines, Jr., *Mayor of Lauderdale County*
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*
Hon. Eugene Pugh, *Mayor of Halls*
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. Ralph Moore, *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 June 17, 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**

- Overview of Financial Operating Procedures Amendment – **HOLD for December 16, Board Meeting.**

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. There was 63 that have participated online during the 2021 calendar year, and 133 persons have completed the online class over the since March 2020. Approximately 20 clients have used their certificates of completion to purchase a home.

- Emergency Repair Program

MAAG and USDA Rural Development are moving forward with its list of THDA ERP projects. Delta HRA home repair activities have been suspended as they are seek new staff to fill positions for this program.

Delta Regional Authority

MAAG submitted four applications to DRA on June 18, 2021. The four projects are:

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

DRA has suspended the FY 2021 funding cycle at this time due to the lack of any appointed federal member for this agency. As you may know, DRA is led by a federal co-chairperson (FCC) and a board consisting of the governors of the eight states. Without an FCC in place, new federally funded projects cannot be selected or approved.

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

- The completion of the Lauderdale County Training School National Register nomination and Ms. Lamkin is planning to present the nomination to the State Review Board meeting in September.
- The completion the Daniel Hanley Home (3023 Spottswood Ave) National Register nomination and is planning to present the nomination to the State Review Board meeting in September and the completion of a Post-World War II Neighborhood Survey Report for the Tennessee Historical Commission
- Continued work on the National Register nomination form for the Ernest Withers Home in Memphis and expects to present the nomination to the State Review Board meeting in

January. Also working with Lynching Sites Project of Memphis on commemorative projects and research of lynchings in Memphis and Shelby County.

- Ms. Lamkin has fielded inquiries on National Register nominations for Royal Studios, East Trigg Ave. Baptist Church, and New Era Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis.
- Ms. Lamkin has begun working on the Initial Info Packet for Boxtown.

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

- Ms. Lamkin is working with Mr. Kelvin Willis and Mr. Moore on the development of a MAAG Covid-19 Recovery Forum for October 2021.
- Continue working with the Executive Director of Davies Manor on the African American Agricultural Heritage Trail, beginning with a committee.
- Continues to with Day Trip content to better market our communities for visitors, focusing on outdoor recreation, local eateries, and unique shopping spaces.

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

- Attended Mason, TN Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting for the adoption of the Complete Streets Community Transportation Planning Grant (CTPG)
- Attended Munford, TN Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting for the adoption of the Community Mobility Study -CTPG
- Preparing for Tipton County/Brighton, TN Community Transportation Planning Grant (CTPG) adoption meeting
- Attended Road Safety Audit meetings for Tipton and Fayette County
- Attended the Memphis MPO meeting
- Composed and distributed WTRPO 4th quarter newsletter for FY21
- Updated attendance tracking spreadsheet for WTRPO meetings
- Submitted WTRPO Work Plan modification to TDOT
- Selected a consultant for Halls Rural Planning Initiative
- Atoka, Covington, and Ripley were awarded TDOT's Multimodal Access Grants FY21
- Henning, Halls, Mason, and Munford submitted the Notice of Intent to Apply documents for TDOT's Multimodal Access Grants FY22
- Next WTRPO meeting September 28, 2021

d. CARES Act Grant– Recovery and Resilience Grant – Mr. Willis

- Planning of an in-person/virtual CARES Grant Forum at the Fed Ex Event Center in Shelby Farms on Wednesday, October 13th. The topic will be “COVID-19 AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE TOURISM INDUSTRY”. The event will consist of three (3) panels of subject matter experts representing the state-wide, regional, and local tourism industry. Presently, the individual panels will be moderated by Mr. Kevin Kane of the Memphis Visitors & Convention Bureau, Ms. Marty Marby from Tennessee Tourism, and Kim Terrell, Chair of Metro Memphis Attractions Association. Contacts have been made with area Chambers of Commerce and individual tourist venues throughout the district to ascertain what how they have responded, are responding, and will respond to the COVID-19 PANDEMIC. MAAG is in the process of securing a guest luncheon speaker (virtually) from the CDC in Atlanta, GA.
- MAAG is negotiating a contract with Kudzukian Productions for the Forum. Kudzu Kian has wide and varied experience with marketing, production/streaming, and post

production capabilities. This will enhance our ability to disseminate the information gathered at the Forum to the widest audience possible.

- MAAG continues to stay abreast of on-going developments with regard to funding for the Development District's smaller municipalities through the American Rescue Plan. We stand ready to assist them in the identifying of qualifying ARP Projects and the formulation of plans to receive funding from the State of Tennessee. Staff has participated in numerous seminars/webinars from the Commerce Department's EDA section on future implementation, funding, and reporting of ARP funded projects.
 - Working on a CDC speaker at the upcoming forum, October 14, 2021.
- e. Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) – Ms. Trexler
- Ms. Trexler attended the webinar meeting for TACIR 2021-2022, August 26, 2021.
 - MAAG emailed/submitted TACIR objectives – Contacts and Work Plan for Milestone 1.
 - MAAG will start the process with the schools and the IC (Inventory Contractor) projects after TACIR loads the new data 2021 - 2022.

VII. Director's Report – None

- Comprising a list from TACIR inventory for each county and putting on a CD/DVD. When the Infrastructure Bill is passed the four counties can move forward on their infrastructure needs. The CD/DVD is a base /list to start with regards to their CIPs.
- Working with Mr. Willis on the upcoming forum for tourism.
- Mr. Moore ask Arkansas to come up with a list of Infrastructure needs and it can be put out to each town/city in Crittenden County.
- Fayette County brochure is the next one in production.

VIII. Other Business

- a. Chief Hill addressed the concerns regarding the bridge – I-40 Hernando De Soto Bridge.
- b. Rep Cooper addressed the need for more broadband in many communities for the school children.

IX. Adjournment

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