

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2019

---

Vice Chairman Doug Sprouse called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 11:34 a.m., Thursday, January 24, 2019, at the Durand Center, North Arkansas College Center Campus, Harrison, Arkansas.

Board Members present were:

Baxter County

Judge Mickey Pendergrass  
Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home

Benton County

Mayor Bill Edwards, Centerton, Proxy for Judge Barry Moehring

Boone County

Judge Robert Hathaway  
Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison  
Mr. Bill Witty, Harrison (participated by phone)

Carroll County

Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville

Madison County

Judge Frank Weaver

Marion County

Mr. Layton Lee, Yellville

Newton County

Judge Warren Campbell  
Mr. Neal Gibson, Western Grove

Searcy County

Judge Jim Harness  
Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall

Washington County

Judge Joseph Wood  
Mr. Steve Clark, Fayetteville  
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

Board Members absent were:

Mr. Jeff Pipkin, Mountain Home  
Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County  
Mayor Peter Christie, Bella Vista  
Mayor Jackie Crabtree, Pea Ridge  
Judge Sam Barr, Carroll County  
Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry, Eureka Springs  
Mr. David Pemberton, Huntsville  
Ms. Nancy Marsh, Madison County  
Judge John Massey, Marion County  
Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville  
Mayor Jan Larson, Jasper  
Mr. Woodie Methvin, Searcy County

Guests present were:

Joe Dillard, Mountain Home  
Alex Johnston, AEDC  
James Myatt, AEDC  
Tim Wooldridge, ADFA  
Dr. Randy Esters, NAC  
Joe Berry, NAC  
Teri Garrett, Congressman Womack's Office  
Gil Losurdo, NAEWCA  
Leon Alexander, NAEWCA  
Mark Nelson, FORGE  
Beth Weaver, Madison County  
Elijah Snow, Senator Boozman's Office  
Bobby Ballinger, Congressman Westerman's Office  
Joe Willis, NWAEDD  
Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD  
Janie Wheeler, NWAEDD  
Patty Methvin, NWAEDD  
Libby Robinson, NWAEDD  
Catherine Baker, NWAEDD  
Tina M. Cole, NWAEDD

Janine Swirsky, NWAEDD  
Judy Diffie, NWAEDD  
Taff Grice, NWAEDD  
JoAnna Cartwright, NATS  
Greg LaBonte, NATS

Vice Chairman Sprouse stated the first item of business was the election of new board members to fill the vacancies in Baxter, Boone and Marion Counties. Marion County Judge John Massey, automatically seated upon being sworn into office pursuant to NWAEDD bylaws, was recognized for confirmation by the board. Mayor Hillrey Adams of Mountain Home was nominated by Baxter County Judge Mickey Pendergrass to fill the vacant seat in Baxter County of former Mayor Joe Dillard. Mayor Jerry Jackson of Harrison was nominated by Boone County Judge Robert Hathaway to fill the vacant seat of former Mayor Dan Sherrell. A motion to accept these nominations was made by Judge Joseph Wood and seconded by Judge Warren Campbell and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Sprouse stated the next item of business was the discussion of the member terms. Executive Director Joe Willis discussed the terms that are stated in the bylaws and reminded the board that the elected official members' terms are for the duration of their respective term in office. Private sector representatives are seated for two-year terms. The slate of directors in its entirety will be put forward for election for the terms as stated above at the annual meeting in April.

Minutes of the October 17, 2018 meeting were presented and approved on a motion by Mayor Tim McKinney and seconded by Judge Mickey Pendergrass.

Vice Chairman Sprouse stated the next item was the need to address officer positions due to retirements. Mr. Sprouse informed the board that the executive committee had met and was recommending the following: Judge Frank Weaver as chairman, Mayor Doug Sprouse as Vice Chairman, Mr. Bill Witty as secretary and Mayor Jackie Crabtree as treasurer. These four (4) officers would be members of the executive committee along with two (2) at large positions approved by the board. The executive committee recommended that Judge Warren Campbell and Mayor Shawn Lane fill these two (2) remaining slots. A motion to approve these recommendations was made by Judge Campbell and seconded by Judge Wood and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Sprouse turned the meeting over to newly elected Chairman Weaver. Judge Weaver stated that he was honored to be Chairman and thanked Mr. Joe Dillard for being a big mentor in his life.

Chairman Weaver stated the next item of business on the agenda was filling vacancies on the Audit Committee. The executive committee recommended the following: Judge Frank Weaver, Mayor Tim McKinney, Judge Mickey Pendergrass, Mr. Bill Witty, Mayor Jackie Crabtree and Mr. Neal Gibson to replace former Mayor Dan Sherrell. A motion to approve the recommendations was made by Judge Wood and seconded by Judge Hathaway and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item of discussion was the membership of the RLF committee. A motion to keep the five members of the RLF Committee as is and not to replace the retired Joe Dillard was made by Judge Wood and seconded by Judge Campbell and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Joe Willis discussed the locality contribution report.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of the District's RLF program. Mr. Willis informed the board of the program's origination in the late 1970s and its evolution to today's current status. He told the board that after much internal discussion among staff and consultation with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) which funded the original grant and oversees it from the federal level that the recommendation from management was to relinquish the District's interest in the program. Management wants to see the fund deployed in the District's nine-county region in a manner like its original intent and to that end contacted a microlender based in Huntsville, Ark. Called FORGE. A representative from FORGE, Mark Nelson, was present and addressed the board concerning his company's business strategy, history and current structure. Mr. Nelson assured the board that FORGE can handle this program and that the board of directors of FORGE had approved their acceptance of the program, including the outstanding loans and the available cash. After some questions from the board a motion was made by Mr. Neal Gibson and seconded by Judge Warren Campbell to approve the transfer of the RLF fund to FORGE. The motion carried.

Mr. Gil Losurdo, Managing Director, North Arkansas East West Corridor Association, (NAEWCA) provided an update on the study to improve US Highway 412. The report was issued on or about December 1, 2018 and can be found at the website: <http://www.ardot.gov/412>. He asked everyone to visit the site and read the document. The report is extensive and shows the work ArDOT has put into the study to this point. A future report is expected sometime in the spring of 2019 and will be followed by new public hearings. Mr. Losurdo thanked everyone for their support. Chairman Weaver thanked Mr. Losurdo for all his hard work with the NAEWCA.

Chairman Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was the review of financial statements for November 30, 2018 and December 31, 2018. Mr. Willis presented these financial reports. A motion to approve the financial statements for both periods was made by Mayor Sprouse and seconded by Judge Hathaway and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the presentation of the NWAEDD 2019 Budget. Mr. Willis gave a brief overview of the budget. Judge Pendergrass asked if the transfer of the RLF program would have an impact on the budget. Mr. Willis stated that the minimal impact it would have would be considered immaterial. A motion to approve the NWAEDD 2019 Budget was made by Mr. Steve Clark and seconded by Judge Wood and the motion carried unanimously.


Chairman Weaver stated the next item of business on the agenda was approval of Resolution No. 3083. Mr. Willis stated that this resolution was for changing the signature cards, opening and closing bank accounts for the change of new chairman and officers. A motion was made by Judge Pendergrass to approve Resolution No. 3083 and seconded by Mayor Sprouse and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business was the changes to the Procurement Policy and Procedures. Mr. Willis discussed the changes to the policy which were the following: no bids requires on micro-purchases of \$10,000 or less, competitive bids/rate quotations – small purchase \$10,001-\$75,000 requiring at least 3 bids, and sealed bids or competitive proposals on purchases greater than \$75,000. A motion to adopt the new policy with the changes was made by Judge Wood and seconded by Mr. Gibson and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Willis presented the proposed rebranding of the District, including an updated logo. He discussed the staff's efforts to redesign the existing website and change the look of the District through a new logo and other various steps. A motion made by Mayor Sprouse and seconded by Judge Wood to authorize the Executive Director to proceed with the rebranding as presented and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business was the Executive Director's report. Mr. Willis discussed the impact of the government shut down which was limited primarily to prevent the advance of money from some of the government agencies. Some preliminary assessment of reduction in services has been completed and management will continue to monitor the situation. Mr. Willis told the board that the City of Yellville and City of Jasper have had ACCESS meeting. Mr. Willis welcomed Ms. Patty Methvin to NWAEDD to replace Ms. Janie Wheeler as the Workforce Administrative Director. He also welcomed Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home and Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison, to the NWAEDD Board of Directors.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m. on a motion by Judge Campbell and seconded by Judge Pendergrass. The motion carried unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: 1/24/19

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Date: 1-23-19

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING

APRIL 24, 2019

---

Chairman Frank Weaver and called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 11:18 a.m., Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at the Durand Center, North Arkansas College Center Campus, Harrison, Arkansas.

The following entities of government were represented:

Baxter County

Judge Mickey Pendergrass, Baxter County  
Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home

Benton County

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County  
Mayor Pete Christie, Bella Vista

Boone County

Mr. Bill Witty, Harrison (Phone)

Carroll County

Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville

Madison County

Judge Frank Weaver, Madison County  
Ms. Nancy Marsh, Huntsville

Marion County

Judge John Massey, Marion County  
Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville  
Mr. Layton Lee, Yellville

Newton County

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County  
Mayor Jan Larson, Jasper

Searcy County

Judge Jim Harness, Searcy County  
Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall  
Mr. Woodie Methvin, St. Joe

Washington County

Judge Joseph Wood, Washington County  
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

Board Members absent were:

Mr. Jeff Pipkin, Mountain Home  
Mayor Jackie Crabtree, Pea Ridge  
Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County  
Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison  
Judge Sam Barr, Carroll County  
Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry, Eureka Springs  
Mr. David Pemberton, Huntsville  
Mr. Neal Gibson, Western Grove  
Mr. Steve Clark, Fayetteville

Guests present were:

Mayor Mac Caradine, Cotter  
Mayor Jeff Braim, Gassville  
Mayor Randall Noblett, Cave Springs  
Mayor Bill Edwards, Centerton  
John Thurston, Secretary of State  
Chris Powell, Secretary of State  
Waylon Arnold, Secretary of State  
Johnny Hinchey, Secretary of State  
Johnny James, USDA-Rural Development  
Jennifer Harness, USDA-Rural Development  
Becca Caldwell, AEDC-Rural Services  
Stetson Painter, Field Representative for Congressman Crawford  
Teri Garrett, Field Representative for Congressman Womack  
Elijah Snow, Field Representative for Senator Boozman  
Bobby Ballinger, Field Representative for Congressman Westerman  
Scott Miller, BCEDC  
Gil Losurdo, North Arkansas East/West Corridor Association  
Ross Parker, Workforce Board Member  
Bob Largent, Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Terry Horton, FTN Associates Engineering  
Tom Freking, NWACC  
Billie Reed, NAPHE, Inc.  
Tim Maddox, DEMX Architecture  
Tim Wooldridge, ADFA  
Joe Willis, NWAEDD

*Minutes of Meeting*

*April 24, 2019*

*Page -3-*

Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD  
Libby Robinson, NWAEDD  
Catherine Baker, NWAEDD  
Patty Methvin, NWAEDD  
Tina M. Cole, NWAEDD  
Janine Swirsky, NWAEDD  
Judy Diffie, NWAEDD  
Taff Grice, NWAEDD  
Susan Sangren, NWAEDD  
April Turner, NWAEDD  
Karen Henry, NWAEDD  
Michelle Ryan, NWAEDD  
Beverly Taylor, NWAEDD  
Carole Shaver, NWAEDD  
Jo Anna Cartwright, NATS  
Greg LaBonte, NATS  
Orval Carter, NATS  
Shannon Willis, NATS  
Corey Dart, NATS  
Debra Akins, NATS  
Michael Breer, NATS  
Andy Carboni, NATS  
Damian Cordova, NATS

Minutes of the January 24, 2019 meeting were presented and approved on a motion by Judge Warren Campbell and seconded by Judge Barry Moehring. Motion carried.

Chairman Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was the review of financial statements for February 28, 2019. Executive Director Willis presented these financial reports. A motion to approve the financial statements was made by Mr. Woodie Methvin and seconded by Mayor Tim McKinney and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Willis discussed the locality contribution report and entertained questions. Member dues are on schedule with previous years.

Chairman Weaver opened the next item of business was which Resolution No. 3084 authorizing the Equal Opportunity Compliance Program for the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc. A motion to approve Resolution No. 3084 was made by Mayor Peter Christie and seconded by Mr. Methvin and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Weaver introduced keynote speaker, John Thurston, Arkansas Secretary of State. Mr. Thurston discussed cost sharing, a business commercial services system, redistricting in 2021 for senators and representatives, and the upcoming 2020 Census.



Chairman Weaver next introduced the guest speaker, Judge Joseph Wood, Washington County. Judge Wood talked about his journey from being adopted as an abandoned infant and the impact that has had on his life.

Chairman Weaver provided a brief overview of the Executive Committee meeting that was held on April 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., prior to the board meeting. Items of discussion included the formation of a shared sick leave policy which the committee authorized. Also discussed was a long-term the disability insurance proposal for certain staff positions. Additionally, the RLF Program should be transferred to FORGE by May 14, 2019 if everything can be worked out timely between the parties. The NATS Director of Transportation, Jo Anna Cartwright, will be retiring effective June 30, 2019 and a replacement will be sought to assume her duties on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Willis proposed to the committee that the NATS drivers be granted a \$.50 per hour raise to stay competitive in the market and the committee concurred. Lastly, Mr. Willis proposed to name Ms. Catherine Baker as General Counsel/EEO Officer for the District to include a salary increase of \$5,000 for her additional responsibilities.

Chairman Weaver called for a motion to approve the title change and salary increase for Ms. Baker as proposed. The motion was made by Judge Moehring and seconded by Mayor Christie and the motion carried unanimously.


Mr. Gil Losurdo, Managing Director, North Arkansas East West Corridor Association, (NAEWCA) provided an update on the study to improve US Highway 412. He stated that NAEWCA was pleased to announce its new website which is [www.highway412.org](http://www.highway412.org). Mr. Losurdo encouraged everyone to attend the public involvement meetings in their area. Notices will be sent out shortly, but all were asked to keep these dates in mind and plan to attend. It is critical that there be great public support.

The Executive Director's report was next on the agenda. Mr. Willis stated that the 2018 audit will commence May 6, 2019 and should be presented for approval by board of directors at the July 2019 meeting. He also informed the directors that Workforce monitoring is in progress this week at the office and should be completed by Friday.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m. on a motion by Mayor Christie and seconded by Judge Harness. The motion carried unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: 7-23-19

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Date: 7-23-19

# NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES OF MEETING

JULY 23, 2019

---

Chairman Frank Weaver called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 11:20 a.m., Tuesday, July 23, 2019, at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Center, North Arkansas College South Campus, Harrison, Arkansas.

The following entities of government were represented:

#### Baxter County

Judge Mickey Pendergrass, Baxter County  
Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home  
Mr. Jeff Pipkins, Mountain Home

#### Benton County

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County  
Mayor Jackie Crabtree, Pea Ridge

#### Boone County

Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County  
Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison  
Mr. Bill Witty, Harrison

#### Carroll County

Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville  
Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry, Eureka Springs

#### Madison County

Judge Frank Weaver, Madison County  
Ms. Nancy Marsh, Huntsville

#### Marion County

Judge John Massey, Marion County  
Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville

#### Newton County

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County  
Mayor Jan Larson, Jasper

#### Searcy County

Judge Jim Harness, Searcy County  
Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall

Washington County

Judge Joseph Wood, Washington County

Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

Board Members absent were:

Mayor Peter Christie, Bella Vista  
Judge Sam Barr, Carroll County  
Mr. David Pemberton, Huntsville  
Mr. Layton Lee, Yellville  
Mr. Neal Gibson, Western Grove  
Mr. Woodie Methvin, St. Joe  
Mr. Steve Clark, Fayetteville

Guests present were:

Mayor Randall Noblett, Cave Springs  
Mayor Bill Edwards, Centerton  
Mayor Chris Moore, Lowell  
Representative Jack Fortner  
Elijah Snow, Field Representative for Senator Boozman  
Gil Losurdo, North Arkansas East/West Corridor Association  
Bob Largent, Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Terry Horton, FTN Associates Engineering  
Cheryl Schluterman, ADFA President  
Tim Wooldridge, ADFA  
Kelsey Kelton, AEDC  
Chris Hoover, Field Representative for Senator Cotton  
Randy Esters, NAC  
Charles Seaton, Searcy County  
Blake Robertson, NWTI  
Raymond Mayo, Marion County JP District 5  
Brian Ettehad, FROST  
Sarahbeth Vasgaard, FROST  
Joe Willis, NWAEDD  
Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD  
Libby Robinson, NWAEDD  
Jack Chisum, NWAEDD/NATS  
Becky Smith, NWAEDD/NATS  
Patty Methvin, NWAEDD  
Tina M. Cole, NWAEDD  
Janine Swirsky, NWAEDD  
Judy Diffie, NWAEDD

*Minutes of Meeting*

*July 23, 2019*

*Page -3-*

Kindall Brewer, NWAEDD  
Susan Sangren, NWAEDD  
April Turner, NWAEDD  
Karen Henry, NWAEDD  
James Moss, NWAEDD

Minutes of the April 24, 2019 meeting were presented and approved on a motion by Judge Warren Campbell and seconded by Judge Jim Harness. Motion has carried.

Chairman Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was the review of financial statements for May 31, 2019. Executive Director Joe Willis presented these financial reports. A motion to approve the financial statements was made by Mayor Tim McKinney and seconded by Judge Joseph Wood and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Willis discussed the locality contribution report and entertained questions.

Presentation of the 2018 Independent Auditor's Report by Frost, PLLC., by Brian Ettehad and Sarahbeth Vasgaard was made to the board. A motion was made by Mr. Witty to approve the 2018 Audit and seconded by Judge Barry Moehring and the motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Director Jeremy Ragland presented an update of the activities and accomplishments of the Community and Economic Development division. Deputy Director Ragland also commended Catherine Baker and Tina Cole for all their hard work on the grant applications.

Chairman Weaver next introduced the guest speaker, Cheryl Schluterman, President of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA).

Chairman Weaver introduced Mr. Gil Losurdo, who gave an update on the NAEWCA Highway 412 Corridor project. Its website is [www.highway412.org](http://www.highway412.org) Mr. Losurdo encouraged everyone to visit the website.

Chairman Weaver provided a brief overview of the Executive Committee meeting that was held on July 23, 2019 at 9:30 a.m., prior to the bard meeting. Items of discussion included NWAEDD Financial Reports for May 31, 2019. The committee also discussed purchasing a second vehicle for the District. Director Willis stated that if a second vehicle was purchased it could save \$16,000.00 to \$17,000.00 in travel expenses. Director Willis stated that the second company vehicle would be a 2019 Nissan Versa and the estimated cost after taxes would be around \$15,000.00.

Chairman Weaver called for a motion to approve of the Executive Committee Minutes of July 23, 2019, meeting. The minutes were presented and approved on a motion by Judge Campbell and a second by Mayor Butch Berry. The motion was unanimous.

The Executive Director's report was next on the agenda. Director Willis gave a brief overview of the Flexsteel plant closure and the Job Fair that was held on July 20, 2019. Mr. Willis discussed that we would no longer be in the business of loaning money as of Monday, July 29, 2019. The District's Revolving Loan Fund program is expected to close, and the funds and existing loans are to be transferred to FORGE. He also relayed to the committee members that Workforce Development staff participated in the Flexsteel hiring fair because of the closing of Flexsteel, which had about 180 employees and 85 employers participating. Mr. Willis also stressed a thank you to Dr. Randy Esters, North Arkansas College President, for the use of the facility. Lastly, Mr. Willis introduced Mr. Jack Chisum as the new Director of Transportation for NATS.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Jeff Pipkin and seconded by Mayor Jackie Crabtree. The motion carried unanimously.

Frank Weaver  
Chairman

Date: 10/16/19

Pill Witty  
Secretary

Date: 2-7-2020

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING

OCTOBER 16, 2019

---

Chairman Frank Weaver called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 11:19 a.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Center, North Arkansas College South Campus, Harrison, Arkansas.

The following entities of government were represented:

Baxter County

Judge Mickey Pendergrass, Baxter County  
Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home  
Mr. Jeff Pipkins, Mountain Home

Benton County

Mayor Jackie Crabtree, Pea Ridge

Boone County

Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison

Carroll County

Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville  
Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry, Eureka Springs

Madison County

Judge Frank Weaver, Madison County

Marion County

Karen Carter, Proxy for Judge John Massey  
Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville  
Mr. Layton Lee, Yellville

Newton County

Mayor Jan Larson, Jasper  
Mr. Neal Gibson, Western Grove

Searcy County

Mr. Woodie Methvin, St. Joe

Washington County

Judge Joseph Wood, Washington County  
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale  
Mr. Steve Clark, Fayetteville

Board Members absent were:

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County  
Mayor Peter Christie, Bella Vista  
Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County  
Mr. Bill Witty, Harrison  
Judge Sam Barr, Carroll County  
Mr. David Pemberton, Huntsville  
Ms. Nancy Marsh, Huntsville  
Judge John Massey, Marion County  
Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County  
Judge Jim Harness, Searcy County  
Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall

Guests present were:

Mayor Bill Edwards, Centerton  
Alison Wright, AEDI  
Deigo Caraballo, AEDI  
Joe Quinn, Arkansas Good Roads Foundation  
Stetson Painter, Field Representative for Congressman Crawford  
Elijah Snow, Field Representative for Senator Boozman  
Teri Garrett, Field Representative for Congressman Womack  
Gil Losurdo, North Arkansas East/West Corridor Association  
Tim Wooldridge, ADFA  
Kelsey Kelton, AEDC  
Chris Hoover, Field Representative for Senator Cotton  
Buddy Fry, Green Forest  
Joe Willis, NWAEDD  
Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD  
Libby Robinson, NWAEDD  
Jack Chisum, NWAEDD/NATS  
Patty Methvin, NWAEDD  
Tina M. Cole, NWAEDD  
Catherine Baker, NWAEDD  
Janine Swirsky, NWAEDD  
Judy Diffie, NWAEDD  
Taff Grice, NWAEDD  
Susan Sangren, NWAEDD  
April Turner, NWAEDD  
Karen Henry, NWAEDD  
James Moss, NWAEDD

Minutes of the July 23, 2019 meeting were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Mayor Tim McKinney and seconded by Mayor Doug Sprouse.

Chairman Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was the review of financial statements for August 31, 2019. Executive Director Joe Willis presented these financial reports. A motion to approve the financial statements was made by Mayor Butch Berry and seconded by Mayor Jackie Crabtree and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Willis discussed the locality contribution report and entertained questions. Before moving on to the next item Mr. Willis reminded everyone present that the meeting was being recorded in accordance with Arkansas law.

Chairman Weaver opened the next item of business was which Resolution No. 3085 authorizing the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., to file an application with the Arkansas Department of Transportation for continuation of funding for the North Arkansas Transportation Service (NATS) programs in Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Fulton, Izard, Madison, Marion, Newton and Searcy Counties, for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. A motion to approve Resolution No. 3085 was made by Mayor Crabtree and seconded by Judge Mickey Pendergrass and the motion carried unanimously.

The next Resolution was No. 3086 authorizing the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., to use local funds to match with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, for funding of the EDA Planning Grant. A motion to approve Resolution No. 3086 was made by Judge Joseph Wood and seconded by Mr. Neal Gibson and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was the approval of the Updated Financial Management and Internal Control Policy Manual. Director Willis discussed the changes and why the changes were necessary. A motion was made by Mr. Woodie Methvin to approve the Updated Financial Management & Internal Control Policy Manual with the addition that staff who utilize the organization credit card for hotel stays for business purposes should retain the hotel key card and submit with travel forms upon return for destruction. The motion was seconded by Mayor Sprouse and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Weaver next introduced the guest speaker, Alison Wright with the Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI). She provided a presentation on the United States Census 2020 and displayed websites for information: [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov), [arstatedatacenter.youraedi.com](https://arstatedatacenter.youraedi.com) and [arsdc@youraedi.com](mailto:arsdc@youraedi.com). Judge Pendergrass addressed the attendees and spoke about being part of the Complete Count Committee which is required to file a report with the Governor by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chairman Weaver recognized that Ms. Karen Carter was present as a proxy for Judge John Massey in his absence. Judge Massey's mother passed away and the attendees observed a moment of silence for Judge Massey and his family.



Chairman Weaver next introduced Joe Quinn. He is the Executive Director of the Arkansas Good Roads Foundation which works to educate Arkansans about why better roads and bridges improve quality of life and the economy. Mr. Quinn is involved in the effort to educate citizens about a 2020 sales tax election that is critical to addressing the fact that 25% of Arkansas roads are in failing condition. Mr. Quinn gave a presentation on the Quality Roads and Bridges in Arkansas and the Governor's Long-Term Highway Funding Plan – Act 416 Summary.

Chairman Weaver provided a brief overview of the Executive Committee meeting that was held on October 16, 2019 at 9:15 a.m., prior to the bard meeting. Items of discussion included NWAEDD Financial Reports for August 31, 2019 among others.

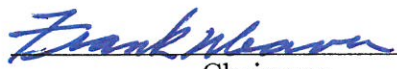
Chairman Weaver called for a motion to approve the Executive Committee Minutes of July 23, 2019, meeting. The minutes were presented and approved on a motion by Mayor Crabtree and a second by Mayor McKinney. The motion was unanimous.

Chairman Weaver provided a brief overview of the Audit Committee meeting that was held on October 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting's purpose was to review the request for proposals that were received for the 2019 Audit. A motion to award Landmark in Rogers, Arkansas the contract was made by Mayor Crabtree and a second by Mayor Sprouse and the motion carried.

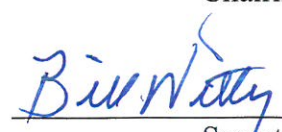
Chairman Weaver introduced Mr. Gil Losurdo to discuss the North Arkansas East West Corridor Association (NAEWCA). He invited everyone to attend the conference in June 2020 and updated those in attendance about the continuing efforts of the Association to promote the expansion and upgrade of U.S. Highway 412.

The Executive Director's report was next on the agenda. Director Willis gave a brief overview of the continued issues with rural broadband. He also noted that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission will host a Public Hearing on November 12, 2019, at 8:30 a.m., at the Bessie Moore Conference Room located at the Arkansas State Library, 900 West Capitol Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 to consider adoption of proposed Rule, "Arkansas Rural Connect Broadband Grant Program.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m. on a motion by Mayor McKinney and seconded by Judge Frank Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: 1/23/2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Date: 2-7-2020

NOTE:

Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home, Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville, and Ms. Karen Carter, Marion County were all present, but did not sign the sheet.