

**MINUTES
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
KENTUCKY RIVER AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HELD
MARCH 22, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Judge Dennis Brooks called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Mayor Charles Long gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Judge Dennis Brooks led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL

Secretary Judge Scott Alexander called the roll with the following members present:

**Denotes designated representative*

<i>BREATHITT</i>	-	<i>Judge J.L. Smith</i>
<i>KNOTT</i>	-	<i>Judge Zach Weinberg Larry Parke Greg Mullins</i>
<i>LEE</i>	-	<i>Judge Steve Mays *Everett Marshall Phyllis McCord Reverend Floyd Johns</i>
<i>LESLIE</i>	-	<i>Judge Jimmy Sizemore Mayor Carol Joseph Eugene Stewart Hiram Cornett</i>
<i>LETCHER</i>	-	<i>Judge Jim Ward Mayor Todd DePriest Jack Burkich James McDannel</i>
<i>OWSLEY</i>	-	<i>Judge Cale Turner Mayor Charles Long Dale Bishop</i>

PERRY - *Judge Scott Alexander*
Mayor Jimmy Lindon
Reverend John Pray
Meriwether Wash-Hall
Derrick Bowling

WOLFE - *Judge Dennis Brooks*
Pam Pilgrim

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Judge J.L. Smith to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2017 Board of Director's Meeting; Motion seconded by Judge Jim Ward; with no objections the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Dale Bishop to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; Motion seconded by Mayor Jimmy Lindon; with no objections the motion carried.

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Mike Miller introduced Jared Arnett, Executive Director of S.O.A.R. as the guest speaker.

Guest Speaker

Mr. Jared Arnett gave a very informative presentation through PowerPoint Presentation stating that the SOAR (Shaping Our Appalachian Region) Initiative began three years ago and noting what has been accomplished and what the goals for SOAR in the future.

Mr. Arnett brought everyone's attention to the 2016 Impact Report included in the handout he passed around stating that this a breakdown of what SOAR accomplished last year as partners for the Region. Approximately 1,600 jobs were created across the region, through different partnerships, in 2016.

Mr. Arnett brought everyone's attention to the Regional Blueprint for Economic Growth pamphlet also included in his handout stating that this is the strategic plan for 2017 and SOAR has developed seven goals to spur economic growth in Eastern Kentucky. The goals are as follows:

- Goal 1: Increase the availability of affordable high-speed broadband, through fiber, to businesses and residents; and increase adoption rates throughout the SOAR region.*
- Goal 2: Develop our regional workforce to be competitive in the digital economy and other emerging industries*
- Goal 3: To create more and expand existing small businesses with the region by taking full advantage of the digital economy*
- Goal 4: To reduce the physical and economic impact of obesity, diabetes, and substance abuse*

- Goal 5: Increase the amount of industrial employment which includes manufacturing, natural resources, processing, and distribution by expanding existing companies and attracting new ones*
- Goal 6: Create a local foods movement by connecting local producers to markets for their products both within and outside the region*
- Goal 7: Establish Kentucky's Appalachian region as a tourism destination*

Mr. Arnett spoke about objective, examples of strategies and potential collaboration with other SOAR goals on each of the seven goals listed above.

The floor was opened to questions and comments with several being received.

BUSINESS

ADF Projects

Mayor Charles Long reported that the ADF Committee had the following projects for consideration:

- **WOLFE COUNTY FISCAL COURT** - \$1,370 – toward renovation of the courthouse
- **CITY OF JACKSON** - \$622 – toward the purchase of office equipment.

Judge Zack Weinberg made a motion to accept the ADF Projects as presented: Seconded by Jim McDannel; with no objections the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Miller explained that Bruce Stephens brought by a petition in support of the completion of I-66 requesting the Board Members to sign it. Mike suggested instead that KRADD draft a resolution in support of the completing of I-66.

Jim McDannel made a motion to adopt a resolution in support of the completion of I-66; Motion seconded by Mayor Todd DePriest; with no objections the motion carried.

Hiram Cornett suggested getting the resolution to the Fiscal Courts and having Fiscal Court Members sign it. Mike Miller stated that could be done.

Judge Scott Alexander stated that he supports the petition but reminded everyone to be realistic in what we are doing. If we broke ground today, it would be 12 years from London to Hazard. We know broadband is coming so let's be ready for it.

Mike Miller announced that the Board Members have a copy of the appraisal on the Conference Center Building in the park and if they Board wanted to have a conversation about the appraisal they needed to go into Executive Session.

Jim McDannel made a motion to go into Executive Session; Motion seconded by Judge Zack Weinberg; with no objections the motion carried.

The Board went into Executive Session.

Judge J.L. Smith made the motion to accept the building appraisal as presented; Judge Dennis Brooks seconded the motion; with no objections the motion carried.

Judge J.L. Smith made the motion to negotiate a selling price with another government agency, contingent upon DLG approval; Judge Cale Turner seconded the motion; with no objections the motion carried.

Judge Dennis Brooks made the motion to adjourn the Executive Session; Jim McDannel seconded the motion; with no objections the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned

Judge Dennis Brooks, Chairman

Judge Scott Alexander, Secretary

