

Warren County Economic Development Commission
501 Hwy 158-Business East
Warrenton, NC 27589

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting April 17, 2023 - 4:00 P.M.
Meeting held at Warren County Armory Civic Center

Members Present: Stanley Jones, Claude O’Hagan, Brady Martin, Jim Whitley, Brock Pepper, and Angelena Kearney-Dunlap

Ex-Officio Members Present: Diane Cox, President of the Kerr-Tar COG; Rachel Desmarais, Vance Granville Community College President; and Walter Gardner, Mayor of Warrenton

Members Absent: Jane Ball-Groom, John Earl Alston, and Victor Hunt

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Leanne Patrick, Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce; Wayne Aycock, Mayor of Norlina; Carroll Harris, Mayor of Macon; and Keith Sutton, Superintendent of Warren County Schools

Also Present: Charla Duncan, Community and Economic Development Director; Vincent Jones, County Manager; Rose Ponton, Community and Economic Developer

The April 17, 2023 meeting of the Warren County EDC Board of Directors was called to order by Chairman Brady Martin at 4:03 PM.

Chairman Brady Martin requested all to join him in a moment of silence. Chairman Martin read the conflict-of-interest disclaimer. No conflicts were identified. A quorum was verified.

Chairman Martin asked members to review the April 2023 meeting agenda.

After review, a motion was made by Claude O’Hagan to set the meeting agenda, seconded by Brock Pepper, and duly carried by a unanimous vote; the April 17, 2023 meeting agenda was set.

Chairman Brady invited board members to review the March 2023 meeting minutes. After review, and note to correct the name “Jim Alston” to “John Alston” by Brock Pepper, a motion was made by Claude O’Hagan to approve the February 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Brock Pepper, and duly carried by a unanimous vote; the March 20, 2023 minutes were approved.

During visitor introductions, Robert Davie, Warrenton Town Administrator; and Rachel Desmarais, Vance Granville Community College President were recognized.

As per procedure, the recently received statement of interest to serve on the board from Gary Holtzman was presented to board members for their consideration.

Director Duncan presented the recently completed GoldenLEAF Site Identification Report to the board and visitors. Mrs. Duncan highlighted that though none of the parcels identified are currently under county control, the report's findings are important to the board and county as prudent future development is considered. A presentation of the seven exploration zones and areas of interest within each, including proposed development type, potential development timeline, strengths and weaknesses of each site from an industrial development perspective, and recommended next-steps for each identified parcel was then made. Following the presentation, the board discussed the potential willingness of current owners to sell, next-steps within the SITE program upon any future acquisition, and the viability each area of interest in the event that all current landowners are not willing to sell.

Director Duncan presented her director's report to the board, highlighting the work continuing through the EPA Brownfields program, a potential jobs data and analytics site in partnership with the Kerr Tar COG, and the recent ECU Honors Seminar.

A motion was then made by Jim Whitley and seconded by Claude O'Hagan to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.(a)(4) for Industry and Business Location and Expansion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote and the board entered closed session.

After closed session discussion, a motion was made by Jim Whitley to emerge from closed session. This motion was seconded by Claude O'Hagan and passed by a unanimous vote. The board emerged from closed session.

To close, Diane Cox extended kudos to the Community and Economic Development team for a job well done on the Innovate 2023 summit recently held at Lakeland Cultural Arts Center. With no further business to discuss, Brock Pepper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Claude O'Hagan. Duly carried by a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary