



For Immediate Release
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Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments Elects New Leadership



Gregory Browning
Chairman



Bobbie Jones
Vice-Chairman



Miranda Boykin
Secretary/Treasurer

The Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments (UCPCOG) Board of Directors has elected new officers, who will lead the agency, for the 2020-2021 program year. Mr. Greg Browning, representing the City of Roanoke Rapids, will serve as the Chairman, Mr. Bobbie Jones, Mayor of the Town of Princeville, will serve as the Vice-Chairman, and Ms. Miranda Boykin, Mayor of the Town of Sims, will serve as the Board Secretary.

“I am honored to be elected as the Chairman of the UCPCOG. I look forward to strengthening regional collaboration to create opportunities to address senior livability issues, promote community development, and provide a skilled workforce for our area employers,” said Mr. Browning.

The UCPCOG receives local, state, and federal funding to provide assistance to older adults, perform community and economic development planning, and it administers job training programs funded through workforce development programs. The UCPCOG region includes Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, and Wilson counties along with 41 municipal governments within the five-county area. The UCPCOG’s average annual budget is approximately \$12 million per year, and it also writes and/or administers grants for its members. Those grants, public and private, can bring millions of dollars of funding to the region.

“The UCPCOG plays a critical support role to the 41 municipalities in its region. The UCPCOG has worked to bring in millions of dollars of community and infrastructure development funds to help our cities grow, and I am proud to serve as its Vice-Chairman,” said Mayor Jones.

The UCPCOG develops an annual program of work to guide the organization each year and gives an end of the year report to the board each June. Some of the highlights from the UCPCOG's performance for FY 2020, that closed out on June 30th, were \$13 million in new grant awards for community and economic development, over 12,000 citizens trained for jobs, and 160,000+ meals provided for older adults in the region.

"The UCPCOG is a great resource for local governments in the five-county region, and every member government benefits from one of its programs, services, or organizational networks. I look forward to the coming year and working with UCPCOG board members and staff to improve our region's prosperity," said Mayor Boykin.

The UCPCOG is currently working on projects to provide support for job training programs, identify and address issues with food security, improve broadband planning and coordination to help expand high speed internet across the region, and coordinating several strategic planning efforts to help local governments to prepare for future growth and development.

"We strive every day to do things that help our local governments grow, thrive, and to prepare for the future. We work locally to provide assistance and information, and regionally to deliver projects, programs, and services that make our area more competitive in the global economy," said UCPCOG Executive Director Robert Hiatt.

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