



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Executive Committee

Economic Development District Governing Board

## MINUTES

Date & Time:	Thursday, September 8, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Location:	Meeting held with video conferencing technology
Facilitator:	Bill Perlman, Chair

### Executive Committee Representatives Present:

- Bill Perlman, Regionally Elected
- Jay DiPucchio, Regionally Elected
- Kevin Fox, Council Appointee
- Emily Johnson, FRPB Appointee

### Staff Members:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Rebekah Boyd, Admin Svcs Coordinator
- Phoebe Walker, Director of Community Services
- Claire McGinnis, Finance Director
- Bob Dean, Director of Regional Services

### 1. Review and adopt 7.14.22 Executive Committee meeting minutes

Chair Bill Perlman convened the meeting at 5:04 p.m. **Kevin moved adoption of the 7.14.22 minutes. Jay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, by roll-call vote.**

### 2. Reorganize

Before reorganizing, members and Linda welcomed Emily Johnson, the new Franklin Regional Planning Board appointee, and oriented her to the work of the committee.

**Jay nominated Bill for the office of Chair, until Bill’s time as a regionally elected member has ended, on December 31. Kevin seconded the nomination.**

**Bill nominated Jay for Vice Chair. Kevin seconded the nomination.**

**Jay nominated Kevin for them office of Secretary/Clerk. Bill seconded the nomination.**

Without further discussion, Bill asked for a roll-call vote. **All voted in favor of the nominated slate.**

### 3. Receive County Road Petition relative to Holtshire Road in Orange and set public hearing date

Bob Dean explained that he has received the petition from the Town of Orange for discontinuance of the layouts of Holtshire Road with transfer to the Town. One section of the layout right-of-way is actually under water now, as the road traverses along the side of Lake Mattawa. The Town would like to address issues related to some abutting property and controlling the layout will help in that process. The Town has already voted to accept the road layout at its annual town meeting, and officials hope the Executive Committee will agree to discontinue the county layouts and transfer control to the Town.

**Kevin moved to receive the Town of Orange petition, which asks to discontinue county layouts of Holtshire Road and subsequent transfer of the road to the town. Jay seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor by roll-call vote.**

Members discussed the logistics of the public view and hearing and decided to meet remotely, and to continue with the efficient method of view by video. Bob didn't believe there would be challenges to the discontinuance. Abutters he has talked with would like to see issues with the road addressed and feel a county layout discontinuance will help the town address those issues.

**Jay moved that the committee hold the Holtshire Road view and public hearing at 5 p.m. on October 13. Kevin seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor by roll-call vote.**

#### **4. Discuss potential creation and purpose of a Legislative Advocacy Council Subcommittee**

Linda proposed the idea of a Council subcommittee to help prioritize FRCOG legislative advocacy efforts. Because the county did not fare well in either the first or the second rounds of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) earmarks, other than MassWorks projects already in the queue, Linda discussed with town administrators the idea of creating a form that informs legislators of town project priorities. She plans to send the forms to municipalities tomorrow to have them ready for the next legislative session.

Because FRCOG leads commissions and coalitions with unique initiatives, lawmakers might wonder why FRCOG is asking to pass multiple pieces of priority legislation. Forming a committee that is engaged in thinking about priorities could help staff more actively and effectively advocate. She added that while she, Phoebe Walker, and Bob Dean advocate all the time, their priorities are also different. Should FRCOG back all these priorities equally, especially on rare occasions when they don't agree on the importance of pieces of legislation?

Bill suggested the committee might both promote and react/comment on priorities. Jay asked how to distinguish the prioritizing of this proposed body from that of the Executive Committee (EC), and if the EC should do more, particularly given its mission. If conflicts can't be resolved at the EC level, the questions could be brought to the full Council. Bill and Kevin felt the makeup of the EC may be better suited than Council to prioritize. Emily added that the EC might have a deeper sense of and be better able to take stock of what's in progress. Members agreed that they could do more heavy lifting if needed, which might be preferable to forming a new committee. Linda thought it would be great if the EC took on this role, and plans to get the priority lists out to members soon.

#### **5. Review proposed final COVID -19 After Action Review (AAR) recommendations**

As a review, and to orient Emily, Linda explained that the consulting firm, Ardent Decisions Group, was hired to examine the FRCOG's COVID-19 coordination efforts and make recommendations regarding regional response going forward. The report was the result of a broadly distributed survey, 1-on-1 interviews, and a focus group. Ardent recommended principles, agreements, structures, and plans that should be in place for regional emergency response coordination.

Ardent recommends a single FRCOG Emergency Coordination Plan (EDS) plan for Franklin County, deployable at any time, with a single volunteer list for the region — to work to consolidate, simplify, and make actionable the current structures and plans. They suggest we should not rely on volunteer board of health members during a global pandemic. With public health excellence grants, we now have a professional in every town. FRCOG will engage those professionals and help respond to public health emergencies and work with all hazards.

#### **6. Review proposed final draft of new FRCOG Mission statement**

Linda presented a slide with the mission statement borne of the staff retreat and a full Council read:

*The FRCOG’s mission is to help foster a vibrant, sustainable region for all, and to leverage resources to further collaboration and efficiency within and beyond our member communities. We do this by providing cooperative services, planning, and advocacy – both proactively and in direct response to our member communities’ needs.*

Members discussed the use of the phrase “beyond our member communities” and whether it reflected past and current cross-border initiatives, such as the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition, Collective Purchasing, Connecticut River and pipeline work, for example, or if it signaled expansion. For clarity, Emily suggested replacing further with “enhance” or “strengthen.” Bill added that he appreciated the mission statement because it doesn’t restrict the work of the agency.

#### **7. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting**

No further business was discussed.

**Jay moved committee adjournment. Emily seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. Bill adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.**

#### **Documents Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Draft 7.14.22 Executive Committee meeting minutes
- Slide of draft FRCOG mission

*Minutes taken by Rebekah Boyd.*