

**Morris County Collaborative
Regular Board Meeting 9/16/25
Minutes**

Members Present:

Joe Austin Daryl Martin Carolyn Traylor Billy Harmon
Beverly Austin (committee chair) David Mims (Zoom)
Lisa York (office manager/Secretary Pro Tem)

Greg Frazier (past president) Charlie Young (former board member)

Absent: Jeri Chism Brandi Cave NTCC fiscal agent Ms. Margine Mims Edwin Mims

I. OPENING CEREMONIES - Call to order, Opening Prayer, Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mims and after determining a quorum was present, Mr. Austin offered the opening prayer. Roll call was then taken.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS – AUGUST 5TH, 2025 AND AUGUST 19TH, 2025

After discussion, it was determined that the September 2nd board meeting minutes were also ready for approval. Motion was made by Joe Austin to accept the minutes of August 5th, 2025, August 19th, 2025, and September 2nd, 2025 as written. Second made by Carolyn Traylor. No further discussion. Motion carried.

III. FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals present for comment. Joe Austin made a motion that all meetings be closed to the public. The only people to be in the meetings are the current board and those assisting with the reconstruction of the board, including Ms. Beverly Austin as committee chair and Lisa York as secretary Pro Tem. Joe Austin's motion for meetings to be closed to the public was seconded by Daryl Martin. No further discussion. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS –

There were no presentations. Chairman Mims asked the board to suspend any presentations for the time being until after the reorganization of the board. Joe Austin made a motion to suspend presentations until restructure is completed. Motion was seconded by Don Martin. Discussion allowed for Brandi Cave, NTCC fiscal agent and Don Martin, MCC Treasurer to make presentations. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

V. PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, OFFICE MANAGER REPORTS

Chairman ProTem Report – David Mims –

Chairman Mims reported that the reconstruction of the board is underway and being worked on presently. He further stated that he has been working with Ms. York and Ms. Austin and hopes to have a plan to submit to the Hogg foundation by the end of the month. Chairman Mims stated his belief in MCC and that great work can be done and we will continue to work together.

Vice President Report – Jeri Chism

No report. Ms Chism wasn't present at the board meeting.

Office Manager Report – Lisa York

Ms. York's report focused on NTCC fiscal budget year ended 8/31/25 and the new budget year started 9/1/25. The remainder of the MCC budget was rolled over to the new budget year with the same amounts that the year ended. The new allocation from the Hogg foundation is on hold until the funds are released per the approval of the MCC restructuring plan.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- MCC Financial Report – Brandi Cave- NTCC - Ms. Cave's report was provided and is in the board packet. Ms. Cave was unable to attend the meeting.
- Treasurer's Report – Mr. Don Martin indicated there is \$19888.30 in the Texas Heritage benevolence account. Chairman Mims inquired as to the other account that had \$25,000 in it. Ms. Austin stated that the funds came from a COVID-related donation. Discussion followed on purpose of the accounts and Chairma Mims asked Mr. Martin as the treasurer to obtain statements from both accounts and distribute to the board.
- Benevolence Committee – Ms. Austin mentioned a lady in the community had reached out to Ms. Margine Mims about her electricity being cut off. She was elderly and, in a wheelchair, and was quite distraught. Ms. Austin was able to contact the CSNT (Community Services of Northeast Texas) and she was able to speak to the District Manager and the CEO and was able to get the lady's power turned back on within the hour. Chairman Mims expressed his desire to continue these types of partnerships and to establish more of these in order to assist the community. He also mentioned that the benevolence committee can assist our community better, once MCC has been reorganized and can work in a more efficient manner.
- Community Liaison Committee – No report
- Economic & Business Development Committee – Beverly Austin – No report
- Marketing & Communications Committee – Beverly Austin – No report
- Fund Development & Grant Policies Committee – Margine Mims – No report
- Youth Today Committee – Margine Mims and Edwin Mims, Sr. – No report

- Nominating Committee – Joe Austin – No report
- Resource & Community Health Mgmt. Committee -No report
- Training & Education Committee – No report
- Veterans Affairs Committee – No report

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS -

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS: SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED OR UPON WHICH FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN

1. Discussion and approval: Revision to MC event proposal budget proposal:

To revise the MCC Event proposal budget to include all event-related expenses by line item, ensuring that no additional fund raising outside of the current grant is required.

Funding source:

- Expenses to be covered under Special Projects allocation as designated by the Hogg Foundation.
- Conditions:
 - All budgeted expenses must be commensurate with MCC's goals and objectives
 - Line items will reflect full and transparent cost accounting for the event
 - This adjustment will streamline planning, reduce external fundraising needs, and ensure alignment with grant guidelines.

Action requested: Approval to adopt the revised budget structure and authorize allocation of special projects funds accordingly.

Discussion:

Women's retreat budget constraints requiring immediate resolution to ensure adequate funding beyond current **\$4,000** committee limit

- Historical underfunding forcing organizers to raise additional money externally, violating grant purpose
- Event costs consistently exceed allocated budget due to inflation and increased participation
- Grant funds intended for community investment, not requiring organizers to supplement with personal fundraising
- Approval process expedited to ensure retreat receives necessary resources for success
- **Committee budget reform** implementing three-month advance planning requirement with detailed itemized proposals to prevent last-minute funding shortfalls
- Previous issues with **\$10,000** committee overspending leading to blanket **\$4,000** cap implementation
- New system requiring detailed line-item budgets submitted **three months before event dates**
- Attendance projections based on previous year participation with **5-10% buffer** for growth

- Event-specific budget evaluation replacing one-size-fits-all approach for more effective resource allocation

Motion made by Billy Harmon to accept the proposed revision to budget structure and authorize allocation of special funds accordingly. Second by Daryl Martin. No further discussion, the motion carried.

2. Increase the 2025 Women & Teen's Retreat Event Proposal to \$7570.

Motion made by Billy Harmon to accept the increase in the event proposal for the women's retreat to \$7570. Second by Daryl Martin. No further discussion, the motion carried.

3. Beverly Austin is requesting a deposit of \$150 be paid for Lakeview Baptist Convention Center for the Women's and Teens retreat.

Motion made by Joe Austin to approve the \$150 deposit be paid. Second made by Billy Harmon. No further discussion, motion carried.

4. Joe Austin is requesting approval of a reimbursement of \$165 fee paid for a table for his Leaders of Tomorrow at the BUDDY Boys banquet on May 17th, 2025.

Mr. Austin asked that the actual amount be reimbursed to \$160, not \$165. Billy Harmon made the motion to pay the reimbursement to Joe Austin of \$160. Second made by Don Martin. No further discussion, motion carried.

5. Asking for approval of the following expenditures for MCC:

- a. Cleaning service of office at \$500 per month
- b. Seasonal mowing at \$175 per month
- c. City of Daingerfield Water, Sewer, and Trash at \$150 per month
- d. SWEPCO/AEP electric at \$600 per month
- e. Windstream/Kinetic phone and internet service at \$500 per month
- f. Adobe software subscription \$52 per month
- g. Moore Pest Control for past due invoices of \$400 for quarterly treatment
- h. JHN storage facility for storage @ \$75 per month
- i. Purchase of cleaning and office supplies at \$850 for 6 months (supplies haven't been purchased since January 2025)
- j. Pay invoice for Debi Dennis, CPA for tax preparation - \$400

Joe Austin made a motion to accept and pay all expenditures items a through j. Second made by Don Martin. Discussion followed regarding the mowing. Carlos Moore is the lawn service person and the yard hasn't been mowed this month and looks unkempt and unprofessional. Lisa York will contact Mr. Moore about mowing and determine if a service contract exists and determine if he can mow for this month.

After the discussion, motion carried to approve expenditures a through j.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS –

David Mims– Restructure plan is underway. He will be meeting with individuals to determine the path forward and assist with the restructuring of MCC.

Beverly Austin – ROSC meeting on September 25th at MCC. Will be discussing a community needs assessment. Also, plans for Women's and Teen retreat are continuing. Will submit a revised budget under Special Projects.

IX. ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer offered by Charlie Young. Meeting adjourned by Chairman Mims at 7:00 pm.

Recorded by Fireflies and transcribed by Lisa York, Office manager/Secretary ProTem