



**Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021**

Jurisdictions with Delegate/Alternate Present	Delegate/Alternate Present	Jurisdictions without a Delegate/Alternate Present
Albemarle	Martha Sue Hall	Anson County
Bessemer City	Kay McCathen	Ansonville
Charlotte	Larken Egleston	Badin
Cornelius	Thurman Ross	Belmont
Cramerton	Will Cauthen	Cabarrus County
Davidson	Autumn Michael	Cherryville
Gastonia	Jennifer Stepp	Cleveland
Granite Quarry	Bill Feather	Concord
Huntersville	Lance Munger	Dallas
Lowell	Sandy Railey	East Spencer
McAdenville	Jay McCosh	Faith
Monroe	Angelia James	Gaston County
Mooresville	Bobby Compton	Harrisburg
Morven	Corinthia Lewis-Lemon	Indian Trail
Mount Holly	Christina Pawlish	Iredell County
Pineville	Amelia Stinson-Wesley	Kannapolis
Salisbury	Karen Alexander	Kings Mountain
Spencer	Jonathan Williams	Landis
Statesville	William Morgan	Lincoln County
Wingate	Bart Farmer	Lincolnton
		Locust
		Marshville
		Marvin
		Matthews
		Mecklenburg County
		Midland
		Mineral Springs
		Mint Hill
		Misenheimer
		Oakboro
		Ranlo
		Richfield
		Stallings
		Stanley
		Stanly County
		Troutman
		Union County
		Wadesboro
		Waxhaw

Call to Order

Chairman Bobby Compton, Town of Mooresville, called the meeting to order.

Remarks from the Office of U.S. Senator Thom Tillis

Chairman Compton noted that Centralina has enjoyed a strong partnership with Senator Thom Tillis and thanked Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting, for helping to build that relationship with the Senator and his staff. He further noted that Senator Tillis had intended to attend the Board of Delegates meeting, but due to a marathon Senate session that ended earlier that morning, he had to send his regrets. He introduced members of the Senator’s policy staff in attendance.

Kyle Sanders, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Andrew Nam, Legislative Assistant, shared updates and noted that their office is available to support the efforts of Centralina and individual member governments in pursuing federal resources.

In response to questions from Chairman Compton, Mr. Sanders explained half of the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill the Senate just passed will be spent on new projects and the other will be spent on traditional grant application projects. He noted the investment in roads and bridges is historic and will help improve the condition of state and federal roads in North Carolina.

In response to a question from Commissioner Lance Munger, Town of Huntersville, Mr. Sanders noted that his office is in contact with the agencies that have jurisdiction over the Colonial Pipeline spill in Huntersville.

Treasurer William Morgan, City of Statesville, expressed his appreciation to Mr. Sanders and Mr. Nam for the assistance they have provided to Statesville.

Mayor Karen Alexander, City of Salisbury, also expressed her appreciation for the Senator and his staff for the assistance they have provided in securing resources for her community.

In response to a question from Mayor Cauthen, Town of Cramerton, Mr. Nam noted that their office can help local governments identify eligible uses for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Roll Call

Kelly Weston, Clerk to the Board, called roll and noted that a quorum was not present.

Moment of Silence

Chairman Compton called for a Moment of Silence.

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

1. **Bylaws Amendments**
2. **Approval of the May 12, 2021 Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Compton explained that the Consent Agenda includes a bylaws amendment that is intended as a general clean up with non-substantive formatting changes for clarity, consistency, and conciseness. He also noted that the amendment includes changes to reflect current Centralina practices related to financial and budgeting processes, and Board and staff roles and responsibilities. He noted that because a quorum was not present, the Consent Agenda would be received as information only.

3. CONNECT Beyond Recommendations Briefing

Michelle Nance, Regional Planning Director, thanked the Delegates who have participated in the CONNECT Beyond Policy Committee and the Joint Advisory Committee meetings.

Jason Wager, Assistant Regional Planning Director, presented an overview of the CONNECT Beyond project objectives and planning process over the past 15 months. He noted that significant data, including equity data, informed the work and will be made available to communities throughout the region. He explained that the proposed regional vision is a total mobility network that integrates modes with the needs of a broad spectrum of travelers in a variety of communities. He added that a seamless multi-modal system is needed to improve mobility in the region. He presented five major mobility moves that will meet the unique needs of communities within the region: create mobility-friendly places, expand mobility choices, strengthen rural to urban connections, build a better bus network, and invest in strategic mobility corridors.

Jason Lawrence, Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), presented an overview of each of the mobility moves and the key draft recommendations, noting that the recommendations have short-term, mid-term, and long-term implications throughout the region.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Hall, City of Albemarle, Ms. Nance noted that the CONNECT Beyond project covers 12 counties, including the nine counties in the Centralina region plus Cleveland County and parts of York and Lancaster Counties in South Carolina.

In response to a question from Mayor Bill Feather, Town of Granite Quarry, Ms. Nance explained that the population is growing along the region's major transportation corridors as illustrated in the CONNECT Our Future regional growth plan. She noted that the CONNECT Beyond project built on the idea of local growth and regional connections. She added that the mobility hubs are a way for communities to build their downtowns while considering transit and transportation connections.

Treasurer Morgan noted that Statesville is experiencing 18% growth, adding that many residents are buying homes in the southern part of the city for easy access to I-77 to commute to Charlotte and Mooresville.

Council Member Jennifer Stepp, City of Gastonia, noted that high-capacity transit is important for economic growth and providing access to jobs and higher education.

In response to a question from Commissioner Munger, Mr. Lawrence explained that CATS is seeking a mid-term option to improve high-frequency transit on the I-77 express lanes. He added that as a long-term option, CATS would still like to build the Lynx Red Line, a commuter rail line on the Norfolk Southern O Line corridor. He noted that discussions with Norfolk Southern continue.

Mr. Wager highlighted key recommendations for building on existing collaboration for a regional network, including generating priorities for regional or cross-system projects; supporting unified, generalized transit education and staffing; and using a two-pronged approach for regional collaboration that involves pursuing agreements to maximize funding opportunities and connectivity and pursuing an integrated regional partnership structure. He also presented recommendations to grow funding, including formalizing coordination, engaging in coordinated funding efforts, advocating with a unified voice, and developing clarity on funding sources. He encouraged the Board of Delegates to review the CONNECT Beyond draft recommendations online and provide comments by August 27th. He presented an overview of the project timeline, noting the Board of Delegates and the Metropolitan Transit Commission will be asked to adopt or endorse the plan in October. He also noted that the project team can give presentations to communities upon request.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall requested the Delegates receive a copy of the presentation slides.

Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, noted the Regional Managers Group will receive a presentation on CONNECT Beyond at its meeting next week. She encouraged the Delegates to let Centralina know if there are other organizations or business associations that should receive presentations.

4. Centralina FY22 Workplan and Local Government Services Overview

Ms. Gardner noted Centralina's FY22 workplan consists of eight goals. She also noted that the organization measures its work on three levels of impact: creative regional problem solving, support to local governments, and innovative service delivery. She presented regional coordination highlights from the workplan, noting that the Centralina Area Agency on Aging is developing a strategic plan to ensure older adults from hard-to-reach populations have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. She also noted that Centralina will lead a large-scale planning effort to update the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. She presented innovative service delivery highlights, including expanding aging services to marginalized older adults and expanding workforce development offerings. She highlighted examples of Centralina's support for local governments, noting the information, data, learning, and networking resources available to members. She also noted that the Planning department is on call for planning assistance, especially with producing land use plans. She further noted that the organization is increasing its support for federal and state grant applications. She also highlighted Centralina's ARPA support services, including technical assistance with planning, program design, and fund administration, as well as peer discussions. She noted that the NC Association of Regional Councils of Government has been working with state legislators to include in the state budget direct funding for COGs to partner with the NC League of Municipalities (NCLM), the NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), and the NC Pandemic Recovery Office in providing technical assistance to local governments. She explained that this funding will help Centralina increase its capacity to support its members and asked that the Delegates contact their state legislators to advocate for this funding. She added that if the funding is approved in the state budget, Centralina will not have to charge members for technical assistance services.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall thanked Ms. Gardner for giving a presentation to the communities in Stanly County on ARPA funding. She added if spent correctly, local municipalities can maximize the potential for benefiting from these funds.

Chairman Compton noted that some Centralina Delegates serve on boards of the NCACC and NCLM, adding that Mayor Alexander is the current president of the NCLM.

5. Regional Dialogue Series & Strategic Planning Committee

Ms. Gardner explained that this fall, Centralina will conduct a regional dialogue series to reconnect with stakeholders and understand the challenges and opportunities the region is facing. She presented an overview of the process, which will include a stakeholder survey. She noted that Chairman Compton established an ad hoc subcommittee at the June Executive Board meeting to support this effort.

Emily Parker, Senior Planner, explained that the subcommittee's role will involve championing the regional dialogues process, encouraging stakeholders to complete the survey, participating in focus groups, interpreting findings, and setting the framework for Centralina's next strategic plan. She presented an overview of the subcommittee meeting schedule, noting that the first meeting will be held in September. She noted that Centralina is looking for five or six volunteers to serve on the subcommittee.

Chairman Compton noted that he will select the subcommittee members if Ms. Parker does not receive volunteers by August 20th.

Comments from the Board of Delegates and Centralina Staff

In response to questions from Mayor Pro Tem Hall, Ms. Weston noted that the Town of Norwood withdrew its membership from Centralina for the current fiscal year.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked the Delegates to reach out to other Delegates to encourage their attendance at meetings. She noted that the past eighteen months have shown that Delegates can be involved virtually, adding that the virtual option will have to continue in the future.

Comments from the Executive Director

There were no comments from the Executive Director.

Comments from the Chairman

Chairman Compton gave an overview of the role of the Board of Delegates as a governing body, noting that the Board meets four times per year. He also listed the roles and expectations of individual Delegates, including decision-maker, advisor, connector, champion, and representative.

He noted that the next Board of Delegates meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 13th at 5:00 p.m. in a hybrid format. He added that the Board will be asked to take action on the CONNECT Beyond plan. He encouraged each Delegate to read the plan and share their feedback with Centralina staff this month.

Chairman Compton also noted that the Centralina Area Agency on Aging will hold its virtual conference on October 1st. He added that the event will feature 12 workshops from local, state, and national speakers, and a plenary session with speaker Kenyon Salo.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Compton adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.