



# TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission  
on Intergovernmental Relations



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## MINUTES OF THE TENNESSEE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

September 29, 2020

### Meeting Called to Order

The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations met virtually via GoToWebinar at 9:04 a.m., Chairman Mike Carter presiding.

<b>Present 20</b>	<b>Absent 5</b>
Mayor Rogers Anderson	Mayor Tom Bickers
Assistant Commissioner Sammie Arnold	Representative John Crawford
Mayor Buddy Bradshaw	Mayor Brent Greer
Mayor Kevin D. Brooks	Representative Antonio Parkinson
Representative Mike Carter	Senator Katrina Robinson
Mr. Calvin Clifton	
Deputy Commissioner Paula Davis	
County Clerk Mary Gaither	
Mayor Jill Holland	
County Executive Jeff Huffman	
Representative Harold Love Jr.	
Senator Jon Lundberg	
Representative Susan Lynn	
Mayor A. Keith McDonald	
Mr. Jeff Peach	
Mayor Larry Waters	
Senator Bo Watson	
Comptroller Justin Wilson <sup>1</sup>	
Senator Ken Yager	
Senator Jeff Yarbro	

<sup>1</sup> Kristina Podesta represented Justin Wilson.

## **1. Call to Order and Approval of the Minutes**

Chairman Mike CARTER called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m., at which time roll was called. Chairman CARTER thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers during his recent hospitalization for COVID19. Commenting on the profound isolation, he said that he realized that the staff too was in a form of isolation. He thanked them for their work under the unusual circumstances. Chairman CARTER then requested and received approval of the January 2020 meeting minutes. Following the approval of the minutes, Executive Director Cliff LIPPARD read the statement of necessity for a remote meeting.

## **2. Commission and Staff Update**

Executive Director Cliff LIPPARD said that because of the increasing number of Commission studies requested by the Tennessee General Assembly over the last few years, and concern that the volume of those studies might lesson the quality of Commission research, House Speaker Cameron Sexton, in consultation with TACIR Chairman Mike Carter, developed a new study referral process during this past session. Rather than referring studies by public chapter or by individual committee vote, Speaker Sexton directed the House committees to refer all proposed TACIR studies to the House Calendar and Rules Committee, which will establish a special calendar to hear and decide on each of the proposals. The new referral process has not yet gone into effect, and the Senate has not established a comparable process to date, but Lieutenant Governor McNally's office said they will work with the House on referrals.

Dr. LIPPARD added that staff has developed a proposed addition to the commission's bylaws to recognize the existence of the new legislative process and to formalize the process for approving requests by Commission members. Members will be asked to vote on the proposed addition at the next meeting.

Dr. LIPPARD next provided several staff updates, telling the members that Research Manager Mark McAdoo recently completed a Doctor of Business Administration degree, that the Commission has hired a new staff research associate, Dr. Kevin Vanzant, and that Senior Research Associate Tyler Carpenter recently reached 5 years of service with the State of Tennessee. Dr. LIPPARD also said that Senior Research Associate Dave Keiser recently completed a graduate certificate in Geospatial Applied Information from Tennessee State University and that the staff was fortunate to have had Duke Gear, a student in the Master of Public Policy and Administration program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, serving as an intern over the summer.

## **3. Senate Bill 1114 /House Bill 1120 (Community Resilience to Natural Catastrophes & Extreme Weather)—Final Report For Approval**

Senior Research Associate Tyler CARPENTER presented the final report for the Commission's approval. The report was prepared in response to Senate Bill 1114 by Senator Jeff Yarbro and House Bill 1120 by Representative Bob Freeman, which was referred to the Commission for study by the House State Committee. The sponsors requested that the Commission specifically

- identify risks for extreme weather events and earthquakes across the state,

- document the current status of planning to reduce the effects of these specific natural disasters and build community resilience in Tennessee at the state and local level,
- identify best practices for building community resilience, and
- determine the cost of action and inaction.

Mr. CARPENTER said that from 1996 to 2018 in Tennessee, there was an average of \$343.5 million annually in property damage and economic losses resulting from natural disasters, according to an analysis by 3 Sigma Consultants, LLC—the consulting firm the Commission contracted with to analyze past and future extreme weather events and earthquakes. According to 3 Sigma’s analysis, Tennessee could see the annual cost of natural disasters nearly double to \$595 million per year by 2055. Mr. CARPENTER then summarized strategies that can reduce these costs and build resilience. He explained how local governments and the state are planning for natural disasters.

Mr. CARPENTER said the report’s recommendation remains unchanged from the draft report, recommending that the state should ensure that ongoing resilience efforts continue—including collaboration among state agencies and local governments. The Commission takes no position on the exact structure of these collaborative efforts, but they should include, in addition to hazard mitigation strategies, a focus on community resilience-planning features such as assessing social and economic vulnerabilities and engaging community members in the decision-making process.

Mayor Buddy BRADSHAW moved that the report be approved. Senator Jeff YARBRO seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the report.

#### **4. Biennial Report for Fiscal Years 2018-19 and 2019-20—Final Report for Approval**

Executive Director Cliff LIPPARD presented the Commission’s biennial report for fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20, for approval, pointing out the several focus issues that the report discusses. Mayor BROOKS moved for approval, and Senator YARBRO seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **5. Open Discussion of Informational Material Prepared for Postoned May 2020 Meeting.**

Dr. LIPPARD opened the forum for discussion of three items under Tab 5—Fiscal Capacity for fiscal year 2020-21 update (Tab 5a), Public chapter 407, acts of 2019 update (Right to Shop, Tab 5b), and Tennessee Valley Authority payments in lieu of taxes update (Tab 5c). He said that the information on these items was sent to the members in May 2020. He added that one of the items, Tab 5c Tennessee Valley Authority payments in lieu of taxes, was recently updated with new information and staff will present that updated information along with any additional changes at a future commission meeting.

Mayor MCDONALD asked if effects of the pandemic were included in 5a Fiscal Capacity for fiscal year 2020-21. Dr. LIPPARD said they are not—5a is reporting fiscal capacity for the ongoing year 2020-21 and has already been forwarded to the department of education. He said that the BEP review committee recommended that the administration and General Assembly

should not penalize a school system because of a drop in average daily membership because of the pandemic. However, this does not affect the information presented on fiscal capacity for 2020-21.

### **Other Business**

Following a discussion about continued concerns regarding the pandemic, the Commission chose to conduct its next meeting remotely as well. Executive Director LIPPARD said that staff would be in touch with members to select a date. He also asked that the long-postponed local member meeting to discuss issues with the draft report on counties with multiple school systems also be conducted remotely sometime within the next month. Without objection, it was agreed that staff would contact local members to set a date for that meeting.

Chairman CARTER adjourned the meeting at 9:46 a.m.