

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Steering Group
December 2, 2014

Voting Commissioners Present:

Mabry E. Martin
Paul Dordal
Robert Anderson
Cresswell Elmore (by phone) (for Gary McKissock)
Bob Dickerson (by phone) (for Sonny Roberts)
Joy Thrash
Darryl Black (for Harry Brown)
Bobby Lumsden (for Cornell Wilson)

Additional attendees:

Sal Nodjomian
Terry Yonkers
John Simmons (by phone)
Alex Gray (by phone)

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Maj. Lumsden provided administrative updates:

- A request for a replacement for Sgt. Shackleford is pending with NCNG
- Recommend setting schedule for Commission meetings for the year at the outset of the year
- Recommend Committees meet at least three weeks prior to meeting of the Executive Steering Group

Quality of Life Committee Chairman Robert Anderson briefed the Executive Steering Group on the Committee's recent meeting, and resulting recommendations for action.

- Recommendation to Legislative Affairs Committee that the NCMAC support the installations request that their E911 call centers be designated PSAPs for state funding, whether or not they are integrated with local municipalities.
- Recommendation to Legislative Affairs Committee that a study committee be appointed to determine reciprocity as it relates to certification recognition by the state of federally-operated child care facilities. ESG agreed to take for action writing a letter to NC DHHS requesting reciprocity of state certification with DoD child care facilities.
- Annual firefighter certification funding is referred to Legislative Affairs Committee (ref. Senator Brown agreement to pursue in last ESG meeting).
- NC National Guard's list of quality of life legislative requests was presented.

- Elimination of tax on military retiree pay – Rep. George Cleveland has been looking at this issue as part of the Legislative Affairs Committee. Darryl Black will follow up with Rep. Cleveland.

Base Sustainability & Community Affairs Committee Vice Chairman Bob Dickerson provided updates to the Group on activities under its purview.

- The Committee has drafted three letters for consideration of support by the full Commission on the following subjects: Sentinel Landscapes, 911 Centers, waiver of fee for annual firefighters continuing education and certification. MAC Chair agreed to take letters for action and after review and coordination send to appropriate agencies and/or organizations, as appropriate.
- Hofmann Forest – awaiting a ruling by the NC Supreme Court
- Coordinated state maps – all Services except the Navy concur, but the Navy has provided its data layers. Mr. Friday will brief at the next Full Commission meeting

Darryl Black briefed on the Legislative Affairs Committee action items on behalf of Committee Chairman Harry Brown.

- Sen. Brown's office has heard from Vice Chair Dordal regarding the legislative requests of the NCMAC.
- Received a report from UNC System and their request for changes to Yellow Ribbon legislation to ensure compliance with federal law – wanted ability to carry over the \$4.6M appropriation authorized last year but is considering doubling that request in anticipation of potential increase and demand – this would be a recurring appropriation of approximately \$9M for the UNC System with a comparable increase for the Community College System; we need their numbers.
- Received an updated list of legislative requests from the North Carolina National Guard: TarHeel Challenge Academy appropriation, appropriations for readiness centers, army fire insurance, tuition assistance, Butner buffers, etc. This will be part of military omnibus bill.
- Received request from DVA for appropriations for 15 personnel after growing their footprint by 30% - this will include staff for on-base, hospitals, call service center, veterans cemeteries. Add question to annual business surveys about hiring practices for veterans for private sector accountability, and would like legislative support. Recognize businesses that recognize veterans' preferences. Strengthen hiring practices in state governmental agencies. Ad campaign. Increase support for NC Legal Aid veterans' assistance program, etc.
- Rep. Cleveland is researching exempting military retiree pay from taxation; may need to be pared down based on availability of funding next year
- Revamp of Commission membership; many members rotate off next year
- Trip to DC tentatively scheduled for April 2015
- PSAP legislation will be needed for the upcoming session

Cresswell Elmore briefed on behalf of Committee Chairman Gary McKissock on topics undertaken by Economic Development Committee to date.

- Resource Guide from Division of Veterans Affairs
- F-35 business opportunities
- Make-up of the Committee and the Commission, review Charter, requirements of membership
- DLA's role, expansion of Elizabeth City Coast Guard Depot

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- Kimberly Lindsay who is working on employment for transitioning veterans through the Governor's Working Group will be briefing the Society of Human Resource Management on December 5; Chair recommends adding Ms. Lindsay to Agenda for 5-10 minutes on December 16 at Full Commission meeting
- Identifying software solutions are underway for employment
- Continue to explore opportunities in the aviation industry
- Military spouse employment
- Continue to monitor progress on in-state tuition initiative
- A meeting is being planned for early 2015 among stakeholders to discuss the way forward
- Build and maintain relationships with and provide support to organizations that are increasing support to veterans
- Develop a more productive relationship with the Department of Labor relative to veteran employment

There was discussion on recommending a move to the State from NCWorks to alternative software.

The session was closed to discuss to receive a briefing of sensitive nature from Sal Nadjomian of the Matrix Team.

Following the conclusion of the closed session briefing, Chairman Martin reopened the meeting.

Next, Chairman Martin asked all to review the updated top ten NCMAC priority list (power point slides) and welcomed input on the list.

Agenda for upcoming Full Commission meeting was reviewed. Paul Friday will provide mapping update, Kim Lindsay will update on progress, Working Lands Group with Brian Gossage, Matrix Team will provide a closed-session briefing to voting and *ex-officio* members.

Chairman Martin asked for time to review the drafted letters to be finalized and issued by the Chairman on behalf of the Commission. Bryan Gossage will help with the substance of a REPI letter from the State to OSD for designation of North Carolina as a Sentinel Landscape state.

Chairman Martin asked for input on present make-up of Commission. General Dickerson commented that there is a duplication of efforts by Committees and suggested consolidating some Committees, better utilizing manpower. The North Carolina Commanders Council is working the same issues as the Committees and is causing redundancy. There was a discussion about subject matter expert organizations being added to the Commission, however, they are represented by voting members on the Commission. Committee meeting planning should correlate with the role of the community coordinator.

Chairman Martin requested a motion to keep the Commission organized as presently structured. So moved by Robert Anderson. Seconded by Paul Dordal. All were in favor and none opposed.

Additional Items:

- Review By-laws to assess how to treat attendance/vote by proxy going forward

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- Recommended appropriations for Governor's budget need to be finalized. Major Lumsden will write corresponding background policy for each request
- Budget should be crafted in the next two weeks
- Chairman Martin wants the Commission to be able to vote on how MAC funding is spent
- Is Commerce the proper entity to house the Commission's budget?
- Three items being funded out of remainder of current budget: REMI consultation, mapping project, community grants/regional groups

NC Military Affairs Commission budget requests for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 were reviewed. Chairman Martin proposed a motion to accept the revised budget for presentation to the Full Commission at the meeting on December 16, 2014. So moved by Robert Anderson, seconded by Vice Chairman Paul Dordal. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Final comments about matters for the agenda for the upcoming full Commission meeting were provided by Chairman Martin. The bond project and proposed budget will be provided to attendees of the meeting.

Following a request for follow-up questions, Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 1:48 PM.