



625 Texas Street, Suite 200 | Shreveport, LA 71101  
318.841.5950 | F 318.841.5952 | www.nlcog.org

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

**Friday, June 23, 2023 (9:30 AM)**

625 Texas Street, Suite 200  
Shreveport, LA 71101

#### **Members Present**

Mr. Bruce Blanton, Chair – Webster Parish  
Mayor Tommy Chandler, Vice Chair – City of Bossier City  
Mrs. Erica Bryant – Caddo Parish  
Mr. Butch Ford – Bossier Parish  
Mr. Charles Henington – Caddo Tax Assessor  
Mr. Michael Norton – DeSoto Parish

#### **Members Absent**

Mayor Tom Arceneaux – City of Shreveport

#### **Others Present**

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG  
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG  
Ms. Savannah Williams - NLCOG  
Dr. Shelly Barrett - NLCOG  
Ms. Rita Arnold – NLCOG  
Ms. Heidi Stewart – NLCOG  
Mr. Adam Driskill - NLCOG  
Mr. Josh Chevallier – NLCOG Legal Council

#### **Call to Order**

Mr. Blanton called the meeting to order. Mr. Rogers stated that prior to roll call, he had two announcements to make. One, and they knew it was coming, but they had received an official notice from DeSoto Parish that Mr. Michael Norton will now be representing DeSoto Parish as Administrator. Mr. Steve Brown, unfortunately unable to be there today, but he did want to make one little comment of his leaving and that was to thank them all for supporting DeSoto Parish...the little guys that never felt small. Mr. Rogers said that Mr. Brown just wanted to send his appreciation for all the support and help over time. Mr. Rogers stated that he hopes to recognize him soon. Mr. Blanton welcomed Mr. Norton and asked Mr. Rogers to begin a roll call. Mr. Rogers began the roll call. A quorum was present.

## **Public Comments**

Mr. Blanton called for public comments and stated we had two.

**Senator Barrow Peacock** was first to address the board. Senator Peacock stated that he knew everyone except Mr. Henington had already heard his public comment from the MPO meeting, so he was going to address Mr. Henington. He wanted to talk about funding overall for projects and specifically for I-49 in the legislative session and the importance of obligating the funds of a “cannot be taken.” He stated that they had this issue with Jimmie Davis Bridge, and they all know whether that project can be moved forward. Senator Peacock asked for Mr. North to correct him if he was wrong, but that project is moving forward and do we do need to secure P5 in our years. He states that one of the reasons that the project could move forward is because the funds were obligated, and a contract was already signed. Senator Peacock said that that applies and needs to be emphasized by this board for I-49 with the funding there for the one hundred million dollars. He said that if you don’t obligate that money it’s going to be removed and taken away because there’s too much temptation from the legislation to want that money. Senate Bill 146 by the president of the senate, there was an amendment that they try to put on the House floor, to try to take the hundred million dollars and reallocate it to multiple projects. Senator Peacock said that most of that money would not be in this area so most people who think that it could be used for other projects in our area in the Northwest should know that it would be scattered across the state. He emphasized for I-49 that they need to obligate that hundred million dollars and get it secured and committed between now and the next legislative session. He fears that if they don’t obligate the money, it won’t be spent in the Northwest Louisiana area. Senator Peacock asked that they use the hundred million dollars between now and next March.

**Mr. Tim Magner** was next to comment. Mr. Magner stated he was with the Chamber of Commerce and just wanted to bring to the attention of the board that as part of the recent agreement to end the debt ceiling in congress, some pertinent streamlining language was included that limits the NEPA process to a two-year window. Mr. Magner said that if that two-year window isn’t met, that organization that’s responsible for that project can take that federal agency to court to impower them to act within ninety days. He said that given the extensive infrastructures, investments, and opportunities that we have going on in the area, he wanted to make sure that NLCOG was aware of that and that change. Mr. Magner encourages them to use that at their discretion as they can to move projects forward.

## **Financial – Fiscal Year 2023 Quarterly Report - Approval of Fiscal Year to Date Financials**

Mr. Rogers stated that the quarterly financials are through March 31, 2023, of this year and they are reflective of the budget amendments that were made at the previous meeting. Mr. Rogers said that in general, they are on track and good with all items. Mrs. Barnette had given him a few things yesterday in terms of Outlook through the end of the fiscal year and they should be good and in line with everything. Mr. Rogers stated in terms of assets, liabilities, and equity, they’re still hovering roughly at the one point two million mark which is planned for to keep around that amount.

Mr. Blanton called for a motion to Accept the Financial Report for the Year-to-Date Financials. Mr. Norton motioned, and Mayor Chandler seconded. All approved and motion was passed.

## **Fiscal Year 2023 Audit Letter of Engagement (Tabled)**

Mr. Blanton asked if there was any news with the Audit Letter. Mr. Rogers stated that they need to table that. He said they didn't receive the letter of engagement from Heard, McElroy and like so many others last week, the power and other issues within the office, they did not receive it in time. Mr. Rogers stated they would get that to them at the next meeting.

## **Legal Report**

Mr. Chevallier stated there was no pending or threatened litigation at this time and no significant legal matters that need to be reported at this meeting.

## **Other Business**

### **1. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 01, 2023 – June 30, 2024)**

Mr. Rogers stated that as previously noted at the MPO meeting, the typical process is to move up. The vice-chair would move up to chair. Mr. Rogers said that Mayor Chandler would move up to chair and after previous conversations, Mayor Chandler has stated that he's ready to go. Mr. Rogers stated that the same with Mayor Arceneaux and that they've had conversations with him, and he's agreed to serve in the spot of vice chair. Mr. Rogers said they would need a motion to approve the Elections of Officers for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024), Mayor Chandler (Bossier City) – Chair and Mayor Arceneaux (Shreveport) – Vice Chair. Mr. Henington motioned, and Mr. Norton seconded. All approved and motion was passed.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes from the May 12, 2023, meeting. Mr. Blanton called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ford motioned, and Mrs. Bryant seconded. All approved and motion was passed.

## **Announcements**

Mr. Rogers stated that once again they've included a schedule of meeting dates starting July 1, 2023. Every meeting is roughly six weeks apart.

## **Adjourn**

With no remaining agenda items, The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Norton was the first to motion, and Mayor Chandler seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

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J. Kent Rogers, Secretary

DRAFT

# PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

All cards must be returned to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting. Comments will not be accepted during the meeting. You will be called upon at the appropriate time to speak.

Please print:

Date: 6/23/23

Name: TIM MAGNER

Address: 400 EDWARDS

E-mail: T.M. MAGNER@STATEWIDECHAIRMAN

Phone: ( ) 06

As a reminder, public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Comments relative to any issues that are in active litigation will not be heard in this meeting.

Speakers are to address the Chairman, not each other or the audience, and are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. The use of abusive or profane language shall not be allowed. No debate or argument between speakers and/or members of the audience shall be permitted.

I am representing:  myself  business  organization

Name of business / organization: GSCC

Comment on:  Agenda item  Non-agenda item

Briefly describe your comment(s):

NEPA PROCESS

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Please print:

Date: Jan 27, 2023

Name: Barren Pearock

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

I am representing:     myself     business     organization

Name of business / organization: Seate Dist 37

Comment on:     Agenda item     Non-agenda item

Briefly describe your comment(s):

I-49 Funding  
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS

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