



**Executive Board Virtual Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022**

Officers Present	Board Members Present	Board Members Not Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Bobby Compton, Chairman Jay McCosh, Vice Chairman Jarvis Woodburn, Secretary / Interim Treasurer	Karen Alexander Peter Ascitutto Brittany Barnhardt Martha Sue Hall Darrell Hinnant Corinthia Lewis- Lemon Pedro Morey Christine Poinsette Elaine Powell Lynn Shue David Williams	Dante Anderson Cathy Davis Gene Houpe Jennifer Stepp Amelia Stinson- Wesley	Austin Caton Christina Danis Geraldine Gardner Lenessa Hawkins Michelle Nance Sarah Niess Grace Stevens Denise Strosser Jason Wager Kelly Weston Venecia White Guests Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting

Call to Order

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

Kelly Weston, Clerk to the Board, called roll and noted that a quorum was 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. Approval of FY23 Division of Aging and Adult Services Grant Award**
- 2. CONNECT Beyond Agreement Amendment**
- 3. Managed Information Technology Services Contract**
- 4. Review of FY22 Budget Amendment**
- 5. Approval of the June 8, 2022 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, City of Albemarle, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Jay McCosh, Town of McAdenville, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Federal Relations Update

Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting, presented highlights from the Strategics Consulting performance report for June through August. She noted Centralina continues to monitor the funding secured by Representative Alma Adams for Centralina for an affordable housing

initiative in north Mecklenburg County. She also noted Congress is working on passing a stop-gap spending bill to extend funding into the new federal fiscal year. She further noted Centralina is tracking many new federal grants. She added that the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program is returning to assist local governments in funding their energy efficiency strategies.

In response to questions from Chairman Compton and Mayor Pro Tem Hall, Ms. Mozingo explained that Centralina will plan advocacy meetings with the region's Congressional delegation after the midterm elections.

Council Member Christine Poinsette, City of Lincoln, made a motion to accept the Strategics Consulting performance report for June through August 2022. Mayor Brittany Barnhardt, Town of Granite Quarry, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. CONNECT Beyond Update

Chairman Compton explained that CONNECT Beyond was an 18-month stakeholder driven planning process that produced over 120 recommendations for implementing an interconnected transportation network across the region.

Michelle Nance, Senior Director of Regional Planning, presented highlights from CONNECT Beyond's recent successes, noting that the project just received an award from the American Planning Association's North Carolina Chapter. She explained that the project is receiving funding from the Charlotte Area Transit System, Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization, and Charlotte Department of Transportation. She added that the project team is working to secure additional implementation funding from the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization. She noted the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has provided grant funds for a Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program.

Jason Wager, Assistant Director of Regional Planning, explained the TDM Program will provide commuters with travel options and help employers manage employee movement to job sites. He noted the desired outcomes of the program are to reduce driving and parking demands, reduce travel time, and provide a cost savings for workers and businesses. He explained the benefits of these outcomes will improve mobility for everyone, support the region's economy, manage assets cost-effectively, and increase efficiency. He also explained that the CONNECT Beyond project team recommends forming an Advancing the Plan Subcommittee that will convene this fall. He added the subcommittee would provide strategy and direction for key items in the CONNECT Beyond implementation process, ensure regional coordination, and facilitate communication with key regional organizations and leadership. He noted the subcommittee's membership will include the representatives from the Centralina Board and the Metropolitan Transit Commission, key elected officials, local government managers, representatives from the NCDOT Board, and Transportation Planning Organization members.

In response to a question from Mayor Karen Alexander, City of Salisbury, Mr. Wager explained that microtransit is included in the CONNECT Beyond recommendations.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Hall, Ms. Gardner explained that while the CONNECT Beyond project area includes 12 counties, the subcommittee will focus on implementation within the nine counties in the Centralina region.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Hall, Ms. Nance provided a brief overview of the CONNECT Our Future project. She explained Centralina received funding around 2012 to conduct a planning process to develop a preferred regional growth scenario. She noted Centralina has started implementing the growth scenario through projects such as CONNECT Beyond.

Chairman Compton noted the Centralina bylaws authorize the Chair to establish ad hoc advisory committees. He added that he will proceed with the recommendation to form the Advancing the Plan Subcommittee, noting that he will reach out Centralina Delegates to invite them to serve.

8. Centralina Grants Services Update

Ms. Weston explained that the Member Portal of the Centralina website provides grant resources including lists of federal, state, and private funding opportunities. She also noted Centralina offers grant writing training workshops. She further noted the organization can provide strategy sessions to advise on pursuing specific funding opportunities and can administer grants once awarded. She introduced Lenessa Hawkins, Grants and Contracts Administrator, who recently joined Centralina and will assist the organization with pursuing grants on behalf of the region. She noted that Centralina offers grant writing services through a partnership with a professional grant writing consultant.

Council Member Corinthia Lewis-Lemon, Town of Morven, suggested that member governments that have used Centralina's grant writing services can help promote this offering to other members. She noted Morven is working with Centralina to submit state grant applications for multiple projects.

Vice Chair McCosh encouraged competitive pricing for the grant writing services.

Ms. Weston highlighted the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, which provides funding for hazard mitigation projects and efforts to reduce disaster-related risks. She noted Centralina is considering submitting a regional application for this grant and a Brownfields assessment grant. She also noted that Centralina will host a virtual grant writing workshop on October 4th that is open to local government staff and elected officials.

Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff

Secretary Jarvis Woodburn, Anson County, noted that the County recently hired Leonard Sossamon as its new County Manager.

Comments from the Executive Director

Ms. Gardner welcomed the Executive Board to Centralina's new office.

She noted that Centralina's representative to the Forum Board of the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government is vacant and requested the Board Members let Chairman Compton know if they are interested in being appointed to the role.

Chairman Compton added that with the departure of Mayor Pro Tem William Morgan, City of Statesville, Secretary Woodburn will serve as interim Treasurer.

Comments from the Chair

Chairman Compton noted that the Board of Delegates meeting will be held on October 12th at the Centralina office.

He also noted that the next Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) Aviation Academy will be held in January through March 2023, with the application period opening in October. He explained that the Academy offers public sector, private sector, and community leaders an opportunity to learn about CLT's contributions as the biggest economic driver in the region.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Compton adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.