

MINUTES

Land of Sky P20 Council: Executive Committee

February 9, 2026 11am-12pm

Location: Teams

Present:

Dr. Gene Loflin, Emily Martin, Emily Nicholson (Executive Director), Dr. Tracy Parkinson, Katlen Smith (Staff), Melissa Zenz (Staff)

[Link to agenda](#)

1. Mrs. Nicholson opened the meeting by reviewing follow-ups from the previous meeting. Updates to the bylaws have been finalized and posted on the website. The council member survey for members whose terms are expiring or renewing was also updated and will be distributed closer to the June 30–July 1 transition period.
2. The committee discussed potential adjustments to the format of quarterly meetings. The group expressed interest in exploring hybrid meeting options to increase accessibility for council members who may not be able to attend in person. Ms. Smith has begun coordinating with potential locations to identify spaces that can support hybrid participation.
3. Several potential meeting locations were discussed, including Western Carolina University, Blue Ridge Community College, and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. WCU and Blue Ridge have the capability to support hybrid meetings. AB Tech does not currently have this capability, so a third-party vendor will be contracted to provide hybrid meeting technology for that location. If successful, the vendor may be used for additional meetings.
4. The committee discussed modifying the meeting schedule for quarterly meetings. Previously, meetings were held from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM and included lunch. The group discussed shifting to a 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM meeting format, with optional networking time from 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Calendar invitations may continue to block 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM to allow flexibility for networking or extended discussion if needed.
5. The group also discussed the format for committee engagement during quarterly meetings. Due to the complexity of coordinating breakout sessions in a hybrid format, the committee agreed that standing committees should meet between quarterly council meetings rather than during them. Committees will provide updates to the full council during quarterly meetings.

6. Planning for the upcoming myFutureNC viewing event was reviewed. Guests will begin arriving at 2:45 PM, with the program beginning at 3:00 PM. The agenda will include a brief video, welcome remarks, and a facilitated discussion with representatives from myFutureNC regarding policy priorities and workforce initiatives.
7. Current RSVP responses indicate strong participation from council members. Several community partners have also expressed interest in attending, including representatives from Land of Sky Regional Council, the City of Asheville, and other regional organizations. Ms. Smith will continue tracking attendance and sharing updates with the Executive Committee.
8. The committee discussed strategies for engaging community partners while minimizing additional meeting structures. It was suggested that partners receive the existing P20 newsletter and help amplify council initiatives through their own communication channels and social media platforms.
9. Mrs. Nicholson will contact Kevin to request brief welcome remarks at the upcoming event. Ms. Smith will continue coordinating event logistics and technology needs.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.