



Executive Board Minutes

March 11, 2015

Officers Present	Delegates Present	Delegates Not Present	Centralina Staff
Michael Johnson, Chair Sarah McAulay, Vice-Chair Bill Feather, Treasurer Patsy Kinsey, Secretary	Joe Carpenter Warren Chapman Bill Deter George Dunlap Gene McIntyre Martin Oakes Devin Rhyne	Will Cauthen Bobby Compton Martha Sue Hall Lyndell Ingram Liz Poole Jerry Simpson Jarvis Woodburn	Jim Prosser Vicki Bott Tonya Frye Blair Israel Katie Kutcher Debi Lee Mike Manis Solomon McAuley Michelle Nance Sushil Nepal Sherika Rich Kelly Weston Venecia White

Open and Welcome:

Chair Michael Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Kelly Weston, Clerk to the Board, declared that a quorum was present. Chair Johnson noted there were several new faces in attendance and asked each of the Executive Board members and staff members in attendance to introduce themselves.

Amendments to the Agenda:

Chair Johnson noted there were no amendments to the agenda. Commissioner Joe Carpenter, Gaston County, made a motion to adopt the agenda. Treasurer Bill Feather seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

1. Approval of the Executive Board Minutes from the January 14, 2015 Meeting

Vice Chair Sarah McAulay made a motion to approve the minutes. Secretary Patsy Kinsey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

2. CONNECT Our Future Update

Sushil Nepal, Project Manager, gave the staff presentation on this item. He gave an overview of the CONNECT Our Future magazine and website.

Commissioner George Dunlap, Mecklenburg County, entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Commissioner Martin Oakes, Lincoln County, requested staff reprint the CONNECT magazine with the CONNECT web address listed on the front cover.

In response to a question from Council Member Devin Rhyne, City of Lincoln, Michelle Nance, Planning Director, explained that CCOG staff will host meetings in 10 counties around the state during May and June to identify which CONNECT tools will work best in those communities.

Jim Prosser, Executive Director, requested the Executive Board members' assistance in promoting the upcoming CONNECT meetings among their staff and other local elected officials.

Commissioner Dunlap made a motion to direct staff to proceed with the CONNECT implementation plan as approved. Secretary Kinsey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

3. Volunteer Transportation Services Program Update

Katie Kutcher, Aging Programs Coordinator, gave the staff presentation on this item. She explained that CCOG staff has applied for 5310 grant funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to continue operating the Volunteer Transportation Services (VTS) program. This grant requires the program to raise a 50% local match before the end of the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Carpenter asked the Executive Director to notify the County Managers that the program is in need of support for raising the local match.

Mr. Prosser asked the Executive Board members for guidance on the program. He also asked the Board to notify staff of organizations that could serve as guarantors for VTS. He added that he cannot recommend continuing the program during the next fiscal year without first identifying a funding source.

Commissioner Dunlap made a motion to direct the Executive Director to notify the VTS Board that the program will be terminated if the funding gap is not closed by June 30, 2015. Treasurer Feather seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Chair Johnson inquired if the program is Medicaid and Medicare reimbursable.

4. Aging Program Match Payments

Mr. Prosser gave the staff presentation on this item.

In response to Treasurer Feather's question, Ms. Debi Lee, Aging Programs Assistant Director, explained that the regional ombudsman program is a requirement under the Older Americans Act. The Centralina Area Agency on Aging currently has five full-time ombudsmen.

Commissioner Oakes requested a list of the volunteer ombudsmen in Lincoln County.

Treasurer Feather made a motion authorizing staff to request match payments for aging programs from county governments. Secretary Kinsey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

5. Lumina Foundation Grant Update

Mike Manis, Community and Economic Development Director, gave the staff presentation on this item. He presented a video from the Lumina Foundation.

In response to Commissioner Carpenter's question, Mr. Prosser explained that the Lumina work program will complement the Career Headlight program.

In response to Commissioner Oakes' question, Mr. Manis noted that the \$120,000 grant will fund the staff time spent on the project.

Vice Chair McAulay made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with Lumina grant implementation. Treasurer Feather seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

6. Proposed Amendment to the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Tonya Frye, Finance Director, gave the staff presentation on this item.

Commissioner Dunlap made a motion to amend the Centralina COG Annual Operating Budget Ordinance in the amount of a \$65,821 reduction as outlined to a budget of \$6,548,015. Vice Chair McAulay seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

7. Report of Financial Activity for the Period Ending January 31, 2015

Ms. Frye gave the staff presentation on this item.

In response to Commissioner Dunlap’s question, Ms. Frye explained that CCOG is working to eliminate its funding gap by applying for grants and reducing nonessential spending.

In response to Commissioner Oakes’ question, Mr. Prosser noted that CCOG can continue to operate with a funding gap because it receives a significant cash inflow from grants. He added that the organization can request advance funding from these grants.

8. Report on CCOG Office Space Lease

Mr. Prosser gave the staff presentation on this item.

In response to Commissioner Oakes’ question, Mr. Prosser noted that CCOG currently leases 12,000 square feet of office space for \$360,000 annually.

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to direct the Executive Director to begin pursuing office space options. Secretary Kinsey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Vice Chair McAulay, Commissioner Carpenter, and Council Member Rhyne offered their assistance to guide the process for identifying office space options.

9. Discussion on Potential Use of Government Consultant Services

Chair Johnson gave the presentation on this item. He noted that grant competitiveness has increased and that government consultants can assist organizations in securing grants related to strategic priorities including Water, Transportation, and Economic Development.

Commissioner Carpenter indicated that Gaston County worked with a government consultant who successfully assisted the County in securing grants.

Vice Chair McAulay suggested engaging the services of a consultant to lobby for CCOG at the state level.

By consensus, the Board expressed support for receiving a presentation from a government consultant.

Comments from the Executive Board

Commissioner Carpenter noted that he has registered to attend the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government’s 2015 Summit from April 27th through April 28th and encouraged the other members of the Executive Board to register as well.

Comments from the Chair

Chair Johnson noted that the Community and Economic Development Department held the Annual Advanced Manufacturing Awards in Concord last month. A trade and exports roundtable discussion with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Jay Williams followed the event. He added that the Charlotte region ranks 33rd in the world for global economic competitiveness.

He inquired about the Board Members’ interest in sending letters to state legislators from the Centralina region requesting their support for the Historic Preservation Tax Credits Bill. By consensus, the Executive Board was in favor of sending the letter. Chair Johnson added that the CONNECT magazine will be mailed to the legislators along with the letter.

Chair Johnson noted that Planning staff facilitated a two-day Town Council retreat for the Town of Weddington in February and received positive feedback from all of the Council Members.

He also pointed out that CCOG's Brownfields-Greyfields Toolkit was referenced in an e-newsletter distributed by nationally-known redevelopment consultant.

Chair Johnson noted that the Region of Excellence Awards ceremony will be held at the May 13th Board of Delegates meeting. Governments across the region are asked to submit projects and programs from their communities that exemplify controlling the cost of government, growing the economy, or improving quality of life.

Ms. Weston swore in Patsy Kinsey as Secretary.

Comments from the Executive Director

There were no comments from the Executive Director.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Centralina Council of Governments complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Centralina Council of Governments will make reasonable accommodations in all programs/services to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Centralina Council of Governments' programs will be available in the most integrated setting for each individual. If any accommodations are necessary for participation, please contact the Clerk to the Board, 525 North Tryon Street, 12th Floor, Charlotte, NC 28202, kweston@centralina.org or phone (704) 348-2728. Please allow 72 hours advance notice for preparation. Visit our website: www.centralina.org.